

Hermon-DeKalb Central School  
Board of Education Meeting  
February 9, 2021

Roll Call

Present: Ron Smith, Richard Hamilton, Michael Robinson, Kyle Besaw (6:02), Anne Williams, Heather Coller, Jordan Deleel, Jaclyn teRiele, Michael MacCue (6:09)

Others Present: Mark White, Megan Foster, Donna Anson, Shelly Amo, Jill Morrill

6:00 PM

Mark White: Well Ron, it's six o'clock if you want to start it, this should be a fairly brief meeting, as I mentioned. Thank you everybody for showing up. I've got Shelly here too, to answer any questions. Shelly helped; she was actually instrumental in putting this plan together as we modeled it after a lot of the other schools. We got a template to work and Jill is here to answer any other questions as well, as far as maybe some of the screening questions you may have. Anytime you want to start Ron your good.

Megan Foster: We lost Ron.

Mark White: Oh, no, we lost Ron. Well, glad to see this full zoom meeting things working out for us.

Megan Foster: There he is.

Mark White: Are you there Ron?

Megan Foster: No, he doesn't have the camera or the mic next to his name, so, oh, we're getting there.

Richard Hamilton: I can hear Ron now.

Megan Foster: Donna, Kyle joined, I don't know if you can see it on here on the screen.

Donna Anson: Thank you.

Mark White: Hi Kyle.

Kyle Besaw: Hey, how's it going?

Mark White: Alright, Ron, we're ready to go anytime you want to start. I think Ron is frozen.

Ron Smith: Hello, anybody there?

Mark White: We can hear you Ron, can you hear us? We'll move this along, he's having some technical difficulties.

6:03

Richard Hamilton: Alright, let's call the meeting to order.

Mark White: Okay.

Richard Hamilton: What have we got for an agenda?

#### Agenda Changes

Mark White: Okay, agenda, we have some agenda changes. I've got a couple of small agenda changes. Agenda change one would be a resignation for a coach and then an appointment for a coach.

Richard Hamilton: Okay.

#### COVID Safety Plan for Athletics

Mark White: First item up would be the COVID safety plan for athletics.

Richard Hamilton: Is Shelly going to do that or Jill?

Mark White: Well, we'll have Shelly talk about it. So did anybody, everybody, get a chance to look at that and have any questions? This would be a time to ask them. All the schools were required to have a COVID safety plan for athletics before starting athletics. We had to share it with our, well the Department of Health or public health, we had to also share it with our medical, what do the call them Jill, not provider but medical?

Jill Morrill: Director.

Mark White: Director. Yeah, that's it, a medical director. And so, that's uh we shared them out with them. So everyone this week is getting these approved prior to possible practice start. Of course, that depends on a lot of other factors. Of course, having kids in school is factor number one. But, if you have any questions specifically, if you'd ask Shelly or Jill or I, I think we can answer those. If you have any questions before we approve that safety plan, I did email it out earlier in the week.

Ron Smith: Hello? Hello?

Mark White: Hey, Ron.

Shelly Amo: If I can just come in here. I met with the athletes today, I went over the plan with them just to give them some, I didn't go over all of these 11 pages but I just went through what the protocol was going to be as far as coming into the building for practice, or for games or going into another building, another school. I will be meeting with coaches tomorrow, after school, to again go through this.

Ron Smith: I can't see anybody or hear anything. I don't know what's going on.

Richard Hamilton: Let me give Ron a call.

Kyle Besaw: Shelly is this pretty much the same plan as what we used for soccer season? Is this something that the athletes are going to be already used to?

Shelly Amo: Um, a lot of it. A lot of it, yes. But, this is more in depth. This is because basketball is a high-risk sport, more in depth. You know, we're going to be very diligent about the masks more because they're inside, we're going to be very diligent about sanitizing their hands, even during a game. Um, just taking their temperatures, you know soccer was a moderate risk sport so we didn't have to you know, yes, we had to disinfect the balls and all that. I think we're going to be much more diligent and that's what I wanted to speak with the athletes about, but this plan, I think you'll go across the board, I think you'll see section X has pretty much the same exact plan, almost the same wording on this. So, it's not going to be, we're not going to go to another school and have a surprise there. I think it's pretty much the same. Jill, Mark and I have made a few minor changes, but yes, it's very different than soccer. That's why I wanted to get the athletes together today to let them know that it is a little bit stricter than soccer.

Heather Coller: So I do have one question Jill. I did call you today and asked you about that one bullet about that if that students tested positive for COVID-19 he or she must be cleared for activity by an approved healthcare provider. Did you get clarification on that?

Jill Morrill: Well, we adjusted that line to it is recommended that they get cleared by a health care provider, because that's the wording that has come down that we have received from the State so far. So, what I have done is reached out to everybody who is an athlete who has signed up so far, who is in that category of has tested positive and spoken with each parent at that point, at this point, and let them know it is recommended but it's your choice. It's not a requirement. These are the concerns that we have and why they have that. But, it's ultimately, you know, up to you. So, then I just documented that we've had that conversation and leave it in their hands that we've done, they've done, the prescreening, they're not having any symptoms, and we'll let it go from there. So, until something more strict comes from the State, which it changes daily, we're going to go with it's recommended but not required.

Michael MacCue: Yeah, well, a little break in the dialogue. This is Mike MacCue. I'm apparently a black screen that says owner.

Mark White: Nice, nice.

Michael MacCue: So, I'll just continue to lurk here.

