

Hermon School Committee
Minutes– Regular Meeting
Monday, January 4, 2021– 6:30 p.m.
Hermon High School Room 167
Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children

*** Due to Governor Mills' declaration of emergency, this meeting will be closed to public attendance. The public may join the meeting virtually by using the following link:*

meet.google.com/wgs-iwfw-ryk

Attending

Ted Harris, Chair
Debora Farnham, Vice Chair
Scott Hatch
Deborah Langille
Kristen Shorey
Debbie CoWallis, RSU 87 Representative
Mackenzie Stepp, Student Representative

Absent

Madison Despault, Student Representative

Staff: Cindy Badger, Adam Baker, Brandi Butterfield, Jim Chasse, Melissa Davis, Kathryn Goodman, Micah Grant, Jesse Hargrove, Jenny Perry, Jamie Rennebu, Rick Sinclair, Leslie Smith, Brian Walsh and Jody White

Guests: Amanda Ambrose, M.J. Ball, Rita Dumond, Sydney Gallop, and Kim Shaffer

Item I: Call to Order

Mr. Harris, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Item II: Agenda Adjustments:

The date of Warrant 13 under Item IX should be December 24th, 2020 not December 25th.

Item III: Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mrs. Farnham, seconded by Mrs. Shorey, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 2, 2020 and the special meeting minutes of December 7, 2020.

Unanimous (5): Mrs. CoWallis, Mrs. Farnham, Mr. Harris, Ms. Langille, and Mrs. Shorey

Item IV: Proclamations and Presentation

A. Public Comments: None

B. Donations:

- Jim Chasse donated a new microwave to the HHS teacher's room.
- The school district received many "Thank You" messages for the Dysart Pick a Pie from the school committee

Mr. Hatch joined the meeting.

C. Athletic recognitions presented by Rick Sinclair

Mr. Sinclair announced that Coach M.J. Ball was recognized by the Maine Soccer Coaches Association as the Northern Maine Girls' Soccer Coach of the Year. In addition to that, Coach Ball was also recognized by the United Soccer Coaches Association as the Region One (all of New England) Girls Coach of the Year.

Mr. Sinclair announced that junior Sydney Gallop made the All-Region Team, the All-State Team and the All New England Team for girls' soccer. In addition to that, the Maine Soccer Coaches Association named Ms. Gallop as one of two All-American girls in the State.

Item V: Personnel

A. Employment

- Amanda Ambrose, HMS Ed Tech III - Self-contained
- Rita Dumond, HHS Ed Tech III - Resource Room

Mrs. Shorey moved, seconded by Ms. Langille, to approve employment of Amanda Ambrose, HMS Ed Tech III - Self-contained and Rita Dumond, HHS Ed Tech III - Resource Room

Unanimous (6)

B. Co / Extra-curricular positions

Hermon High School – Athletics

- Freshmen Basketball - Matt Kinney
- Varsity Boys Baseball Coach- Matt Kinney

Item VI: Old Business

A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s: None

Item VII: New Business

A. Community Service Policy Waiver

Mr. Walsh explained that there is a 20-hour community service requirement for graduation. Students will often wait until their junior or senior years to complete those hours. Mrs. Smith estimated that about 65% of seniors this year would not be able to complete those hours given the restrictions under COVID limiting opportunities. Most seniors do have at least one hour or more. They will still encourage students to do community service hours and they have been creative with those hours this year.

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to waive the 20-hour community service requirement for graduation for the current class of 2021.

Unanimous (6)

Item VIII: Reports

A. Students

Ms. Stepp had some technical difficulties and was unable to report in addition to her written report.

B. Superintendent and Principals

Mrs. Perry updated on the Helping Hands donations and that they were able to fulfill all mitten needs and all were given out before the holiday. They have rolled out devices for

3rd and 4th grade and have started having live sessions of their morning meeting and number corner. Any students who are remote or are absent on their in-person day are able to attend. They also did a pilot of the 2nd grade using the iPads for remote learning prior to break. Lastly, Mrs. Lever was one of two teachers in Maine to win the "Raise a Cup for Teachers" grand prize package from Dunkin' Donuts. She received \$5,000, a new computer, free Dunkin' coffee for a year, \$10 gift cards for each of her students, and the school received \$5,000 which is being allocated for enrichment.

