

HERMANTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Minutes: July 13, 2020

The Board of Education of Hermantown Independent School District No. 700 met in regular session on Monday, July 13, 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 (left at 6:32, back at 7:08), Karly Madill, Dianne Mathews, Aaron Salmela, Tim Peterson (arrived at 6:25), Jonathan Thornton, Ex-officio Member Wayne Whitwam, Superintendent, and Lance Takkunen, Director of Business Services.

Visitors: Gretchen Appelwick, Jenny Wiese, Garlyn Rosandich, Holly Martin, Matt Rantapaa, Tari Aanonsen, Karen Kucza, and Lynda Nikko.

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.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Salmela and seconded by Kneisl to approve the amended agenda with the following additions, deletions, or corrections: Add Gretchen Appelwick's name for Elementary Principal hire, Remove School Resource Officer Contract under personnel items and add under New Business, Passed Unanimously via roll call vote.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve Minutes of Board Meeting dated June 22, 2020.
- Approve and authorize payment of audited vouchers #104963-105041 and voided checks #104426 and #104431.
- Approval of Personnel Items
 - Lateral Work Design for Paraprofessional.
 - Memorandum to Employ Gretchen Appelwick as Elementary School Principal.
 - Leave of Absence of John Konen.
 - Leave of Absence of Katherine Rardin.
- Designate Wayne Whitwam as the Local Education Authority Representative.
- Authorize and designate Wayne Whitwam and Lance Takkunen to lease, purchase and contract for goods and services within the budget approved by the School Board.
- Designate Wayne Whitwam to sign leases, purchases, and contract for goods and services.
- Authorize Wayne Whitwam to approve contracts up to bid law threshold.
- Authorize Wayne Whitwam to approve change orders on projects up to \$25,000.

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

ACCEPT DONATIONS – NONE

COMMENTS AND CONGRATULATIONS

- Middle School Principal Jenny Wiese welcomed Wayne Whitwam and is looking forward to adding Gretchen Appelwick to their team.
- Mathews welcomed Wayne Whitwam and thanked Takkunen for all the work on the refinance of our debt saving the tax payers 5.3 million dollars.
- Applewick welcomed Wayne Whitwam and was looking forward to working with the team.

RECOGNITION OF VISITOR BUSINESS – NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mathews received a letter from a concerned citizen after cap and gown day and wondering if this is how we will be proceeding. Social distancing and masks are required.
- Mathews received the Department of Human Services Contract for the Micro Grant.

SUPERINTENDENT'S DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Getting acclimated. Meetings with city leaders. Looking to other Districts to see how they are proceeding with the next school year.
- Construction Update. Sod was laid on practice field today. Took bore samples which were fine but found soft places and will need to reset some of the field to avoid sinking.
- Principal Interviews. Eleven strong candidates with a unanimous vote for Gretchen Appelwick.
- COVID-19 Updates. Rumor that the Governor will make an announcement on Wednesday July 15th. Possibly put together a work study group to put together a plan about opening up this fall.
- Discussion on a letter to the editor regarding residency requirements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mathews announced a virtual informational session for community members that may have an interest in running for the Board of Education. Sessions will happen July 22 at 6:00 PM and July 27 at 5:00 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

- *A Motion was made by Thornton and seconded by Madill to approve the 2020-21 Resolution for Membership in the MN State High School League. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Madill and seconded by Salmela to approve agreement to continue membership with MREA. 4 AYE, 1 NAY, motion passed via roll call vote.*
- *A Motion was made by Salmela and seconded by Madill to approve the Resolution providing for the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of \$38,825,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2020A and Awarding the Sale Thereof. 5 AYE, 1 Absent, Motion passes via roll call vote.*
- *A motion was made by Madill and seconded by Peterson to approve the new position request and job description for MARSS/Due Process Specialist. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A motion was made by Madill and seconded by Salmela to approve the new position and job description for Administrative Assistant. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*
- *A motion was made by Mathews and seconded by Peterson to table the New Position to Request for outdoor Education Specialist at the Elementary School until future recommendation. 3 AYE, 2 NAY, motion passed via roll call vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

- Agreement to Continue Membership with MSBA. No action taken.
- Recommendation to approve the Resolution to change the following Bank Account signers and Treasury Management signers. No action taken.
- Breakfast Service Program. No action taken.
- School Resource Officer Contract. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Madill and seconded by Kneisl to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Thornton, Clerk

Dianne Mathews, Chair