

**HERMANTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**Minutes: August 24, 2020**

The Board of Education of Hermantown Independent School District No. 700 met in regular session on Monday, August 24, 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, Karly Madill (arrived at 6:03 P.M.), Dianne Mathews, Aaron Salmela, Tim Peterson, Jonathan Thornton, Ex-officio Member Wayne Whitwam, Superintendent, and Lance Takkunen, Director of Business Services.

Visitors: Jenny Wiese, Karen Kucza, Gretchen Appelwick, Jason Wilcox, Kristal Berg, Sarah Turcotte, Nancy Litman, John Muenich, Lynda Nikko + 38 Community members via video feed.

**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 Thornton and seconded by Salmela to approve the agenda as printed. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*

**APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approve Minutes of Board Meeting dated August 10, 2020.
- Approve and authorize payment of check #4467, audited vouchers #105150-105218 and voided check #105134.
- Approval of Personnel Items
  - Resignation of Blair Lundquist as Kids' Zone Child Care Aide and Lateral Work Design to post position.
  - Resignation of Leah Stevenson as Kids' Zone Child Care Aide and Lateral Work Design to post position.
  - Resignation of Margaret Peters as Kids' Zone Child Care Aide and Lateral Work Design to post position.
  - Resignation of Jara Moir as Kids' Zone Child Care Aide and Lateral Work Design to post position.
  - Lateral Work Design for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Long-Term Substitute Teacher.
  - Memorandum to Employ Holly Martin as Interim Dean of Students.
  - Memorandum to Employ Shannon Gilfillan as Kids' Zone Child Care Aide.
  - Memorandum to Employ Nathan Vesel as Janitor.

*A motion was made by Peterson 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 Salmela to accept donations to the General and Extra-Curricular Funds received thru August 10, 2020. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*

**COMMENTS AND CONGRATULATIONS**

- Mathews thanked the administration team for its work on the school opening plan. Also thanked Centricity Credit Union and all team members that helped get the Centricity Credit Union Stadium-Corey Leech Field renovations completed.

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Mathews received correspondence from the general public about the start of school plan.

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Enrollment Update. Enrolled students: 2,119. Budgeted students: 2,087. Students not returning to Hermantown: 23.
- COVID-19 Update. Bi-weekly case rates: 17 per 10,000 in Duluth, Proctor and Hermantown. Since July 30, the numbers of 15-19 year olds has increased from 15 to 115. Some positive tests for Hermantown students. Whitwam meets with the regional team on Aug. 25.
- Distance Learning. 13% of students have chosen to distance learn.
- Construction Update. Artificial turf project is complete – need to finish high jump area and remove dirt road over track. Thanks to Tim Peterson’s son-in-law for aerial drone photos. HCLC is signed off and completed. Will have virtual grand opening on Aug. 31.
- Survey Results. 13% distance learning. Out of 2,100 students, twenty three students not returning, if they were open enrollment students they are not guaranteed their spot back. Waiting list students will get opportunity first. More at Middle School/High School are either choosing to distance learn or not returning. Fifth grade had a higher number. Response to surveys was successful.
- Other.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mathews attended MSBA seminars.
- Peterson attended MSBA webinar. Care plan includes \$500,000 worth of CRF funding. \$550,000 total funding package. Must be spent by Dec. 30 and incremental. Use it or lose it. \$117,000 until Sept. 2022.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- *A Motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Madill to approve the substitute/casual rates of pay. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Approve bid process for snow plowing. No action taken.
- New Position Request for Distance Learning Teacher. No action taken.
- New Position Request for Kindergarten Teacher. No action taken.
- Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process. No action taken.
- Leave of Absence of Mark Ostazeski. No action taken.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Thornton and seconded by Madill to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jonathan Thornton, Clerk

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Dianne Mathews, Chair