

HERMANTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Minutes: January 25, 2021

The Board of Education of Hermantown Independent School District No. 700 met in regular session on January 25, 2021. Chair, Dianne Mathews, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

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

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.

Members present: Lindsay Clauson, Heather Holst, Gary Kneisl, Dianne Mathews, Ashley McFarland, Tim Peterson, Wayne Whitwam, Superintendent, Lance Takkunen, Director of Business Services

Visitors: Jenny Wiese, Gretchen Appelwick, Sarah Turcotte, Jason Wilcox, Kristal Berg, Scott Carter, John Muenich, Renee Klinkner

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Kneisl and seconded by McFarland to approve the amended agenda with the following additions, deletions, or corrections: addition of End of Employment of James Kettelhut as Janitor and Lateral Work Design to post the position to the Consent Agenda under Personnel Items. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting dated January 11, 2021
- Approval and authorization of audited vouchers for payment #106016-106088 and the Bank and Electronic Transfers.
- Approval of Personnel Items
 - a. Resignation of James Kettelhut as Janitor and Lateral Work Design to Post Position
 - b. Change of Assignment of Bree Rodrigues
 - c. New Position Request for two Elementary Special Education Paraprofessionals
 - d. Leave of Absence of Frank Pitoscia

A motion was made by Holst and seconded by Kneisl to approve the Consent Agenda. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

ACCEPT DONATIONS

- *A motion was made by Kneisl and seconded by Clauson to accept donations to the General and Extra Curricular Funds received thru January 25, 2021. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*

COMMENTS AND CONGRATULATIONS

- Muenich. Recognized high school counselors for focusing on the mental health of our students, as well as the mental health of our staff. Makenzie Johnson took the lead in implementing a book club for staff featuring the book titled “Dare to Lead,” in which 40+ staff members participated.
- Wiese. Recognized counselor Kelsey Olin for helping initiate the book club for staff. Congratulated Molly White and Madison White on tying for first place in the middle school virtual Spelling Bee. Madison will represent Hermantown Middle School at Regionals on February 4.
- Appelwick. Thanked Sue Kyllonen for organizing the monthly elementary school newsletter using the Smores platform.
- Whitwam. Thanked the principals for their flexibility and was thankful for having a strong administrative team.
- Mathews. Thanked the paraprofessionals for all of their hard work this school year and recognized Paraprofessionals Week.
- Elks Senior Students of the Month – None. Will resume in February.

RECONGITION OF VISITOR BUSINESS – No visitor business.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Whitwam and Mathews received email communication regarding a Career and Technical Pathways program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S DISCUSSION ITEMS

- COVID-19 Update. Received 10 COVID-19 vaccinations from the state last week as part of the first wave of vaccine pilot program. The district received 33 more this week. As of now, the closest vaccine location to Hermantown is in Mountain Iron. The state is also hosting a mass vaccination event at the Xcel Energy Center this weekend giving out 15,000 shots on a first-come-first-served basis for educators, school staff and child care workers only. Still on track for elementary to come back four days a week with Kindergarten and Grade 1 on February 3 and Grades 2, 3 and 4 on February 17.
- Enrollment Update. Up three students from last meeting.
- New Sheet of Ice. Initial discussion on how the board will approach negotiations with the city regarding the project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Peterson attended the Arena Board Meeting.
- Mathews encouraged fellow board members to watch MSBA videos.

OLD BUSINESS

- *A motion was made by Kneisl and seconded by McFarland to approve Committee and Outside Assignments for 2021. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Kneisl to approve the arena lease agreement between ISD #700 and Hermantown Amateur Hockey Association. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

- Negotiation Committee Assignments for 2021 – No action taken
- Policy Update #808 – COVID-19 Face Covering Policy – No action taken

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kneisl and seconded by Clauson to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Holst, Clerk

Dianne Mathews, Chair