

## HERMANTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

### Minutes: September 28, 2020

The Board of Education of Hermantown Independent School District No. 700 met in regular session on Monday, September 28, 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, Dianne Mathews, Aaron Salmela (6:03 p.m.), Tim Peterson, Jonathan Thornton, Wayne Whitwam, Superintendent, and Lance Takkunen, Director of Business Services.

Visitors: Jenny Wiese, Gretchen Appelwick, Sarah Turcotte, John Muenich, Jason Wilcox, Lars Waldner, Eric Borndal, Kristal Berg, Eric Albrecht

### **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 Thornton and seconded by Kneisl to approve the agenda as printed. Passed unanimously.*

#### **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting – September 14, 2020
- Approval and Authorization of Audited Vouchers for Payment #105310-105422 and voided check #104269
- Approval of Personnel Items
  - Resignation of Michaela Borash as Alpine Ski Coach and Lateral Work Design to post position.
  - Resignation of Jennifer Krzewinski as 3-Hour Cook's Helper and Lateral Work Design to post position.
  - Resignation of Branett Bode as Janitor and Lateral Work Design to post position.
  - Resignation of Bridgit Janzig as Middle School Paraprofessional.
  - Resignation of Trudi Weis Schmies as Early Childhood Program Assistant.
  - Memorandum to Employ Chase Carlson as Kid's Zone Child Care Aid.
  - Memorandum to Employ Isabella Adams as Kid's Zone Child Care Aid.
  - Memorandum to Employ Jilli Peterson as Early Childhood Screening Coordinator.
  - Memorandum to Employ Spencer Dieryck as Janitor.
  - Memorandum to Employ Haley Wargin as Middle School Paraprofessional.
  - Leave of Absence of Madeline Evans and Lateral Work Design to post Long-Term Substitute position.
  - Leave of Absence of Judy Witte.
  - Leave of Absence of David Thompson.
  - Leave of Absence of Ashley Braun.
- *A motion was made by Madill and seconded by Salmela 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 September 28, 2020. Passed unanimously.*

#### **COMMENTS AND CONGRATULATIONS**

- Wiese, Muenich, and Appelwick – Thank you to Sheina Showen, District Nurse, for all her hard work.

#### **RECOGNITION OF VISITOR BUSINESS**

- Speaker #1: Eric Borndal, Union President for the Education-MN Teachers on behalf of Mark Ostazeski
- Speaker #2: Eric Albrecht, Hermantown Area Hockey Association. Presented plans for outdoor rink renovations.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Mathews: included in MSBA agreement is a one-session goal-setting workshop to walk through strategic plan with new Superintendent Whitwam. Would like to have it scheduled and completed before the end of the year.

- Mathews: receiving feedback from the public that there is a disconnect in communication between school district and parents.
- Peterson: Recreation Committee which oversees the recreational facilities in Hermantown, including the Hermantown Hockey Arena. Discussion of potential new arena, trails and Fichtner Field. Peterson is planning to attend the Recreation Committee meeting on 10-5-2020.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Enrollment Update. Very stable
- COVID-19 Update. As of September 28, the county number is at 16.14 per 10,000 people and is projected to climb to 27.7 by next week, if calculations are correct. If the number reaches 30 three weeks in a row, we believe the regional team will recommend full distance learning for high school. Trends within the district are seeing Elementary and Middle Schools students wanting to move from full-time distance learning to hybrid learning, while High School students wanting to move from hybrid learning to full-time distance learning.
- CRF Funds. Due to the state by October 1, but have mostly been approved. Still time to move things around, if necessary. Bus purchase and drinking fountains purchase needed more explanation.
- HVAC. Have two bids that are completely different. We need a tune up, not a rebuild. Will revisit this item.
- Other. Distance Learning Surveys. Around 20% of results want students back to in-person learning full-time. As soon as numbers start dropping, this topic will be revisited. Live streaming camera contract. With limited to no fans allowed at sporting events, company would install high-quality cameras in venues and offer pay-per-view live streaming for home events. School district would receive 25% of profits with no up-front costs to the district. Hesitation is with the contract term of three years. Communication: Monthly newsletter will be posted Oct. 1. Looking into the cost of direct-mail.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mathews: MREA Fall Member Meeting. Warned that the State may make a payment shift to help balance its budget. Broadband grants for rural districts were discussed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- *A Motion was made by Salmela and seconded by Peterson to Certify the Proposed Pay 2021 Levy at the maximum levy authority. Passed unanimously.*

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- ARCC Membership. Services remain the same with a reduction of fees for new contract. No action taken
- Question from Peterson regarding a follow up on the increased fees charged by the MSHSL. No action taken
- *A motion was made by Madill and seconded by Thornton to approve the change of dates for the Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences from Oct. 12-13 to Dec. 9-10 and from Jan. 19 to March 17-18. Passed unanimously.*
- *A motion was made by Salmela and seconded by Peterson to approve the School District Budget Meeting Certification date of December 14, 2020 at 6:01 p.m. in the Hermantown Middle School Auditorium. Passed unanimously.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- *A motion was made by Madill and seconded by Thornton to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Passed unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jonathan Thornton, Clerk

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Dianne Mathews, Chair