

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.
Hermon High School, Room 167

Online meeting: <https://meet.hermon.net/SchoolCommittee>
Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children

*Meeting was inadvertently not recorded

Present

Ted Harris, Chair
Debora Farnham, Vice Chair
Deborah Langille
Debbie CoWallis

Virtual

Scott Hatch
Jesse Keith
Mackenzie Stepp, Student Rep.

Absent

Liana Shaw, Student Rep.

Staff:

Cindy Badger, Melissa Davis, Gary Gonyar, Micah Grant, Jesse Hargrove, Jenny Perry, Leslie Smith, Brian Walsh and Jody White

Guests:

James Chasse, Nancy Foley

Item I: Mr. Harris, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Item II: Agenda Adjustments: Add “Consideration of Employment of Superintendent” under item VII: New Business

Item III: Approval of Minutes

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 13, 2020, presented.

Unanimous (5)

Item IV: Proclamations and Presentation

A. Public Comments: None

B. Donations

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille to accept the donations of:

- 150 tickets for Hermon High School students to the Girls Basketball State Championship game vs Wells at the Cross-Insurance Center from Camden National Bank, value of \$750.
- Donation to the Hermon High School Hawks 4 Change Pantry from Dunkin Donuts - Hermon, value of \$200.
- Grant to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) from No Kid Hungry by Share Our Strength, value of \$12,500.00
- Donation to the Hermon High School Hawks 4 Change Pantry from Seaboard Credit Union- Hermon, value of \$500.
- Donation to the Hermon High School Hawks 4 Change Pantry from United Way of Eastern Maine value of \$2,500.00

Unanimous (6)

C. Graduation Options

Presentation by Brian Walsh on the Redesigning Graduation three phase plan to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

Phase 1 - Graduation Gift Boxes: created for every senior including all of the items they would need for graduation such as caps, gowns, honor chords, recognitions and awards. The gift boxes would be either picked up or delivered around June 1st in exchange for textbooks and other school items the student may have.

Phase 2 - Walkthrough Graduation: Mr. Walsh outlined the detailed plans for the ceremony to be held on June 6th from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM in 4 sessions. The plan specified students signing up for a session, one vehicle per graduate, parking options, directions for moving through the building for both the student and their family.

Phase 3 - Digital Video Recording: The multi-media video will be created by NESCOM will be released on the original graduation date of June 13th.

Mr. Harris suggested that there be a maximum of 8 people per student vehicle due to the importance of keeping the maximum number of people under 50 to meet the required social distancing regulations.

Item V: Personnel

A. Resignations

Superintendent Gonyar 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. Employment

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to accept the 2020-21 employment of:

- Kaitlin Hinton - Music Teacher, Patricia A. Duran School
 - Mark Reed - Physical Education Teacher, Patricia A. Duran School
- Unanimous (5)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to accept the 2020-21 employment of:

- Rachel Hobbs - Health Science Teacher, Hermon High School
 - Samantha Ireland - English Teacher, Hermon High School
- Unanimous (6)

Item VI: Old Business

A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s:

B. 2nd Draft of the 2020-21 School Budget

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to accept the 2nd draft of the 2020-21 School Budget, as presented

Superintendent Gonyar explained the only change from the 1st reading of the budget was to make the math interventionist teaching position a full-time position from an ed tech position. There is a 4.73% overall budget increase. This is 6.44 to the town or an extra \$333,000.

Unanimous (5)

Superintendent Gonyar explained the budget will now go to the town for the first reading to the town council on May 14th. On May 28th the town council will recommend a yes or no. It is not yet determined how or when the town voting will be held.

C. School Calendar Changes

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to accept School Calendar Changes, as presented:

Unanimous (6)

1. The last day of school for students will be Friday, June 12th. Superintendent Gonyar will request a waiver for four (4) student days from the Commissioner of Education, bringing the total number of student days to 171.

2. The last day of school for seniors will be Friday, June 5th. This is a difference of five (5) days from the rest of our students, which is the maximum difference allowed.
3. The last day to assign new learning for seniors would be Monday, June 1st and for all other students, Friday June 5th.
4. During the week of June 8th, teachers will focus on assisting students with make-up work and closing activities.
5. All staff will be involved in professional development and planning activities from June 15th through June 18th.
 - a. The professional development will focus on the implementation of a robust online learning management system called Schoology.
 - b. Planning activities will include vertical team discussions on ensuring a smooth transition for students to the next grade level and identifying curriculum missed this spring that will need attention in the fall.
 - c. School administrators, in collaboration with Curriculum Coordinator Melissa Davis and school leadership teams, will customize the work to best fit the needs of their grade span.
6. Building administrators and their leadership teams will develop plans for the safe return of all student school materials including textbooks, laptops, and other items. At the same time, students will be allowed to pick up and take home any personal items still stored at school.
7. Building administrators and their leadership teams will develop plans for end of year activities such as step up day, awards/recognition assemblies, and graduation.
8. All End of Year activities must follow the parameters set by the Governor's Order and the recommendations of the CDC and Commissioner of Education Pender Makin.

Item VII: New Business

- A. Consideration of employment of superintendent
- B. Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham to hire James Chasse as Superintendent starting July 1, 2020.
Voting for: 5. Mr. Harris, Mrs. Farnham, Mr. Hatch, Mr. Keith, and Ms. Langille
Abstention: 1 Mrs. CoWallis (citing inability to participate in process due to technical issues)

Item VIII: Reports

- A. Superintendent
Superintendent Gonyar reminded the committee of the special meeting to be held May 18th. The two items will be a presentation by Pine Tree Solar and a presentation by Jamie Rennebu, Business Manager, on new business software. Superintendent Gonyar will also fill in the committee on this year's budget.
- B. Principals
Mr. Walsh had nothing further to add.

Mr. Grant is planning an 8th grade end of year ceremony similar to the high school graduation proposal.

Mrs. Perry stated that the plans for 4th grade end of year information is in her principal's report. She is working with Mr. Grant to do a virtual step-up day for 4th grade students. Mr. Grant went to the Patricia A. Duran School and met the 4th graders back in March.
- C. Finance Report
- D. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information
Mrs. Farnham stated that she was saddened by the uptick in cases in the guidance report.

Ms. Langille thanked all for their end of year work.

Mr. Harris suggested that if Mr. Walsh and Mr. Grant pull off their end of year ceremonies, that similar requests may be asked of them in the future.

E. Other:

Leslie Smith, Guidance Director, mentioned a presentation by Chris McLaughlin from Acadia for parents and teachers via Zoom. The focus was on how to manage anxiety, stress, and emotions for our families and as caregivers during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Item IX: Approval of warrant(s)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille to approve Warrant 21 of April 17, 2020 and Warrant 22 of May 1, 2020.

Unanimous (5)

Item X: Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary J. Gonyar
Superintendent of Schools