

Hermon School Committee
Minutes– Regular Meeting
Monday, May 3, 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/ygw-pqoc-ogz

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, Stephanie Biberstein, Jim Chasse, Kathryn Goodman, Micah Grant, Jesse Hargrove, Jenny Perry, Jamie Rennebu, Brian Walsh and Jody White

Guests: Several staff and community members attended virtually. Guests attending in person, Samantha Lang and Stephanie Oiler, both of Hermon.

Item I: Call to Order

Mr. Harris, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

Item II: Agenda Adjustments: Add Community Use of Facilities as E. under Old Business.

Item III: Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mrs. CoWallis, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 5th and the special meeting of April 26th, 2021, as presented.

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

Item IV: Proclamations and Presentation

A. Public Comments:

- Stephanie Oiler, Hermon resident, wanted to know the return plan for the fall. She expressed disappointment with what the last year and a half has been.
- Mr. Chasse Reopening Update was on the agenda.
- Samantha Lang, Hermon resident, stated that some meetings were very difficult to log into. She also asked what the meeting on April 26th was and what that entailed. Mr. Harris mentioned that we had not been aware that meetings were difficult to log into and that the April 26th meeting was a budget workshop meeting.

B. Proclamations

- a. Presentation of a certificate of appreciation

Mr. Harris announced the presentation of a certificate of appreciation to Mackenzie Stepp for her “outstanding service and leadership in her role as student representative to the Hermon School Committee.”

Item V: Personnel

- A. Resignations
 - Kelly McCue, PADS Grade 1

Item VI: Old Business

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

- B. Move to approve the second reading of the Assistant Director of Special Services Job Description.

Mrs. Farnham moved, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to approve the second reading of the Assistant Director of Special Services Job Description.

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

- C. COVID and Reopening Update

Superintendent Chasse gave a detailed COVID and Reopening update presentation.

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to accept the COVID model as of 5/3/21 being updated for the Middle School on May 11th to go to 4 days a week; staying current with the high school T/Th and W/F model with intervention days on Mondays; and the Patricia A. Duran School staying at their current plan due to spacing issues, as presented.

Voting for (5): Mrs. CoWallis, Mrs. Farhnam, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hatch, Mrs. Shorey
Abstaining (1): Ms. Langille

- D. End of School Date Change

Mrs. Farnham motioned, seconded by Mrs. Shorey, to approve end of school date change from an early release day on June 9th to a last, full day of school on June 8th. Wednesday students attending on a full day on Monday, June 7th. June 9th will still be a full staff day, pending RSU 87 transportation.

Voting for (4): Mrs. Farhnam, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hatch, Mrs. Shorey
Abstaining (2): Mrs. CoWallis, Ms. Langille

- E. Community Use of Facilities

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to allow authorization to use buildings and outdoor spaces, not during school hours, with appropriate fees charged to offset the cost of staff, and following all of the other COVID guidelines.

Voting for (5): Mrs. CoWallis, Mrs. Farhnam, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hatch, Mrs. Shorey
Abstaining (1): Ms. Langille

Item VII: New Business

- A. April Enrollment Counts

A handout was given with the April 1st enrollment counts. Superintendent Chasse mentioned that despite the pandemic, the enrollment trends seem to be the same. HHS will have the largest freshman class in school history next year.

- B. Move to approve the first reading of the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Job Description

Moved by Mrs. CoWallis, seconded by Mrs. Shorey to approve the first reading of the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment job description, as presented.

Voting for (5): Mrs. CoWallis, Mrs. Farhnam, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hatch, Mrs. Shorey

Abstaining (1): Ms. Langille

Item VIII: Reports

- A. Students – Miss Stepp reported that one of the student councils' projects was Easter eggs for PreK. Recently they held a community cleanup. They had 21 volunteers and completed all of the jobs in Carmel, Levant and Hermon. She thanked the Committee for allowing her to be a part of it and letting the students have a voice in the school.
- B. Superintendent (oral) and Principals (as written)
Superintendent Chasse had nothing further to add.

Mr. Grant mentioned that a couple of dates from his report may be changing and they will be sending a letter out to 8th grade parents with dates for a class trip, graduation, dance, etc.

Mrs. Perry mentioned they are working to make sure they have end of the year celebrations to recognize the year they've had. They will be letting the parents know by the grade levels through See Saw what those will be and when they will happen.

Mr. Walsh suggested to everyone to take in a softball or baseball game. He's very excited with the MPA changes under the CDC guidelines regarding masks. Yearbooks were delivered and will be distributed over the next week. The community cleanup response was outstanding. Academic Awards will be remote again this year and filmed May 24th. They had a turnout of over 80 for their parent council meeting. All of that information on end of the year festivities was to be sent home and posted on social media accounts and website. They will need flexibility for planning activities based upon weather.

- C. SPRPCE (Ted H): Nothing further to add
- D. Negotiations (Scott H): Mr. Harris stated that he and Mr. Hatch are still taking part in Negotiations, there will be an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss the Support Staff negotiations.
- E. Community Track Committee (Deb L, Deb F.): Mrs. Farnham mentioned the committee would be getting together later that week to discuss ways to get the community out to vote in June.
- F. Finance Report (as written)
- G. Curriculum/Assessment Report (as written)
- H. Guidance Report (as written)
- I. Athletics (as written)
- J. Nurses Reports (as written)
- K. Transportation and Facilities (as written)
- L. Possible Future Agenda Items
- M. Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Shorey, to add a period of time for public comments.
Unanimous (6): Mrs. CoWallis, Mrs. Farnham, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hatch, Ms. Langille, and Mrs. Shorey
- Tanya Fox, Hermon resident, stated her dissatisfaction of not having a complete return to school plan. She wanted to know what the plan is for the fall to have the students in person full time. Mr. Harris stated that we are looking into a space assessment to see if there is a way for us to get back in person full time in the fall.
 - Samantha Lang, Hermon resident, mentioned that remote learning has made a huge difference in their household, and she was thankful for that.
 - Stephanie Oiler, Hermon resident, commended Mr. Grant for his work in going more student days. She mentioned that Monday's should have been better handled. Mr. Harris explained that the Monday planning day was agreed to for planning, cleaning and satisfied the Teacher contract.

Item IX: Approval of Warrants

Move to approve:

- Accounts Payable warrant 1056 of May 7, 2021
- Payroll Warrants 23, 24, 1057 - 1060 of May 14, 2021
- Accounts Payable Warrants 1061 - 1062 of May 21, 2021
- Payroll Warrants 25, 1063 – 1066 of May 28, 2021

Mrs. Shorey motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to approve the above warrants.

Voting for (5): Mrs. Farnham, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hatch, Ms. Langille, and Mrs. Shorey

Abstaining (1): Mrs. CoWallis

Item X: Executive Session

Mrs. Shorey motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Discussion of Labor Contract Negotiations with the Hermon Support Staff at 8:36 PM.

Voting for (5): Mrs. Farnham, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hatch, Ms. Langille, and Mrs. Shorey

Mrs. CoWallis was excused from the Executive Session.

Return from Executive Session at 9:15 PM.

Item XI: Adjournment

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Hatch to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM

Unanimous (5)

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Chasse

Superintendent of Schools