Mr. Grant said that they had their first 6 days of remote learning. Grades 6-8 they are 1:1 and logged in to classes live. Attendance was better online than a typical school day. The students have only had 9 minors (office reports) this year compared to 125. The staff raised over \$500 for a toys and coat drive for students in need in their building for Christmas. They also sponsored an adult for the elderly angel tree through the Town Office and raised 250 items. Mr. Grant also thanked the Girls Varsity Basketball team. For the last four years, they sponsor of a student or two at the middle school and dropped off gifts.

Mr. Walsh the high school also went remote for the first time this year. He said it could not have gone better. It was surreal having teachers on their headsets interacting with students yet no students in their classrooms. Their attendance and participation rates were fantastic. They were able to see the improvements from last year. They were also able to get out several more hotspots and devices. The pies from Dysart's and pizzas have helped with morale of the faculty at the high school. The faculty and staff have gone above and beyond, they have been very positive and supportive. They have great people in guidance who are offering the mental health we need right now for students, faculty and staff. He also mentioned that winter sports tryouts have started, and he was hopeful that would add to sense of normalcy heading into winter. He also urged going to YouTube and viewing the holiday concert. Lastly, the high school students did create a Polar Express experience for the elementary students.

Superintendent Chasse added that he had a district-wide meeting that morning to review the staff COVID manual and the expectations coming back. He has asked leaders and staff to look at how their workday flows and what they can do to limit some eating and gathering spaces.

C. SPRPCE – No update to report.

D. Negotiations

They received a letter from the Hermon Education Association on January 4th so they will be looking to schedule a negotiations meeting in the upcoming weeks.

E. Community Track Committee

Mrs. Farnham reported they had a productive meeting in December at which they scaled the project in way that more sense in terms of what they bring forward to the Town Council and to be voted on in June. They are rolling out some communications with the town through a Facebook page. The plan right now is to look at the current soccer/football field and make some necessary improvements. They have opted to not go with turf at this time because it is too pricey. The track would be out behind the tennis courts.

F. Finance Report

Ms. Rennebu stated that Tyler Technologies had taken our data from our Profound database into Infinite Visions. We have started working on payroll in Infinite Visions. R.K.O. is back in the swing of things with our audit.

G. Curriculum/Assessment Report

Mrs. Davis stated that we are still waiting on the MDOE for State testing for Science MEAs will be an electronic or paper/pencil version. They are also waiting to see what the tests for ELA or math will be NWEA or something else. She stated that we are also ramping up professional development opportunities for K-12 staff through the RISE Center, PREP and MCLA. She is also offering a cross district professional development for grades 5-8 teacher in Hermon and RSU 87 in Young Adult Literature.

H. Guidance Report (as written)

I. Nurses Reports (as written)

J. Transportation and Facilities (as written)

K. Possible Future Agenda Items:

- a. Legislative Updates
- b. Change Style Indicator Fly Hermon Planning Workshop
- c. Fly Hermon Planning Session

Ms. Langille thanked everyone again. She really appreciates everything they are doing. She congratulated Sydney Gallop and M.J. Ball. She thanked Superintendent Chasse for his help with the pie distribution.

Mr. Harris also congratulated Sydney Gallop, M.J. Ball and Mrs. Lever. He also mentioned that he thought it was great that we could help both Hermon Mountain and Morgan Hill Event Center. Superintendent Chasse clarified that the students will attend the Hermon Mountain program on either mornings or afternoons based upon grade. Ski school lessons are included. Snowboarding and tubing are also available. The first week for organizing the paperwork of rentals, ski ability, interests and permission slips. The program will start next week. Each school will get the information out on the individual school pages as well as the athletic page. Mr. Harris mentioned that the school committee would be considering the projects for this summer and putting those out to bid. He also asked about other programming such as lacrosse, ice hockey and volleyball.

Item IX: Approval of Warrants

Mrs. Farnham motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to approve warrant 12 of December 11th and warrant 13 of December 24, 2020.

Voting for: (5) Harris, Farnham, Hatch, Langille, Shorey

Abstaining: (1) CoWallis

Item X: Adjournment

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Unanimous (6)

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Chasse
Superintendent of Schools