

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District
School Board Retreat
Thursday, August 8, 2019, at 2:30pm
Location: Worthen Library in South Hero

DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance:

- Board members: Melanie Henderson, Tim Maxham, Bob Chutter, Erin Morse
- Staff: Susan McKelvie, Michael Clark, Megan Grube

Call to Order:

1. M. Henderson called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

2. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard:
 - None

3. Board Business:
 - M. Henderson led the group through a team building activity.
 - S.McKelvie and M.Grube presented SBAC standardized test data in English Language Arts from FY19. S.McKelvie pointed out that the SBAC's are only one source of information on student learning, and that many other sources are available. In September, S.McKelvie and M.Grube will propose a schedule for presenting additional information on student outcomes, including classroom metrics, behavior data, attendance, etc.
 - M.Henderson presented a graph showing the South Hero school budget increase over time. S.McKelvie pointed out that many of those increases are due to unfunded State & Federal mandates, increasing Special Ed costs, and continually increasing costs of building maintenance. M.Henderson agreed that the increases have been justified. She suggested that when opportunities to save money are found, we should consider both investments in the school and reductions in the budget.
 - M.Henderson reviewed the role of the School Board. It is not the School Board's job to run the school. Rather, the role of the School Board is to hire talented leaders, clearly communicate the community's values and priorities to those leaders, and then monitor data to determine whether the school is making progress towards those priorities.
 - With an understanding of the Board's role, the Board discussed its regular meeting schedule. Currently, the Board holds two short meetings per month, both of which require administrators and SU staff to spend time preparing reports and information. To improve efficiency, the Board discussed the possibility of reducing its schedule to one meeting per month, with additional meetings on an as-needed basis. The Board will hold further discussions before finalizing any changes.

4. Board Goals:
 - The Board members agreed that the current Board is functioning and communicating well as a group. Members also agreed that additional board training would be valuable.
 - The Board plans to complete the process (started last year) of creating a vision/mission statement, which will provide guidance to administrators.
 - The Board would like a thorough understanding of the new Food Service "business"

- The Board would like to improve engagement with the South Hero Community on the importance of supporting education
- The Board will start providing quick, 2-minute “summaries” of each discussion topic during the regular Board meetings. This will allow both Board and community members to more easily understand the context of each discussion.

5. Adjourn:

- B. Chutter moved the board adjourn. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote. The board adjourned at 5:30 p.m.
