

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.
Hermon High School HHS Auditorium
Remote attendance: <https://streamer.hermon.net/video.html>
Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children

Item I: Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Mrs. Oiler, Chair, at 6:30 PM

Item II: Pledge of Allegiance

Item III: Roll Call

Attending: Haily Keezer, Jesse Keith, Christopher McLaughlin, Stephanie Oiler, Brian Veneziano, Eva Benjamin – Student Representative and Michael Rene – Student Representative.

Absent: Debbie CoWallis - RSU 87 Representative

Staff and members of the community also attended.

Item IV: Agenda Adjustments:

- Under Personnel, add Resignations: Loretta Knautt, PADS Custodian.
- Under New Business, add C. Ad Hoc Town Charter Review Committee Members.
- Under Presentations, correct Student Council Key Leader trip to be Key Club DECON Trip.

Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, to approve the agenda adjustments.

Unanimous (5): Mrs. Keezer, Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

Item V: Approval of Minutes

- A. Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 8, 2024, as presented.

Unanimous (5): Mrs. Keezer, Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

Item VI: Proclamations and Presentation

A. Presentations Key Club DECON Trip

1. Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, to approve the request for the Key Club DECON Trip to Springfield, MA, as presented by Liam Adams.

Unanimous (5): Mrs. Keezer, Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

B. Committee Acknowledgements Chair to address public comments from the last meeting.

C. Other Committee Acknowledgements

- Mr. McLaughlin mentioned that Eva Benjamin won the Maine Principal Association award, and how proud he was that Eva represents Hermon on the Committee, but across the State.

- Mrs. Keezer recognized those retiring and thanked them for their service to Hermon. She mentioned the curriculum coordinator and special education reports and appreciated that information. She thanked the HHS and HMS Guidance for writing letters to parents and keeping them informed.
- Mr. Veneziano mentioned that Mr. Walsh had let him know about the multi-pathways meeting that they had this month. It was very impressive to see the academic opportunities that our students have.
- Miss Benjamin stated that she just got back from the Regional Poetry Out Loud competition. Unfortunately, she is not moving on to Statewide, but it was a great opportunity to represent Hermon High School at that Regional competition. She talked about Winter Carnival Week. National Honor Society collected change during the change wars and held a book drive to donate to the Literacy Volunteers of Bangor. Student council had an ice skating event at Penobscot Ice Arena that would provide transportation and the event would be free for all students to attend.
- Mr. Rene stated that the cheerleading team went to States and came out at 3rd place. The Varsity Boys Basketball team hosted a veterans night alongside their senior night for all of our veterans out there. Recently the unified basketball team started up and they were currently two and one. He also gave a thank you to all the teachers retiring. They are an integral part of the school and they mean a lot to the students.
- Mrs. Oiler mentioned the Jr. Achievement program, teaching financial literacy to kids, was brought back. She strongly encouraged volunteering in the classroom. It really make a difference for the kids. She also recognized our guidance counselors as it was National School counseling week. She really appreciates all they have done.

D. Public Comments*

Hermon Residents: Ed Ford, Greg Newell

Five minute recess called at 06:48 pm.

Item VII: Personnel

A. Resignations

- Janice Clain, HHS Language Teacher
- Rhonda Hachey, Special Services Administrative Assistant
- Debra Merrill, HHS Chemistry Teacher
- Rebekka York, PADS Physical Education Teacher
- Loretta Knautt, PADS Custodian

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

1. HMS Intramurals **Kristen Manzo ***
2. HMS Softball **Ashlea Bourdon ***
3. HMS Baseball **Jason Largay**
4. HMS Baseball Volunteer Assistant Eric Reynolds *
5. HHS JV Baseball **Jerimy McIntyre**
6. HHS Varsity Softball **Stephanie Biberstein**
7. HHS Varsity Softball, Volunteer Assistant **Kyle Gallant ***
8. HHS JV Softball **Ryan Waning**
9. HHS Indoor/Outdoor Track, Volunteer Assistant **Joel Slate ***

Item VIII: Old Business

A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member(s): None

B. 2024-25 School Calendar

Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. Veneziano, to approve the 2nd reading of the 2024-25 School Calendar.

