

HERMANTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Minutes: August 31, 2020

The Board of Education of Hermantown Independent School District No. 700 met in special session on Monday, August 31, 2020. Chair, Dianne Mathews, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Members present: Gary Kneisl, Karly Madill, Dianne Mathews, Tim Peterson, Aaron Salmela, Jonathan Thornton, Ex-officio Member Wayne Whitwam, Superintendent and, Lance Takkunen, Director of Business Services.

Visitors: Jenny Wiese, Sarah Turcotte, Gretchen Appelwick, John Muenich, Jason Wilcox, Kristal Berg, Nancy Litman

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS HELD OFF SITE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

All future meetings of the Hermantown Community School Board will be conducted in accordance with the MN Statutes 13D.021. Meeting by telephone or other electronic means, until further notice.

PRESENTATION OF PRIORITY LIST FOR CRF FUNDS

- Wayne Whitwam and Lance Takkunen presented
 - Must submit by October 1st - Goal is to get it to the state by September 15
 - Next board meeting, September 14th, we will finalize
 - \$47,000 already spent on PPE supplies
 - \$40,000 more out of fund balance for Distance Learning Position
 - \$29,500 more out of fund balance for .5 Technology Position
 - Total cost to increase bandwidth - cost \$4000 for 4 years - grant covers \$800
 - Give more ability to live stream and download videos, etc. for distance learning.
 - State will not pay for snow removal out of grant – will have to pull janitors off cleaning and sanitizing. Snow plowing bids at our next meeting and compare to additional janitor cost.
 - Total \$554,000 if we go with all options. CRF funds are \$494,435
 - CRF funds will cover entire cost to replace 48 passenger bus to an 84 passenger bus to increase social distancing. The bus has to be delivered and used by December 30.

COVID-19 UPDATE

- Increased to 17.6 per 10,000 from 17.032 per 10,000 in Hermantown, Proctor and Duluth.
- Whitwam sees us being hybrid for a while. We will see where the numbers are in October and what the regional team recommends.
- Child care – both parents need to be Tier 1 critical workers (state definition). Unfunded mandate.
 - 121 students have both parents as tier 1 critical workers (have to prioritize care for these students) – 30 more that are willing to pay
 - 65-70 students Tuesday-Friday.. Trying to stick to 1:12 ratio, but looks like it will be 1:15 ratio

PERSONNEL ITEMS

- *A Motion was made by Thornton and seconded by Salmela to approve the memorandum to employ Stephanie Kemp as a third grade teacher. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Madill and seconded by Salmela to approve the memorandum to employ Brent Chouanard as an Outdoor Specialist Teacher at the Elementary School. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Madill to approve the leave of absence request for Mark Ostazeski contingent upon a signed separation agreement. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Madill and seconded by Thornton to approve the memorandum to employ Stacy Sosniecki as a third grade teacher. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*

- *A Motion was made by Salmela and seconded by Madill to approve the new position request for Distance Learning Teacher. Passed unanimously via roll call vote*
- *A Motion was made by Madill and seconded by Thornton to approve the memorandum to employ Ashley Lambe as a distance learning teacher. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Thornton to table the approval of the new position request for Kindergarten Teacher until administration recommends action. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Thornton and seconded by Madill to approve the new position request for 0.5 additional technology teacher at the Elementary School. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Mathews and seconded by Salmela to table the approval of the Long Term Substitute Contract for LauraLee Rauker as a Special Education Teacher until September 14, 2020 Board Meeting. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Thornton and seconded by Salmela to approve the leave of absence request for Jim Prisk. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Mathews and seconded by Peterson to approve the Lateral Work Design for a High School Social Studies Long Term Sub. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Madill to approve the long term substitute contract for Ashley Collman as a High School Social Studies Teacher. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Madill and seconded by Salmela to approve the leave of absence request for Bree Rodriguez. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Madill to approve the Lateral Work Design for a Choir Teacher Long Term Substitute. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Thornton and seconded by Mathews to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Thornton, Clerk

Dianne Mathews, Chair