

Hermon School Committee
Minutes– Regular Meeting
Monday, February 1, 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/ngu-ygeq-vta

Attending

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

Absent

Mackenzie Stepp, Student Representative

Staff: Cindy Badger, Adam Baker, Stephanie Biberstein, Brandi Butterfield, Jim Chasse, Jason Davis, Melissa Davis, Kathryn Goodman, Micah Grant, Jesse Hargrove, David Nason, Jenny Perry, Jamie Rennebu, Krystal Tracy, Brian Walsh and Jody White

Guests: Scott Perkins, Kim Shaffer, and Steve Thomas

Item I: Call to Order

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

Item II: Agenda Adjustments:

Add resignation of Lauren Rioux under Item V. Personnel A. Resignations.
Eliminate Item IV. B. Special Recognition of HHS employee until possibly next month.

Item III: Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mrs. Farnham, seconded by Ms. Langille, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 4, 2021.

Unanimous (6): Mrs. CoWallis, Mrs. Farnham, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hatch, Ms. Langille, and Mrs. Shorey

Item IV: Proclamations and Presentation

A. Public Comments: None

Item V: Personnel

A. Resignations

Heather Fidler, PADS 2nd grade teacher, effective 03/26/21
Lauren Rioux, PADS Kindergarten teacher, end of school year

B. Co / Extra-curricular positions * new to position

Hermon High School
Show Choir Musical Director - **Christie Robinson***

Item VI: Old Business

- A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s: None
- B. CIP/SLODA/Track Committee Updates (Jim Chasse, Jason Davis, Steve Thomas)
 - Mr. Thomas, Town Council Chair, gave an overview and an update from the Track Committee with a proposal drawing from Plymouth Engineering. After addressing the available options and costs, the Track Committee feels the best option would be to move ahead with fixing the football field, putting down an adequate base for proper drainage. If the town wants to install an artificial turf down the road, everything would be in place for that. The estimated cost of artificial turf is \$1.5 million with an estimated life of about 10 years. The estimated cost to build the track behind the tennis courts and fix the football field would be approximately \$1.6 million which would include building a storage facility for equipment and the installation of bleachers along the side of the track. Discussion ensued.
 - Superintendent Chasse, along with Mr. Davis, Facilities/Transportation Director, gave an update of the capital improvement plan (CIP). Superintendent Chasse also discussed flat funding of the ED 279. He is working with legislators and DOE to try to make up some differential with the loss of student counts to home schooling and much lower Pre-K and kindergarten enrollments than expected. The summary CIP was discussed. The air exchange units to replace the ventilation system at PADS have been ordered with CRF 2 funds. The bus garage has been a conversation in two ways: needed renovations and the growth needs over time of a cafeteria for the middle school. The technology room out behind HMS will be cleaned out to make way for a training/conference room. Regarding the paving/parking lots, the Town is considering some paving projects this summer, so we may be able to get better rates. The safety issue in front of the middle school with potential driveway changes was not included in the CIP list. Superintendent Chasse suggested a future budget workshop. Mr. Harris asked about generators for PADS and HMS and suggested those being possible future “wish list” items.

Item VII: New Business

- A. First Reading of 2021-22 School Calendar
- B. Cooperative Hockey Team Discussion

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Shorey, to move forward with the inquiry stage of a cooperative hockey program with John Bapst.

Unanimous (6): Mrs. CoWallis, Mrs. Farnham, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hatch, Ms. Langille, and Mrs. Shorey

Item VIII: Reports

- A. Students

Ms. Despault, Student Representative, reported on a This or That themed virtual competition put on by student council with a Google form for voting. For step up day, each club created a video for the upcoming 8th graders to see what each club is about.
- B. Superintendent (oral) and Principals (oral)
 - Mr. Grant reported January was a good month. There were only 2 office referrals for the month of January. Behavior has been phenomenal. They had a 92 % average daily attendance rate. Fourteen students have come off the remote list and back to school within the past 10 days. They completed NWEA testing for 6th & 7th grade with 8th grade being completed that week. He will have results for the March Board report. They have 60 kids attending skiing on Wednesdays and 59 attending on Thursdays. Report cards

went out for all except the 8th grade, that had to go remote, so they have an extra week on their report cards. Their 20-21 budget is in Infinite Visions, thanks to Mrs. Dearborn for entering that manually. They are down from last year, but the teachers have requested everything they want.

