

South Hero School Board

Minutes for Tuesday, January 12, 2016

At Folsom Educational and Community Center

6:04 p.m. - Meeting called to order by Kris Bowser, Board Chair

In attendance: RJ Sweeney, David Cain, Mike Bishop, Board members, Jenny Perry, Principal, Barbara Burrington, Superintendent Tim Maxham, Lynne Carpenter, Mark Naud, Kari Banas, Alicia Poquette, Janine Bellinghiri, Helen Bishop, Julie, Pidgeon, Nate Hayward, Katherine Hayward, Emily Lee, Susan Bumbeck, Alison Perry, Tara Couture, Jen Lyon-Horne, Wendy Horne, Farryl Bertmann, Caley Wilson, Melissa Hood, Kaight Althoff, Kathy Robinson, Heidi Chamberlain, Christine McMillian, Laura Myler, Melanie Henderson, Elissa Giroux, Richard J. Caton, Reina Warren, Bob Krebs, Matthew Barre, Rosemary Zamore, Laura Graves, Sean Soper, Joshua Nase, Mitzi Johnson, Cassandra Shoram, and MaryAnn Fisher.

Public Comments:

The board fielded some questions related to Act 46 and then moved into the FY '17 budget discussion, which included an extensive dialogue with the community members who were present.

Board Discussion:

- Kris Bowser, Board Chair started off the FY '17 budget discussion by going over the list of possible reductions due to Act 46. She then opened up the meeting to the public for comments, questions, and feedback.
- Numerous questions were asked, including; clarification of why we needed to make such drastic cuts, could teachers be asked to pay more for health care, would teacher contract negotiations take these issues into account, would it make sense to just go over the 2.02% budget cap and take the tax penalty from the state, and should French possibly be eliminated?
- Those in attendance unanimously agreed that the board should not put forth a proposed school budget that remains at, or below, the spending cap if it means the elimination of teaching staff.
- Act 46 Update – once the budget discussions concluded, Kris gave the group an update of what's been discussed in the Act 46 Committee. The three options reviewed for consideration by the committee were; creating a unified K-6 district with 7-8 grades being tuitioned to off-island schools, creating a unified K-8 district, or doing nothing and making our case to the state that our current system meets all state mandates. Currently, based on research and community survey responses, the committee is leaning towards proposing the K-6 unified district option.
- Barbara Burrington presented some of the data that her and Mike Dewees came up with in regards to the educational offerings available in Chittenden County middle school programs and how much it would cost us to tuition 7-8 grades off island, compared to

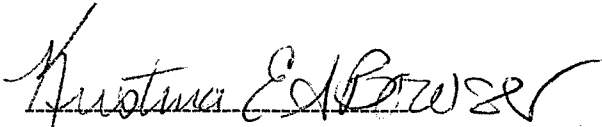
the additional cost in developing programming that meets state requirements. It would cost us \$445 more per student, to educate 7-8 graders, on-island. Barbara then went over the tax savings projections based on research conducted by Mike Dewees.

Board Action:

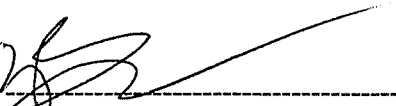
- Motion made by Mike Bishop to pay the bills. Seconded by RJ Sweeney. Unanimously approved.
- Motion made by Kris Bowser to approve staff contract for Hillary Cutten-Ames. Approved.
- Motion made by Mike Bishop to move into Executive Session at 8:52 p.m.

8:52 p.m. – Moved into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. No action to be taken, so meeting officially adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

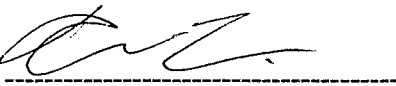
Next meeting will be on January 21, 2016, at 6pm, Folsom Education and Community Center.


Kris Bowser

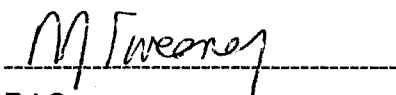
Bernadette Toth



Mike Bishop



David Cain



RJ Sweeney