

## HERMANTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

### Minutes: April 13, 2020

The Board of Education of Hermantown Independent School District No. 700 met in regular session on Monday, April 13, 2020. Chair, Dianne Mathews, called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

Mission Statement – Partnering with the community to support and prepare all learners to create their own future.

Members present: Gary Kneisl, Karly Madill, Dianne Mathews, Aaron Salmela, Tim Peterson (6:05), Jonathan Thornton, Ex-officio Member Kerry Juntunen, Superintendent, and Lance Takkunen, Director of Business Services.

Visitors: Jenny Wiese, Matt Nickles, Renee Klinkner, Jason Wilcox, John Muenich, Gretchen Appelwick, Beth Clark, and Karen Kucza.

### **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.

*A motion was made by Madill and seconded by Salmela to approve holding meetings off site by electronic means. Passed Unanimously via roll call vote.*

### **APPROVE AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Salmela and seconded by Peterson to approve the amended agenda with the following additions, deletions, or corrections: Move item XV.I Approve Job Description for Director of Buildings and Grounds to Old Business. Remove item XV.II Approve Job Description for Administrative Assistant II. Passed Unanimously via roll call vote.*

### **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approve Minutes of Board Meetings dated March 9, 2020 and April 6, 2020
- Approve and authorize payment of audited vouchers #104507-104680 and voided check #103722.
- Approval of Personnel Items
  - Resignation of Amy Bennett as Assistant Cross Country Coach and Lateral Work Design to post position.
  - Retirement of Jeanne Shermer as Middle School English Teacher and Lateral Work Design to post position.
  - Memorandum to Employ Matthew Nickles as Kids' Zone Child Care Aide.
  - Memorandum to Employ Ashley Braun as Middle/Elementary School Counselor.
  - Memorandum to Employ Reagan Haley as Physical Education Teacher.
  - Leave of Absence of Misha Alaspa.
  - Leave of Absence of David McKeever.
  - Leave of Absence of Jennifer Krzewinski.

*A motion was made by Kneisl and seconded by Madill to approve the Consent Agenda. Passed Unanimously via roll call vote.*

### **ACCEPT DONATIONS**

- *A motion was made by Madill and seconded by Kneisl to accept donations to the General and Extra-Curricular Funds received thru April 13, 2020. Passed Unanimously via roll call vote.*

## **COMMENTS AND CONGRATULATIONS**

- Juntunen thanked all the District Employees and Administrative Council for making Distant Learning successful. All students that do not have devices are still getting equipment. He also thanked the Food Service Staff who are making sure everyone is getting a meal.
- Middle School Principal Jenny Wiese thanked everyone who is working to make Distant Learning successful. Masks were donated and will be used by all staff.
- Interim Elementary School Principal Gretchen Appelwick thanked all who are working to make Distant Learning successful. Several paraprofessionals made masks for staff.
- High School Principal John Muenich thanked staff for their professionalism, especially paraprofessionals for stepping up and connecting with students whenever they are in need.
- Salmela thanked Jeanne Shermer for her professionalism and dedication on her work at Hermantown over the years and congratulated her on her retirement. He also thanked the health care workers, peace officers and all other workers who are on the front lines.
- Thornton thanked Juntunen, Principals, and everyone who is making Distant Learning working and all the time this is taking.
- Madill thanked the Administrative Staff for rising to the top and all the work that is helping the kids stay engaged.
- Peterson thanked everyone who is involved in making Distant Learning working. Many students are anxious to get back to school.
- Kneisl thanked everyone for making Distant Learning go as smooth as possible and keep up the great work.
- Mathews is proud of everyone involved, including our Community that has stepped up to make this possible.

## **RECONGITION OF VISITOR BUSINESS – NONE**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Mathews received a letter from a senior parent regarding graduation. Mathews has been in contact with Mr. Muenich to help make graduation special for our seniors.
- Mathews received a request from a specialist to visit classrooms to observe what the specialists are doing in the classroom.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

- Director of Curriculum and Assessment Renee Klinkner addressed the Board on academic achievement. A look at the District from a glance: Open Enrollment Mastery Standards 6<sup>th</sup> grade was done as an example because of their high number of open enrollments: 2019 Math MCA's 44 open enrolled 84% scored as proficient. Mastering English has hit a plateau. 2019 ACT 435 schools in the state, Hermantown scored 74. High School Graduation Rate is high. Hermantown has consistent attendance, however the High School is lower than the state average mostly due to student absences for extra-curricular activities. Curriculum – new Science standards done in phases. Art standards are also shifting. Middle School Health grant was applied for and received for Life Skills Training and Curriculum. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade participated in STARBASE and will continue that for next year. STEM Skills Program will be implemented in the Elementary School. Middle School will follow and High School has started with the Computer Science Class.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Enrollment Update. Maintaining enrollment 2099, down 7 students since a report on March 9.
- Negotiation Update. Need to finish Activities Director contract. We may need a closed session at the next Board meeting.
- Distance Learning. Conference calls with Mary Cathryn Ricker on Tuesday and Thursday to participate. Mental Health issue was on the agenda and how are we going to address this issue when the students come back. Also, staff's mental health is being addressed – that is going well. MSBA will be holding a conference next Wednesday. Three phone calls on the hotline for Distant Learning, very low number and questions are being answered quickly.
- Hermantown Community Learning Center Construction Update. Interior cleaning is complete, the Exterior will be addressed next. The steep drop in the back will be a pollinator's garden and not mowed. The playground will be worked on as a natural source playground. Lynda Nikko's appliances have been delivered. Furniture delivery is delayed until at least the end of April or beginning of May. Takkunen is working on getting internet set up. The City will allow HAFRC to stay in old building until new building is ready.
- Superintendent Wayne Whitwam's Transition.
- Centricity Stadium Update. Turf samples came in and we have fully executed agreements with Centricity and Field Turf. The old field dirt will be brought up to the practice field and seeded.
- Bond Refinance is on hold because it is not favorable for the District to refinance at this time.
- Some employees have been supported by Community Education. There has been a significant decrease in funds usually generated from Kid Zone. We may have to move some funds to offset costs for some employees. Food Service and Kid Care are two areas that are not bringing in funds, yet we still need to pay staff.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS – NONE**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- *A Motion was made by Mathews and seconded by Kneisl to approve the Job Description of Director of Buildings and Grounds. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Resolution of NLSEC Membership Enrollment Renewal. No action taken.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Madill to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jonathan Thornton, Clerk

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Dianne Mathews, Chair