Mark White: So one of the things that we're, we have a meeting, a superintendent's meeting tomorrow and Dr. Williams will be in that meeting with us and to talk about, there's been some talk of them at the hospital stepping forward and offering weekly testing for athletes, but I don't

think that will, that's not a requirement and I don't think that'll actually come to fruition but it'll be a point of discussion at some point tomorrow as well. And, that'll all evolve as we as we move forward. Obviously, if you looked at the plan, you'll also realize that there are no spectators involved. So that means that these games will be live streamed. We've invested in a camera system called pixellot, that's through the, I'll have to ask Shelly, what's it called, through national?

Shelly Amo: NFHS network.

Mark White: Okay, which stands for? I'm going to put you on the spot, national high school?

Shelly Amo: No idea. It's been around, many schools already have it. You can down, um, you can join for a month, you can join for a year, it does cost a little bit of money, but you can watch any school that has this camera system, you can watch a game. What is great about this camera system is there's also a moveable one for Hermon-DeKalb, so we could actually livestream graduation. So, we could take it out to the soccer field if we needed to. So, it's coming I think next week, correct Mr. White?

Mark White: Correct. Yeah. So, that'd be in place for the season. So, again, we'll have both teams, coaches, assistant coaches, and the only thing that's yeah, then that would be very, very, I think, one, one admin. and you don't need chaperones, you're not going to need chaperones this year because there's no one to chaperone you know, so it's going to be very, very limited in the gym. So, I kind of compare it to BOCES where we constantly are mixing kids daily. And Jill can attest, that's been our kind of our hotspot with you know, every day with things coming back from BOCES. And that's, that's kind of our big challenge right now, mostly just because we have so many schools that are mixing together. But that, so that's kind of the plan. So if you had a chance to review it, we just need to have that approved by the board before we can move and begin our, our potential season, that potentially Shelly said will start next Monday, correct?

Shelly Amo: Section is saying we cannot start before Saturday. I think our coaches right now have been thrown into this very quickly and I think they want the weekend to maybe do some plans so they have decided we're going to start practice Monday. The tentative schedule is out. Not that, not who we are playing but six practices are needed. And our first game will be a boys game on the Monday we get back from February break. So we will start, we're starting next week and they'll have to go Monday through Saturday. And with games starting on possibly Monday the 22nd. So again, things are moving very, very quickly. A little too quickly for my liking, but we can do this. Our coaches are excited.

Mark White: Our players are too.

Shelly Amo: Yes. They need to get in the gym.

Mark White: So Ron, do you have a good connection now?

Richard Hamilton: I would entertain a motion. I can't hear Ron at all.

Mark White: Yeah, I can't either.

Motion No. 17-198

Kyle Besaw: I'll make a motion to approve.

Jordan Deleel: I'll second it.

Richard Hamilton: All those in favor?

Board Members: 9 ayes 0 noes

Richard Hamilton: None opposed. There you go. There's Ron. You got it buddy. The motion has passed. Good luck everyone.

Resignation of JV Girls' Basketball Coach

Mark White: All right. So, the resignation we had, for the first time in years, I don't know if we've ever done this, we appointed coaches back in July for basketball. And, at the time everybody was hoping the season would start in normal time. So, but, Greg Coller has other commitments at this particular time so Greg has chosen to resign as JV girls' basketball coach so we want to accept his resignation from that.

Ron Smith: You're doing a good job Rich.

Motion No. 17-199

Michael Robinson: Move to approve.

Anne Williams: I'll second.

Richard Hamilton: All those in favor?

Board Members: 9 ayes 0 noes

Richard Hamilton: Opposed? Motion carries. Do you have someone in mind for, to replace him?

Appointment of JV Girls' Basketball Coach

Mark White: I do. So let me just remind you, so our, right now we're only going to be dealing with a varsity JV program and this, our varsity boys' coach, just to remind everybody, would be Dylan Klock, our JV coach is Christian Jenne and on our girls' side, our varsity coach, we moved to Bob Bice this year and our JV coach which we just had a resignation. We did have a coach step forward and will fill those shoes for us in these next few weeks is Jacob Rowley for the JV this year.

Richard Hamilton: So do you want to approve him right now?

Mark White: Yes, we need to have him board approved for, uh, before he works. Yes.

Richard Hamilton: Need a motion then.

Motion No. 17-200

Anne Williams: I'll make a motion.

Michael MacCue: Mike MacCue seconds.

Richard Hamilton: All those in favor?

Board Members: 9 ayes 0 noes

Richard Hamilton: Opposed? I don't hear any opposition. So moved then. Anything else Mark?

Mark White: No. No visitor's comments I don't believe and I thank everybody for getting gathered at short notice. Yes, this definitely makes me think that maybe in person. So we're working on a new way to run our meeting so we can have our, so you can hear everybody, even the people that are zooming in so that way we'll run those a little bit easier in the future. So Megan and I have been working on that setup in a classroom that allows people you know, if even if we have, you know, five in a classroom, six in a classroom and a few, well, even the people that are tuning in via zoom, they'll be able to hear everything going on a lot better so, that's it Rich.

Adjournment

Motion No. 17-201

6:16 PM

Richard Hamilton: Okay, I need a motion to adjourn then.

Anne Williams: Move to adjourn.

Kyle Besaw: Second.

Richard Hamilton: All those in favor?

Board Members: 9 ayes 0 noes

Richard Hamilton: So moved. Let's go. Thank you, everyone.

Mark White: Okay, take care.