

**Minutes for Thursday, September 1, 2016 South Hero School Board Meeting
At Folsom Education & Community Center**

6:00p.m. Meeting called to order by Kris Bowser, Board Chair

In Attendance: Kris Bowser, RJ Sweeney, Bernie Toth, Bentley Vaughan, Board members; Barbara Burrington, Superintendent; Lenny Badeau, Principal; Emily Bowser, Board Secretary; Kari Banas, Melanie Henderson, Peter Bowser, Payne Morgan, Fred Heslop, Jen Lyon-Horne

Adjustment of Agenda: "Old Business" moved forward to allow presentation on solar power opportunities by Payne Morgan

Follow-up/Old Business

Presentation on Solar Share by Payne Morgan of AllEarth Renewables:

- AllEarth Renewables is offering shares in getting the power from the array in Cambridge to school districts, and they're creating educational partnerships which include student integration/education.
- Superintendent Burrington and Mr. Morgan will connect and Superintendent Burrington will present to the Board at a future date.

Superintendent's Report, presented by Barbara Burrington, Superintendent

Highlights:

- Welcome to all the new staff in the SU!
- Teacher continuing education is changing with the intention to build staff expertise and internal knowledge so that the teachers across the SU can be a resource to each other.
- The Agency of Education is anticipated to release the official state average soon, as well as the official school-by-school results of SBAC scores.
- Audit is almost over. Randall Northrop, the new auditor, will be attending the GISU September Board meeting on September 7.
- Budget sheets will be coming out for principals and we will prepare for budget season in October. Hopeful the GISU Budget will be finalized by December.

Principal's Report, presented by Lenny Badeau, Principal

Highlights:

- Current enrollment: 134, possibly being adjusted again with a family moving in.
- PTO Breakfast on the first day of school was a "picnic" on the gym floor; very positive first day.
- Building updates: switchgear installation almost complete, new gym floor complete, the new curtains and sound system for the stage should be completed into October, and the science room is still under construction. There is a new office for the Speech Language Pathologist, and the Home-School Coordinator.

- Encouraged parents to make sure to get the summer mailing packets in ASAP.
- Principal Badeau will be out of the building 9/15/16 to attend a seminar that is part of a year-long course he's participating in through the Champlain Valley Educator Development Center.
- Kris Bowser asked about the abundance of caution for the new gym floor, and that if special care is needed the building use policy should be amended to reflect that, especially in light of big community events coming up soon. Principal Badeau will bring recommendations to the next Board Meeting.

Board Discussion:

Middle School Camping Trip:

- Teachers have proposed an overnight camping trip at Elmore State Park to build the community of the new configuration of the middle school, as it's now 5-8. There is a \$10 suggested contribution from families, and the PTO will also be contributing to cover costs. Bussing will be taken out of the field trip fund.
- RJ Sweeney asked about strain on families to take off the time during the week, Principal Badeau replied that they wanted to really launch into the new community, and that with 8 teachers going and 3 parents who have already volunteered, this meets the minimum requirement for chaperones. However, other interested parents are welcome to volunteer.
- Bentley Vaughan asked about what would happen with the children who would not be able to go on the trip. Principal Badeau said they are planning on activities to support them as well.
- Superintendent Burrington will work with Principal Badeau to finalize all paperwork.

Plans for Acknowledgment of Robinson Gift:

- Kris Bowser suggested that the Board use a school function to recognize the Robinson gift of the gym renovation. Per Principal Badeau the full renovation is expected to be complete into October, and so the Board decided to use the Winter Concert as the venue for that acknowledgement.

Act 46 Update:

- Kris Bowser asked sub-committee chair Melanie Henderson to come in and make a presentation about how the subcommittee was approaching potential long-distance partners while still creating efficiencies.
 - Ms. Henderson developed the presentation alone due to time constraints. She feels that by creating a solid plan, and a proposal that meets the legal requirements of Act 46, the PreK-8 model is still possible by making use of blended part-time contracts, virtual learning/distance learning for students, shared projects/curriculum developments
- Jen Lyon-Horne had just come from the Georgia Act 46 meeting, and expressed that it seemed they are pursuing either a unifying plan of Fletcher/Fairfax/Georgia, either as a full merger and building a high school or with Fletcher and Fairfax merging with a high school and Georgia joining them in a side-by-side.

- Melanie Henderson stated that Georgia is very close to the minimum student requirement put forth by Act 46 and a merger with South Hero would put them over that.
 - Bernie Toth pointed out that she has watched every video and read all their minutes, is not sure that George is enthusiastic about merging with South Hero; in fact South Hero is only mentioned in a summary rundown of what other towns are doing.
- When asked by Kris Bowser about efficiencies, Barbara Burrington stated that there are no particular metrics provided by the state in terms of efficiencies, and encouraged the subcommittee to think about using existing resources.
- RJ Sweeney asked Bentley Vaughan his thoughts as both a Board Member and a member of the subcommittee. He said he wasn't sure where they stood, and that ideally they're looking for somewhere that's within 30 miles of South Hero, with a decent tax rate, and willing to merge with South Hero.
- Kris Bowser asked the Board if they'd like to direct the subcommittee to either focus on Georgia specifically or to put that option to rest; Bernie Toth suggested waiting for a full Board to make that decision; on September 15th the Board will discuss narrowing the subcommittee's focus.
- The Board gave the subcommittee members the go-ahead to identify themselves as such when speaking to Georgia, but that the Board must be CC'd on all emails and that if there is a meeting, one Board Member must be present.
- Kris Bowser expressed her concern about the potential loss of the \$350,000. That loss would devastate the school, and just to maintain current standards they would have to raise taxes; let alone the effort it would take to meet the new educational standards; the sum of that effort could drive people out of town by making it impossible to afford to live here.
- Bentley Vaughan stated that one of the subcommittee's thoughts was to reach out to Mitzi Johnson to effect change on the legislative level.
 - Jen Lyon-Horne stated she felt that an amendment to Act 46 was a real possibility as legislators are realizing what they've done. However she agreed that the loss of the \$350,000 is something she does not want to see happen
 - Kris Bowser expressed her concern that, as with Act 60, the legislature is not going to make any exceptions or amendments. Ultimately, Act 46 is the amendment to Act 60.

Public Comments:

- Melanie Henderson asked Principal Badeau about recess rules changing. Principal Badeau explained that there was a lot of unsafe play on the first day of school by students who should know better and that there is a plan to restrict the area of play, and as students demonstrate their responsibility, that area will be expanded. Principal Badeau stated this is being done to help students reframe their minds to "school" brain and help them transition. It's going very well and he's optimistic.

Board Action:

- Bernie Toth made motion to pay bills, RJ Sweeney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Bernie Toth made motion to approve minutes for August 18, 2016, Bentley Vaughan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- RJ Sweeney made motion to approve the Middle School Camping Trip to Elmore State Park, Bernie Toth seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Bentley Vaughan made motion to adjourn at 8:02p.m., RJ Sweeney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.


Executive Session Entered at 7:58p.m. and exited at 8:02p.m, no action taken.

Board Correspondence/Sharing: none

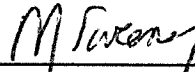
Meeting officially adjourned at 8:02p.m.

Dates to Remember:

- Next School Board meeting will be September 15th at 6:00p.m. Folsom Education and Community Center



Kristina Bowser

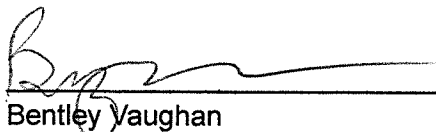


RJ Sweeney

Dave Cain



Bernadette Toth



Bentley Vaughan