

Minutes for Thursday, March 3, 2016 South Hero School Board
At Folsom Education and Community Center

6:03p.m. - Meeting called to order by Barbara Burrington, Superintendent

In attendance: Kris Bowser, Dave Cain, RJ Sweeney, Bernie Toth, Bentley Vaughan, Board members; Jenny Perry, Principal; Barbara Burrington, Superintendent; Beth Hemingway, Director of Student Support Services, Lynn Carpenter, GISU Business Manager, Emily Bowser, Board Secretary, Julie Pidgeon, Kari Bannis, Jen Lestage

First Order of Business, Board Reorganization: Superintendent Burrington asked for nominations for Chair. Kris Bowser nominated for Chair by Bernie Toth, seconded by RJ Sweeney. RJ Sweeney nominated for Vice-Chair by David Cain, seconded by Bernie. Both appointments passed by unanimous vote.

Bentley Vaughan welcomed as new board member.

Emily Bowser welcomed as board secretary.

Committee appointments; Policy Committee- Bernie Toth, Dave Cain; Negotiations Committee- Dave Cain, Bentley Vaughan; Personnel Committee- RJ Sweeney, Bernie Toth; Curriculum Committee- Bernie Toth, Bentley Vaughan; Executive Committee- Kris Bowser, RJ Sweeney; GISU Reps- Kris Bowser, RJ Sweeney, Dave Cain; Act 46 Committee Reps- Kris Bowser, RJ Sweeney

Meetings will be held the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 at Folsom Education and Community Center.

Public Comments: None

Superintendent's Report: presented by Barbara Burrington, Superintendent

Highlights-

- SBAC testing for South Hero students will take place the week of April 4-8
- Current high school enrollment data distributed
- GISU Leadership Team quarterly meeting will take place March 16th
- Audit update- Angolano & Co. has yet to provide final audit report. State deadline is March 31, however we have been given no definitive date when we will receive it. Audit requests for proposals sent out the first week of March.
- Beth Hemingway spoke about the IDEA-B and deadlines associated, as well as what is covered within the umbrella of IDEA-B.

Principal's Report: presented by Jenny Perry, Principal

Highlights-

- Downstairs boy's bathroom has received a wall renovation
- Peter Pan (K-4 Musical) was exceptional!
- Karin Ames has joined the 7-8 team as the math/science long term sub.
- March 9 is the end of Trimester 2. Report cards will go out on March 17, Celebration of learning will be held on March 21.
- Parent conferences will be held on April 14 and 15.
- Second annual GISU Rowing Regatta will be held Tuesday, March 29 at 9:15 at the Grand Isle School. Teams of students in grades 4-8 from each of the five Island schools will compete.

Board Discussion:

- Rep from Parent-Child Center, Jen Lestage, Executive Director, shared information regarding the impact of Act 166 on SHPCC. Act 166 will increase enrollment for 3-year-olds. Center open 7-5:30, 26 children enrolled for next fall, space for 20. PreK expanded for full-time childcare for programs in both buildings to compensate, which reduces availability for after-school care to 10 students. Currently 14 in regular after-school care, and 18-24 students during school breaks. SHPCC is interested in exploring

the possibility of working with Folsom to expand programs. Board supported this possible collaboration as a way to increase services to South Hero children and families.

- Jen Lestage will sit down with Jenny Perry to discuss next steps.
- Beth Hemingway provided update of Special Education Costs
 - Budget Review:
 - budgeted \$77k excess cost, after review anticipating \$45k, ~\$30k in savings. Keep in mind when dollars go down, reimbursement goes down.
 - transportation: \$10k budget, spending ~\$7k, ~\$3k savings
 - \$9k budgeted \$24.5k budget anticipated, using the savings from excess costs. Stern Center, music therapy etc.
 - Special ed cost per pupil went down overall
- Preliminary Budget to Actual Review provided by Lynn Carpenter
 - Current budget to actuals reports were distributed and reviewed. Current spending indicates the likelihood that we will end the year with a surplus.
- Act 46 Discussion introduced by Kris Bowser, Board Chair.
 - No final decisions made in GISU committee, caucus held at last meeting. Three towns favor PreK-8 model, two favor PreK-6.
 - Questions asked by Board members including benefits of tuition and costs, class size in both Alburgh and Grand Isle
 - Kris contacted Chair of Act 46 committee in Georgia, no opposition if South Hero is a part of the study. 3 mtgs in March (next 3/14), Chair will not be at 3/17, KB will attempt to go and get ball rolling.
 - Mike Dewese suggested contacting the state to evaluate whether study with Georgia is worthwhile. Barbara Burrington recommended Donna Russo-Savage from Board of Ed as a contact person.
 - Some concern about South Hero withdrawing from an Island coalition
 - Board in favor of keeping both options open (Georgia and Islands) hoping to find the best fit for the Folsom students.
 - Questions to consider in regards to Act 46- how will principal hiring be determined, what will our voting rights be, and what program protections can we put into place?
 - Members of Act 46, request to clarify Alternates. Bernie Toth, David Cain, and Tim Maxham listed as Alternates. Mike Bishop may remain on committee as a community representative.
- Updated Policies:
 - 24 new policy updates due to GISU audit May '15. GISU Policy Committee met 3 times over summer (Kris Bowser representing South Hero), reviewed mandatories to put policies in agreement with law.
 - Updates accepted by the GISU Board in October '15. Grand Isle and Alburgh have both accepted them. Superintendent Burrington reports that there can be "No word-smithing at this point."

Board Action:

- Motion to approve minutes for Feb 4, RJ Sweeney moved to accept, motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve contract for Karen Ames, Long-Term Substitute 7/8, Bernie Toth moved to accept, motion passed unanimously.
- Bernie Toth made motion to pay bills, motion passed unanimously.
- Bernie Toth made motion to accept 24 Mandatory Policies, seconded by Kris Bowser, passed unanimously by the Board.
- David Cain made motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, passed unanimously.

7:49 p.m.- Moved into Executive Session

8:14 p.m. - Moved out of Executive Session with the following actions taken:

- Motion by Kris Bowser to accept letter of retirement from Teresa Robinson effective 6/30/16. Offered retirement incentive which Teresa Robinson has accepted. Board expressed that they are sorry to see

her go and grateful for her years of service to Folsom. Dr Robinson has expressed that she plans to stay involved in Folsom. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Kris Bowser to release Principal Jenny Perry from her contract as requested for personal reasons. Principal Perry has two years remaining on her contract, and thus the board is required to vote to release her effective 6/30/16. Motion passed 4-1, with Bernie Toth dissenting.
- Motion to adjourn made at 8:16 by Bernie Toth, unanimously approved.

Meeting officially adjourned at 8:17 p.m..

Next meeting will be April 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., Folsom Education and Community Center

Kristina Bowser

RJ Sweeney

Dave Cain

Bernadette Toth

Bentley Vaughan

