

HERMANTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Minutes: October 12, 2020

The Board of Education of Hermantown Independent School District No. 700 met in regular session on Monday, October 12, 2020. Chair, Dianne Mathews, called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, Jonathan Thornton, Wayne Whitwam, Superintendent, and Lance Takkunen, Director of Business Services.

Visitors: Jenny Wiese, Gretchen Appelwick, Sarah Turcotte, John Muenich

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS HELD AT MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM FOR BOARD MEMBERS ONLY – BY ELECTRONIC MEANS FOR THE PUBLIC

All future meetings of the Hermantown Community School Board will be conducted in accordance with the MN Statutes 13D.021.

APPROVE AGENDA

- *A motion was made by Madill and seconded by Salmela to approve the amended agenda with the following additions, deletions, or corrections: addition of memorandum to employ Peggy LaPine as 3-hour Cook's Helper, addition of Lateral Work Design for Middle School Paraprofessional to Consent Agenda under Approval of Personnel Items. Passed unanimously.*

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting – September 28, 2020
- Approval and Authorization of Audited Vouchers for Payment #105423-105514, 4468
- Approval of Personnel Items
 - Resignation of Amanda Mae Synnott as Middle School Paraprofessional and Lateral Work Design to post position.
 - Resignation of Andrew Johnson as Assistant Boys Basketball Coach and Lateral Work Design to post position.
 - Lateral Work Design to post School Readiness Program Assistant position.
 - Lateral Work Design to create and post new Middle School Paraprofessional position.
 - Memorandum to Employ Alayna Scheall as Kid's Zone Child Care Aid.
 - Memorandum to Employ Peggy LaPine as 3 Hour Cook's Helper.
 - Leave of Absence of Michelle Ahlberg.
- *A motion was made by Thornton and seconded by Peterson to approve the Consent Agenda. Passed unanimously.*

ACCEPT DONATIONS

- *A motion was made by Madill and seconded by Kneisl to accept donations to the General and Extra Curricular Funds received thru October 12, 2020. Passed unanimously.*

COMMENTS AND CONGRATULATIONS

- Whitwam: Paul Senst volunteered his time cleaning up the grounds around the field turf with three pallets of donated sod.
- Whitwam: Tukkanan submitted to the county to receive money for additional hot spots, sub pay, nursing time and daycare paraprofessional.
- Salmela: Thanks to Whitwam for being one of the Superintendents to sign the letter that asked our communities to help by practicing social distancing, wearing masks, and doing things to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

RECONGITION OF VISITOR BUSINESS

- Presentation by Mark Ostazeski

CORRESPONDENCE

- Salmela: Mark Ostazeski sent information to Salmela regarding TRA information and statistics.

- Thornton: Eric Borndahl sent information to Thornton regarding TRA information and statistics.

SUPERINTENDENT'S DISCUSSION ITEMS

- COVID-19 Update. Numbers hit 33.7 cases per 10,000 this week for our area. Regional Health Team said they would not require us to go distance learning, but would make a recommendation or strong recommendation to do so. Trying to stay hybrid as long as possible. Meet with the regional health team on Wednesday. Sub shortage is a problem.
- Enrollment Update: Up six students.
- Survey. Went out to parents and students regarding their experience with distance learning. Principals are meeting with staff to find common themes and how to address them. Received 311 responses from elementary school parents, 246 from middle school parents and 245 from high school parents.
- Communication. Exploring the possibility of sending out a newsletter via direct mail to all constituents, adding a one-page school related fact sheet into the Community Ed booklet was one idea.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Peterson: Spoke with Dave Huettel from the Arena Board of Directors. Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 A.M. Board is comprised of 5-6 members. Peterson would be in attendance as a visitor, not as a member of the board. We currently have a staff member, Nate Buck, who regularly attends meetings and reports back to Beth Clark.
- Salmela and Whitwam: Attended Hermantown Recreational Board Meeting. Subcommittees: ice sheet (Whitwam), Fichtner Fields (Salmela) and walking trail. Two options for funding are sales tax increase or bonds. Next meeting is October 19, 2020, and they are wanting to hear input from school district.
- Mathews: Facilities meeting, regarding HVAC. What we need right now is base level. Fix what is already broken, then look to see what else needs to be done. Best done when the building is not occupied. As of right now, the plan is to better define the scope and move forward with fixes that are immediately required.

OLD BUSINESS

- *A motion was made by Madill and seconded by Salmela to approve the ARCC membership renewal. Passed unanimously.*
- *A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Salemla to approve the construction updates to the ground lease for Hermantown Area Hockey Association improvements as presented on September 28, 2020. Passed unanimously.*
- *A motion was made by Madill and seconded by Kneisl to accept the snow plow bid from ATK Duluth for the 2020-21 school year. Passed unanimously.*
- *A motion was made by Thornton and seconded by Salmela to accept the three-year leave of Mark Ostazeski. Kneisl – NAY, Madill – AYE, Mathews – NAY, Peterson – NAY, Salmela – AYE, Thornton – AYE. Motion failed via roll call vote, 3 – AYE, 3 – NAY.*

NEW BUSINESS - No new business.

ADJOURNMENT

- *A motion was made by Kneisl and seconded by Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 P.M. Passed unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Thornton, Clerk

Dianne Mathews, Chair