

Grand Isle Supervisory Union  
**South Hero School District**  
School Board Regular Meeting  
**Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020**, at 6 p.m.  
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

1. Call to order at 6:06 p.m.

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: Melanie Henderson, Tim Maxham, Bentley Vaughan, Bob Chutter, Erin Morse

-Staff: Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV)

2. Adjustment of Agenda

-M. Clark asked to add an executive session for discussion of a contract and discussion of a board correspondence in open session.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from Feb. 6, 2020. T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 6, 2020, meeting. B. Chutter seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

5. Reports

A. Principal's (S. McKelvie): Principal McKelvie was not in attendance. The board shared questions for the principal with Superintendent Clark.

-E. Morse: Status of art and music integration.

-E. Morse and B. Vaughan: Update on the library renovation and change of space

-B. Chutter: Parent-Child Center update

The board expressed kudos to Karlie Kauffeld and the 3rd and 4th graders for an excellent performance of Shel Silverstein poems on Feb. 19.

Board Business

6. Board Correspondence: M. Henderson read a letter from Dave and Renee Mills requesting a tuition waiver for their daughter to attend Folsom School, entering 7th grade. R. Mills is employed at Folsom

School as a paraeducator. M. Henderson noted there is precedent for this as another staff member receives a tuition waiver. M. Clark clarified the school would receive the equalized pupil count for the student.

T. Maxham asked which grade the student would be entering. M. Clark said it is a grade that has room for more students (7th).

There was discussion about whether this would be the practice for paraeducators. M. Henderson said it would still be a case-by-case basis. M. Clark said it will not be a policy. He said allowing a tuition waiver makes it harder for the board to say no to employees down the road without potentially being discriminatory. B. Chutter said he is not in favor. He discussed the past history of board action around this issue.

E. Morse also expressed reservations. T. Maxham, B. Vaughan and M. Henderson said they did not object. M. Henderson said the equalized pupil number is helpful and the board should do what it can to support that number.

M. Henderson moved the board grant the request of paraeducator Renee Mills to allow her 7th grader to transfer to Folsom with a tuition waiver because the school has space available in that class for the remainder of this year, with a start date to be determined by the administration. T. Maxham seconded the motion.

The motion passed in a roll call vote, 3-2. The vote was as follows: Chutter-no; Henderson-yes; Vaughan-yes; Morse-no; Maxham-yes.

#### 7. Approval of Bills for Payment.

B. Vaughan made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #5654 totaling \$391,458.05. B. Chutter seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

B. Chutter asked about a tuition payment for a third-grade student in South Burlington. M. Clark said that district offered a specific program for a specific student that would be more expensive for South Hero to provide.

8. FY18 Audit (R. Gess): R. Gess reported that two items need to be addressed by the audit firm. One is the issue with when the payment on the bond was booked. The other issue is a carry-forward from the FY17 audit. R. Gess said GISU has communicated that information to Sullivan and Powers, but the staff member in charge left. Sullivan and Powers will be at the GISU office next week on Monday and Tuesday, and those issues will be addressed then.

Work continues on the FY19 audit. R. Gess said the number of findings from the auditors is reduced, and he is hopeful the FY19 audit will also be wrapped up soon.

T. Maxham asked about where the budget stands in relation to actuals. R. Gess said he does not see any major changes from earlier in the year. He will know more once the recent tuition bills are input. R. Gess said GISU has started reconciliation of HRA expenses. B. Chutter asked about the potential shortfall from 2019, and R. Gess said it would be less than \$50,000.

9. Town Meeting Presentation (M. Henderson): M. Henderson reviewed the board's presentation. M. Clark said he would be attending the Isle La Motte meeting, and R. Gess said he would be attending the

South Hero meeting. Karlie Kauffeld has prepared a small presentation by students. T. Maxham suggested that students arrive by 9:15 a.m. M. Henderson said she would send a copy of the presentation to the town clerk. M. Clark said GISU can also post the presentation on its website.

10. Other

M. Clark noted this meeting will be Melanie Henderson’s last regular meeting. He expressed thanks to Henderson for her excellent service. B. Chutter said the entire town owes Henderson a great debt for her work on the Act 46 report. T. Maxham echoed that praise.

Executive Session (if needed pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec. 313)

M. Henderson made a motion the board go into executive session at 6:59 p.m. for the discussion of a contract. B. Chutter seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

The board came out of executive session at 7:40 p.m. without taking any action.

**Closure**

10. Setting the next agenda

March 5: Board reorganization, financial report.

11. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 7:41 PM on a voice vote. B. Chutter made the motion to adjourn. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved.

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