Unanimous (5): Mrs. Keezer, Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

C. 2nd Reading of Policies

1. Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, to approve the 2nd reading to rescind Policy CF Principals – General Provisions.

Unanimous (5): Mrs. Keezer, Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

2. Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, to approve the 2nd reading of Policy CHD Administration in the Absence of Policy, as amended.

Unanimous (5): Mrs. Keezer, Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

3. Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. Veneziano, to approve the 2nd reading to rescind Policy GCD Selection of Teaching Personnel.

Unanimous (5): Mrs. Keezer, Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

4. Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, to approve the 2nd reading to rescind Policy JJCA Public Admission Fees for School Performances / Exhibits / Competition.

Unanimous (5): Mrs. Keezer, Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

5. Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. Veneziano, to approve the 2nd reading of Policy JKAA-R Procedures on Physical Restraint and Seclusion, as amended.

Unanimous (5): Mrs. Keezer, Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

Item IX: New Business

A. 1st Reading of Policies

1. Move to approve the 1st reading to adopt Policy DFF Student Activities Funds.
2. Move to approve the 1st reading of Policy GBEB Dress and Grooming, as amended.
3. Move to approve the 1st reading to rescind Policy IGDG Combined Funds
4. Move to approve the 1st reading of Policy JED Attendance, as amended.

Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to table the above policies until the next meeting, since they were not included in the printed packet.

Unanimous (5): Mrs. Keezer, Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

- B. Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to approve the bid from Powell for the purchase of a replacement refrigerator/freezer at HHS.

Voting for (4): Mrs. Keezer, Mr. Keith, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

Abstaining (1): Mr. McLaughlin due to personally knowing someone making one of the bids

C. Ad Hoc Town Charter Review Committee Members

Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, to approve Mr. Veneziano and Mrs. Oiler to be members of the Ad Hoc Town Charter Review Committee.

Voting for (4): Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

Opposing (1): Mrs. Keezer

Item X: Report

A. Administrative Reports

In addition to his written report, Superintendent Grant mentioned the PFAS filtration system had been completed. We will have to wait the results of another test through the State. It is a quarterly test. He believes that after that test, if we come back under the levels as set forth by the State, then we will be able to go back to consuming the water directly from the variety of sources here at the school.

Mrs. Oiler asked Mrs. Smith, Guidance Director, to speak on the mental health of our students.

B. Finance Report

C. Committee Reports:

1. Facilities/Track/Safety Committee (Haily Keezer & Jesse Keith)
2. Finance Committee (Jesse Keith & Brian Veneziano)
3. Policy Committee (Debbie CoWallis & Stephanie Oiler)
4. Technology Committee (Haily Keezer & Brian Veneziano)
5. SPRPCE (Chris McLaughlin)

D. Possible Future Agenda Items:

- Mrs. Keezer would like to see a sub-committee policy

Item XI: Approval of Warrants

Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, to approve:

- Payroll Warrants 15, 1111-1114 of 01/05/24.
- Accounts Payable Warrant 1116 of 01/12/24.
- Payroll Warrants 16, 1122-1124 of 01/19/24.
- Payroll Warrants 1126-1128 of 01/19/24.
- Accounts Payable Warrant 1129 of 12/28/23.
- Accounts Payable Warrant 1139 of 01/26/24.
- Payroll Warrants 17, 1143-1146 of 02/02/24.

Voting for (4): Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

Opposing (1): Mrs. Keezer

Item XII: Executive Session

Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Discussion of Labor Contract Negotiations with the Hermon Educational Association Teachers at 7:27 PM.

Return from Executive Session at 8:11 PM.

Action, if any: None

Item XIII: Adjournment

Mrs. Oiler motioned, seconded by Mr. Veneziano, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Unanimous (5): Mrs. Keezer, Mr. Keith, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Oiler, and Mr. Veneziano

Respectfully submitted,
Micah Grant, Superintendent of Schools