

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, June 1, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.
Hermon High School, Room 167

Online meeting: <https://meet.google.com/eok-dffj-aca>

Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children

*Meeting was inadvertently not recorded

Present

Ted Harris, Chair
Debora Farnham, Vice Chair
Deborah Langille

Attending Virtually

Scott Hatch
Jesse Keith
Mackenzie Stepp, Student Rep.

Absent

Liana Shaw, Student Rep.
Debbie CoWallis

Staff: Cindy Badger, Stephanie Biberstein, Melissa Davis, Gary Gonyar, Micah Grant, Jesse Hargrove, Jenny Perry, Jamie Rennebu, Brian Walsh and Jody White

Guests: James Chasse

Item I: Mr. Harris, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Item II: Agenda Adjustments: Add “Resignations” under Item V: Personnel

Item III: Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Farnham motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 4, 2020, presented.

Unanimous (5)

Item IV: Proclamations and Presentation

A. Public Comments: None

B. Donations

Mr. Gonyar announced the donations of \$5,000 from Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Triumph Lodge No. 119 for the Hermon Middle School Virtual Reality Computers. the Odd Fellows also donate scholarships.

C. Proclamations

Mr. Gonyar announced the presentation of a certificate of appreciation to Liana Shaw with for her “outstanding service and leadership in her role as student representative to the Hermon School Committee.” Ms. Shaw was unable to attend the meeting.

Ms. Langille and Mr. Keith volunteered to interview applicants for student representative at an appropriate time. There is currently one applicant from Mrs. Clain.

D. Health and Computer Science Curriculum Maps

Melissa Davis, Assessment and Curriculum Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Health and Computer Science Curriculum Maps. All the teachers mapped the content areas standards in their curriculum documents. Mrs. Davis then created district and school level maps for a global view of our standards so we could identify where we are accelerating and where we have holes in our curriculum.

We only have one health teacher at the high school. Health standards are being covered at the other schools by classroom teachers, physical education teachers and guidance. The teachers that cover the health standards were asked to report on all units

they teach health and the standards they address. Our strengths in Health are that the standards have been in place for a while. Challenges in Health are that the standards are not addressed consistently, and there is a lack of formal health courses in grades K -8.

As of 2020, the Computer Science standards are not a State graduation requirement, but the State is working towards making this a requirement. We received the SCRIPT grant which supports us in aligning our current curriculum to computer science standards. Some of our strengths are that we have a computer science course at the high school. Many of the standards in grades k-8 are addressed in the math, science and existing computer courses we have. Plans are to continue moving forward with grants and to provide professional development.

Mr. Hargrove spoke on Social Studies at the high school level. There are new Social Studies Standards in place. They began mapping the new standards throughout the school year. He stated that they are ready to go in the fall.

Item V: Personnel

A. Employment

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to accept the 2020-21 employment at the Patricia A. Duran School of both:

- Shannon Shook, 2020-21 Self-contained Teacher
 - Julie Zucchi, 2020-21 Kindergarten Teacher
- Unanimous (5)

B. Resignations

Superintendent Gonyar announced with regret the resignations of:

- Evan Marshall, HMS Spanish Teacher

Mr. Grant led a discussion for the option of bringing in a Health Teacher who can also provide enrichment in ecology and biology with instead of replacing the Spanish teacher for this upcoming year. The Health/Science position would help with the huge gap in the health curriculum in 8th grade, which is required by the State. Mr. Harris and Mr. Hatch stated they would like to hire both a Health/Science teacher, as well as a Spanish teacher. Superintendent Gonyar stated that we could advertise for both.

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 and Ms. Shaw.

Unanimous (5)

B. Solar Panel Proposal Next Steps

Superintendent Gonyar spoke with Jason Davis, Facilities Director, about the HHS heating system. It is 25-year-old hot water circulation system that does have trouble balancing the heat in the building. It is not very efficient and is expensive to run. It would be very expensive to replace, and it would still need to be maintained. The annual maintenance costs are between \$10,000-\$15,000, provided there is no major breakdown. We can keep replacing parts to the current system. The next big expense would be a boiler. There are pros and cons to replacing with the solar option. Mr. Harris suggested setting up a sub-committee to look at solar and other options. Superintendent Gonyar suggested the subcommittee be comprised of two committee members, the superintendent, the facilities director, an engineer, Mike Griggs and someone from the town to really investigate the costs of this.

Mr. Hatch and Mrs. Farnham volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

Unanimous (5)

C. Timecard Options

Jamie Rennebu, Business Manager, is still gathering information on the timecard options and she will present on it at the July meeting.

Item VII: New Business

A. Transfer of Funds

Superintendent Gonyar requested the approval of the transfer of up to 5% of the funds from special education cost center to be distributed to other cost centers that over budget. It appears the only cost center that will be over expended is debt & other commitments because of the interest payments made on the Patricia A. Duran School of \$98,639 that had not been budgeted for this year. The 5% from special education would be \$116,625 that would cover that. It allows us to move it we have to. If we do not need to, we won't.

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Hatch, to approve the transfer of up to 5% of the funds from special education cost center to be used to balance the other cost centers.

Unanimous (5)

Item VIII: Reports

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Gonyar added that all the teaching staffs in all three of the buildings have been incredible with collaboration, working with building administration to bring the best programs, services and experiences they can for kids in what has been an extremely challenging three months. He couldn't be more proud to be a Hermon Hawk. He also mentioned that Mr. Chasse was in district on Friday.

Mr. Chasse gave kudos and thanks to those who met with him on Friday. He is excited to be a part of things going on in Hermon. Mr. Sinclair gave him a Hermon Hawks polo shirt. He stated Mr. Gonyar is just a phone call away.

B. Principals

Mr. Walsh stated that his report was full of academic awards and they received fantastic feedback on the recognition ceremony posted on social media. Earlier in the day the high school had graduation box pick up and couldn't have gone any better with 48 faculty and staff volunteering. Dress rehearsal for graduation for the staff will be held on Friday, June 5th.

Mr. Grant stated that they are doing their 8th grade graduation June 15th and 16th; currently they have 70 of the 86 8th graders signed up to participate in a ceremony like what the high school did for graduation. The middle school will be getting 83 5th graders next year.

Mrs. Perry announced that Pre-K registration was full at 72 and kindergarten is filling at 76. The Patricia A. Duran School did complete the Bikes for Books this year, so the Mason's donated 26 bikes. They did a live video drawing that past weekend and started delivering the bikes to winner's homes by bus with staff members.

C. Finance Report

D. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

Mr. Hatch asked if any planning had been done if students do not return in the fall. Superintendent Gonyar stated they have discussed almost any scenario you could imagine. We are purchasing and training on a robust online Schoology program.

Mr. Keith thanked Ms. Shaw for being a student representative.

Ms. Langille thanked everyone for their hard work during this time. She thanked Superintendent Gonyar for all of his work. She congratulated grade 12 and grade 8 graduates.

Mr. Harris also thanked Ms. Shaw and Superintendent Gonyar. He thanked all involved in the school department.

E. Other:

Item IX: Approval of warrant(s)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille to approve Warrant 23 of May 15th and Warrant 24 of May 29, 2020.

Unanimous (5)

Item X: Executive Session Discussion of Legal Rights and Duties of School Unit 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille to enter into Executive Session at 8:09 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E) to discuss Legal Rights and Duties of School Unit.

Accepted unless doubted

The School Committee returned to public session at 8:42 p.m.

Item XI: Adjournment

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Gonyar & Jim Chasse
Superintendent of Schools