- Mr. Walsh reported that Malick Kone, JMG instructor, played basketball for Rutgers University, then played at a national level in Europe. Mr. Kone has been selected as a coach to the Guinea Federation National team. He will be headed to the tournament in February and coaching at the national level. They had a fantastic presentation on multiple pathways. They were disappointed with the turnout, so they are considering making it a video YouTube presentation. New this year, on February 22nd, they are having 2nd semester parent teacher conferences. On April 11th through the 14th, NEASC will be having their accreditation visit. It will be a totally remote visit. Once they have the schedule set up, they will be interviewing the superintendent and the school board. January was their best month ever for attendance at 97.11% daily attendance rate. One act plays and show choir have begun. Mrs. Shorey mentioned that the NHFS camera that records games is often freezing, and the WHOU games have a better production. Mr. Walsh said that he would pass that information along to Mr. Sinclair.
- Mrs. Perry announced they had reached 10,000 Hawks Wings and will celebrate school wide with a Zoom, classroom-based Valentine's activities led by Ms. Case. A wellness heart event is planned for staff over break to try to help boost morale and keep connectivity among the staff. The 3rd and 4th graders have taken the NWEA. They are excited to see their student results and to see how they have grown in this new environment. They have had 4 students return from remote learning to in-person learning over the past week. They are now down to 6 students for remote learning. Report cards will go home on February 9th and 10th.

C. SPRPCE (Ted H.)

Mr. Harris mentioned that there are now up to 26 parties sending to SPRPCE. Due to all 26 superintendents agreeing on the proposed budget for next year, there was a decrease in the costs of kids going to SPRPCE. There is one other district looking to be added. The SPRPCE Board was given an \$8,000 donation from Bangor Savings Bank to purchase peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, chips and drinks for all of the students there, and enough to take home through the winter months. They are fully staffed and have on average 50 students on any given day.

D. Negotiations (Scott H)

E. Community Track Committee (Deb L, Deb F.)

F. Finance Report (as written)

G. Curriculum/Assessment Report (as written)

H. Guidance Report (as written)

I. Nurses Reports (as written)

J. Transportation and Facilities (as written)

K. Possible Future Agenda Items:

a. 2021-22 Budget Drafts

Potential meeting February 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

b. Curriculum K-4, 5-8 Course of Study

Mrs. Davis and the principals are working on something similar to the high school course of studies for the elementary and middle schools.

Mr. Hatch mentioned that some of the neighboring schools are looking at adding the Monday back into the schedule. Superintendent Chasse stated that the Reopening Schools Committee

is meeting the Monday after February break to look at the COVID numbers, vaccination plan, and spring schedule dates, including more instructional days.

Ms. Langille thanked everyone for everything they are doing for pandemic learning. She stated that the Program of Studies for the high school looks amazing. She thanked Steve Thomas and the track committee and for all the work done behind the scenes. It is a big task to take on and she appreciates it.

Mr. Harris thanked the track committee and Steve Thomas for coming in. He asked if we had gotten the insurance rates yet. Ms. Rennebu stated she thought they rates would be out towards the end of March. Mr. Harris welcomed Christie Robinson to Show Choir. He asked about sensor soap and paper towel dispensers for the bathrooms, wondering if that could be a CRF purchase. Camp Capella reached out to Mr. Harris and said that there was a Key Club challenge going around now in regards to the Polar Dip that they are doing. Camp Capellas fundraising is really down now because they cannot to a lot of the in-person events. They are looking to see if any of the area schools are interested in participating. Mr. Walsh let Mr. Harris know that if he sent the information to him, that he'd send it to the Key Club Advisor. Lastly, Mr. Harris mentioned that he had heard a concern about the quantity of take home work. He also thanked all for their hard work.

Item IX: Approval of Warrants

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mrs. Shorey to approve:

- Payroll warrant (I.V. Warrants 1001-1004, 14) of January 8, 2021
- Accounts Payable warrant (I.V. Warrant 1009) of January 15, 2021
- Payroll warrant (I.V. Warrants 1005-1008) of January 22, 2021

Voting for: (5) Farnham, Harris, Hatch, Langille, Shorey
Abstaining: (1) CoWallis

Item X: Executive Session

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Discussion of Labor Contract Negotiations with the Hermon Education Association at 8:15 PM.

Voting for: (5) Farnham, Harris, Hatch, Langille, Shorey
Abstaining: (1) CoWallis

Mrs. CoWallis was excused from the Executive Session because she will attend Negotiations for RSU 87.

Return from Executive Session at 9:00 p.m.

Item XI: Adjournment

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.
Unanimous (5)

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Chasse
Superintendent of Schools