

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

Online meeting: <https://meet.hermon.net/SchoolCommittee>

Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children

Present

Ted Harris, Chair
Debora Farnham, Vice Chair
Scott Hatch
Jesse Keith
Deborah Langille

Absent

Debbie CoWallis
Mackenzie Stepp, Student Representative
Liana Shaw, Student Representative

Staff: Stephanie Biberstein, Melissa Davis, Micah Grant, Jesse Hargrove, Jenny Perry, Rick Sinclair and Brian Walsh

Item I: Mr. Harris, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Item II: Agenda Adjustments: None

Item III: Approval of Minutes

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to approve the Regular Meeting of March 2nd, the minutes of the special meeting of March 18th, and the minutes of the special meeting of March 23rd, presented.

Unanimous (5)

Item IV: Proclamations and Presentation

A. Public Comments: None

Item V: Personnel

A. Resignations

Mr. Harris announced the resignations of:

- Holly Cough, HHS Health & Conflict Resolution Teacher
- Annette Weed, HHS English Teacher
- Christopher Woodside, Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) Specialist

B. Co-curricular / Extra-curricular: None

Item VI: Old Business

A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s:

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to excuse the absence of Mrs. CoWallis.

Unanimous (4) (*Mrs. Farnham was disconnected during the vote*)

B. Second Reading of Policies

a. JED Attendance

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to accept the 2nd reading of JED Attendance policy, as presented.

Unanimous (4) (*Mrs. Farnham was disconnected during this vote*)

b. JHB Truancy

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to accept the 2nd reading of JHB Truancy, as presented.

Unanimous (4) (*Mrs. Farnham was disconnected during this vote*)

C. Extend Remote Learning Plan to the End of the School Year

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to Extend Remote Learning Plan to the End of the School Year, as presented.

Discussion centered around pass/fail model of grading of student work, flexibility of timeline of work, and parent/student surveys/input. Guidance is having weekly check-ins for support, listed resources online, and reaching out to families of students not submitting work. Mr. Gonyar stated that the last day of school is to be June 18th.

Unanimous (5)

Item VII: New Business

A. 1st Draft of the 2020-21 School Budget

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to accept the 1st draft of the 2020-21 School Budget, as presented.

Unanimous (5)

B. MLTI Payment Approval

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to approve the MLTI Payment, as presented.

Mr. Gonyar explained that the team had written a grant for \$120,000 for technology at the Middle School technology. The State made this year's payment but is not funding for 2020-21. Funds should be back in the program for 2021-22. Mr. Gonyar asked for permission to use excess funds to make the 2nd payment ahead of time.

Unanimous (4) (*Mrs. Farnham was disconnected during this vote*)

C. First Reading of Job Description

a. Assistant Director of Special Services

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to accept both the 1st and 2nd reading of Job Description Assistant Director of Special Services, as presented.

Unanimous (4) (*Mrs. Farnham was disconnected during this vote*)

Item VIII: Reports

A. Superintendent

In addition to his written report, Mr. Gonyar stated how proud he was to be a part of the Hermon team shifting from face-to-face learning to remote learning within a couple of days. He is proud of the team and all of their hard work. We will have an online presence in the future.

B. Principals

Mr. Walsh stated he was investigating graduation options with the Cross Center, as well as exploring other possible options. He has met with parent groups and seniors and is working on a formal presentation.

Mr. Grant gave praise and thanks for his staff. The middle school has 91% of students participating online. Forty-six laptops have been given out.

Mrs. Perry has had a high amount of support from parents and work from students. The outpouring of support from the community. This has brought them a lot closer, although they are far apart. Hopefully they will all be back together soon.

C. Finance Report

Mr. Gonyar is very pleased to have Jamie Rennebu, Business Manager, on board. There has also been a tremendous amount of help from Shirley Waning, RSU 87 Business Manager. He expects to have an accurate report by the end of April. He will have a really up-to-date plan for the May 4th meeting. We are in the black and bringing in more revenues from tuition than expected.

D. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

Mr. Hatch commented that he'd heard of other schools moving WIFI access to the exteriors of the building so that cars could pull up for student use. Mr. Walsh stated that he already has had students pull up in vehicles by the high school to access the WIFI. Superintendent Gonyar stated the Commissioner has discussed using some of the C.A.R.E.S. Act to purchase more WIFI access around the State. Mr. Hatch also inquired about the SLODA. Superintendent Gonyar stated it was not near completion and will not be done this summer.

Mr. Harris wanted to relay that less is more regarding online learning. Do not need to build in busy time, and do not overburden the younger students. He suggested May 18th for a Special Meeting for a solar presentation by Mike Griggs and budget follow up. He expects that the superintendent search should be wrapped up by then. They are looking April 28th and 29th in the evening for superintendent interviews. Please contact Superintendent Gonyar to go over the applicant packets.

E. Other: none

Item IX: Approval of warrant(s)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille to approve Warrant #18 of March 6th, Warrant #18 B of March 6th, Warrant 19 of March 20th, and Warrant 20 of April 3, 2020.
Unanimous (5)

Item X: Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary J. Gonyar
Superintendent of Schools