

HERMANTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Minutes: October 26, 2020

The Board of Education of Hermantown Independent School District No. 700 met in regular session on Monday, October 26, 2020. 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.

Members present: Gary Kneisl (virtually 6:04 P.M.), 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, Lynda Nikko, Sheina Showen

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: remove the Memorandum to Employ Kandace Groth as School Readiness Teacher from Consent Agenda, addition of Board Meeting Schedule under Old Business. Passed unanimously.*

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting – October 12, 2020
- Approval and Authorization of Audited Vouchers for payment #105515-105620, 4470 charged to the following funds, voided checks #4469, 104970, 104989 and the Bank and Electronic Transfers.
- Approval of Personnel Items
 - Resignation of Cheryl Garthus as 2-Hour Food Service Cashier and Lateral Work Design to post position.
 - Resignation of Caleb Steinert as Junior High Boy's Basketball Coach and Lateral Work Design to post position.
 - Lateral Work Design to post C Team Boy's Basketball Coach position.
 - Memorandum to Employ Jack Glocke as Kid's Zone Child Care Aide.
 - Memorandum to Employ Joe Borak as Assistant Boy's Basketball Coach.
 - Memorandum of Change of Assignment of Nicholas Allen.
- *A motion was made by Salmela and seconded by Madill to approve the Consent Agenda. Passed unanimously.*

ACCEPT DONATIONS

- *A motion was made by Thornton and seconded by Madill to accept donations to the General and Extra Curricular Funds received thru October 26, 2020. Passed unanimously.*

COMMENTS AND CONGRATULATIONS

- Muenich - Elks Senior Students of the Month, Makenzie Fedora and Kadin Graves
- Whitwam – Thank City of Hermantown for loaning us the tractor, Scott Carter for getting the field cleaned up and volunteers who shoveled for the football game
- Mathews – High School Civility Club for Homecoming Activities, Newsletters – Sarah Turcotte and the Smore newsletter from the Elementary school have been great, tutoring from the Student Council is going well. Sheina Showen thank you for all of your work for contact tracing, etc.
- Lynda Nikko – Thank you and congratulations to the kitchen staff for a job well done.

RECONGITION OF VISITOR BUSINESS – No visitor business.

CORRESPONDENCE - No correspondence.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- Nikko. Food Service. On September 11, 2020, Food Service switched to the Summer Food Service program, which is allowing one free meal to anyone 18 or younger in the district. On October 13, Food Service started offering to-go

meals for both distance and hybrid learners. Prepares 40 to-go boxes for full-time distance learning students, which includes five days worth of meals, 70 to-go meals for hybrid students in the Middle School/High School and 300 to-go meals at the elementary school. Stated current concerns as staffing, the ability to social distance, safety of staff and new CDC guideline defining close contact.

- Survey Results from Principals
 - Muenich, High School. Sent out surveys to students, parents and staff. Working best for students is being able to work at their own pace, flexibility and being able to watch lectures multiple times. Biggest challenges are wearing masks (hybrid learners), staying motivated (distance learners), lack of consistency and not seeing friends. Staff (grades 5-12) believe that the hybrid learning model is working well, but are concerned about lack of academic integrity for distance learning.
 - Wiese. Middle School. Sent out surveys to students, parents and staff. Working best for hybrid students is a manageable work load and most challenging is wearing masks, getting into a routine during home learning days and managing tech classes every other day. Working best for distance learning students is flexibility and being able to work at their own pace, while challenges are missing friends and teachers and expected due dates.
 - Appelwick. Elementary School. Sent out survey for parents to fill out with their child. Working best is precise feedback, communication, ability to borrow a device from school and the at-home learning board. Challenges are getting kids to stay engaged at home, too many places to find work, knowing what to do for specialists and due dates.

SUPERINTENDENT'S DISCUSSION ITEMS

- COVID-19 Update. Met with the Regional Health Team today (10/26), they don't believe that COVID-19 is spreading in schools. They recommend to stay in hybrid and will meet again in two weeks. Two things can happen if you are directed to go distance learning: no special ed students can come to the school without special permission from MDE and MSHSL will not allow athletics if schools are directed to go distance learning. November 9 possible meeting with Regional Health Team. If numbers continue to climb, there is a possibility of having to go distance learning after Thanksgiving.
- Enrollment Update. Up three students.
- Other. Scott Carter received positive feedback from at least six staff members that were very happy about the snow plowing from ATK. Peterson and Mathews also received positive feedback from community members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Salmela, Madill and Thornton: Liason Committee meeting on 10-19-2020. Adding DECA as a startup club. The Turf Field project at Corey Veech Memorial Field at Centricity Stadium is now complete. Discussed improving the scoreboard at the football field and field usage for community rentals. Contingency planning if high school activities shut down.
- Peterson: Arena Board Meeting on 10-13-2020. Nice board with members of the community. Established a good connection. Financial Statements were delivered to Lance Takkunen, Director of Business Services.
- Whitwam: City Recreational committee: Shared school insight on City's plans for a new arena.

OLD BUSINESS

- Board meeting schedule. The board will meet in a Special Meeting at 5 P.M. on November 13 for the purpose of canvassing school board votes from the election.

NEW BUSINESS - No new business.

ADJOURNMENT

- *A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Madill to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 P.M. Passed unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Thornton, Clerk

Dianne Mathews, Chair