

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018, at 6 p.m.
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

DRAFT MINUTES

Call to Order

1. Call to order at 6:02 p.m.

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: David Cain, Melanie Henderson, Tim Maxham, Bentley Vaughan, Bob Chutter

-Staff: Megan Grube, Julie Pidgeon, Samantha Cantell, Alison Perry

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV), Maia Skutel Jensen, Meg Wickenden, Kari Banas, Jen Lyon-Horne, Liese Reagan, Christal Nase, Bill Banas, Andre Bertmann, Jessica Jackson, Sue Bumbeck

2. Adjustment of Agenda

Principal McKelvie's instructional minutes presentation will be moved to a future meeting.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from Nov. 1, 2018. T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of the Nov. 1, 2018, meeting, and B. Chutter seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a voice vote.

5. Reports

A. Principal's (S. McKelvie): Principal's report was emailed to the board. Principal McKelvie was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

-J. Pidgeon and M. Henderson shared about the successful high school fair. J. Pidgeon offered credit to Mary Ann Fisher, guidance counselor, for organizing the fair, which gives families an opportunity to meet with several schools in the area. Folsom's Middle School Team presented at the fair this year for the first time. M. Henderson and J. Pidgeon said several students expressed interest in shadowing at Folsom, and that many families who spoke with the Folsom representatives were unaware that Folsom was an option for school choice for next year. M. Henderson noted the excitement generated by the Sphero robots that science teacher Samantha Cantell displayed.

T. Maxham said the board needs more discussion and suggested the school reach out with a letter to parents. D. Cain said the board may need to send some questions to the Central Office, and B. Chutter noted the issue was brought up at the last meeting and the timeline may need to be sped up.

J. Pidgeon asked for more information at a future meeting about how the possible VYO after-school program might impact staff who currently offer music lessons.

Board Business

6. Approval of Bills for Payment. B. Vaughan moved the bills under Batch 3164 totaling \$33,979.14 be paid. T. Maxham seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

7. Next steps in Futures Protocol for academics (M. Grube) (Discussion). The board reviewed the mission/vision of the Folsom leadership (FIT) team, the GISU and the School Board. D. Cain noted the board is doing the same protocol for envisioning the school's financial future. The board reviewed its brainstorm (list was distributed). M. Henderson asked that connection to the community and civic-mindedness be added to the list.

D. Cain asked members of the audience if they had any input. K. Banas suggested the board add feedback/data from the receiving high schools on how students are performing to inform curriculum decisions at Folsom School. B. Chutter said such data used to be provided as an aggregate of academic results for Island students. D. Cain asked M. Grube if she received that information. She said she did not, but she had talked with other curriculum directors about it.

B. Chutter asked that item (4) be revised to read an 80% minimum proficiency for students in grades 3-8.

K. Banas asked that the item on food (j) be revised to specify students have enough time to eat.

M. Grube pointed out all these statements will help the board inform itself as it writes a mission statement. D. Cain said he sees the process as clarifying how the board will accomplish its mission statement.

The board reviewed the brainstormed vision items for staff, and D. Cain asked for clarity on (4) and (5). M. Henderson said she believed (4) "understands what they are doing and why" referred to the vision of staff understanding the purpose of paperwork and data, and that busy work is removed. M. Henderson said she thought item (5) "can articulate real world applications" was ensuring staff can explain to students why they are learning what they are learning. D. Cain suggested consolidating that item with 3b "know why they are learning."

J. Pidgeon asked about the purpose of the vision process. D. Cain said this process would help the principal and future board members make decisions. J. Pidgeon asked if the current list's omission of the arts would result in arts not being prioritized. She said as a parent she values the arts. K. Banas asked about foreign language. D. Cain and also B. Chutter noted that all topics could be listed, and at some point the school has to make choices.

M. Grube clarified that the process allows the board to direct its administration: Here is our vision; here are our constraints; here are our priorities. She said the process does not need to result in choices pitting one program against another but rather encouraging creative solutions to the constraints.

J. Lyon-Horne said she was concerned about music and art being cut. L. Reagan said she was concerned that if those programs were cut, it would make the school less attractive to families.

M. Henderson said she would not support cutting art and music. She said she does not want the curriculum designed around worksheets, and she thinks there could be opportunities for efficiencies in instruction.

M. Grube said the arts are required in the Education Quality Standards.

K. Banas asked who makes the schedule and when those decisions are made. M. Grube said Principal McKelvie has a process and plans to involve discussion. She asked that the discussion be tabled until Principal McKelvie can answer those questions herself.

B. Chutter suggested adding under the community section that the school provide a “breadth of educational opportunities.”

D. Cain revised under Community (4) “knows what is happening in the school community.”

K. Banas asked the board to offer clear expectations for community groups that want to use Folsom School. D. Cain suggested it be added that the community understands how to take advantage of Folsom’s facilities.

D. Cain said the next step would be to seek feedback from staff and the community. He asked the board to help clarify what the board wants from the staff in terms of feedback. Some questions to consider asking: Do you support these? Are we missing any? He also asked if the board wants to gauge how important people think individual items are.

T. Maxham said things change, including the building of the new town library and its move from the school building to the new building sometime in 2019. D. Cain suggested the board add the library changeover to its list of priorities for board discussion. M. Grube said that discussion should involve superintendent Michael Clark.

Next steps: The board will send its brainstorm to the staff. J. Pidgeon encouraged the board to speak with Principal McKelvie about how to present it to the staff and be clear about the board’s purpose. D. Cain reiterated the board is using the process to set long-range goals.

The board discussed how to solicit community input. B. Chutter said it depended on the breadth of information the board wanted. M. Grube suggested several approaches, including online survey and focus groups. She suggested offering multiple, meaningful opportunities for people offer feedback. The board discussed doing an online and paper survey with an opportunity to express interest in participating in a focus group. D. Cain noted the board would need to make extra effort to distribute the survey to residents who do not have students in school.

B. Banas requested that it be clear the purpose of the survey and what action the board intends to take so that people in the community understand why the board is asking for information and what it plans to do with the information. D. Cain said the goal would be to have more concrete information by Town Meeting.

8. Instructional Minutes (S. McKelvie) (Discussion). D. Cain apologized that this item needed to be delayed but said it requires the principal’s presence. L. Reagan asked if this information would be presented at a future meeting. It was noted several people at the meeting were interested in the

information. The board suggested delaying this presentation to Jan. 17, 2019, for those who are interested in attending.

9. Other

D. Cain said the board needs to talk more about tuition policy. B. Chutter did some research and said the Grand Isle Supervisory Union policy he found online only applies to Alburgh. He said the board needs to adopt a clear policy and procedures. D. Cain would like to know the legal requirements around accepting tuition students. M. Grube said there is likely a model policy the board can look at from the VBA. It was noted that if the school accepts tuition-paying students, it needs to have a clear policy and consistent procedures. D. Cain asked M. Grube to tell the superintendent it would like to address this issue with him soon.

M. Henderson said the board needs to talk about transportation as part of the conversation. She said a few parents said they were interested in Folsom if the school would guarantee transportation from Grand Isle School. T. Maxham said the board needs more information about what the specific bus run would look like (time of pick up and where) and cost. He said there are several details that need to be worked out. The board asked when parents have to make the decision. J. Pidgeon shared that families have until the first day of school, but the Chittenden County towns typically ask students to register for high schools starting in January. B. Chutter requested more communication to South Hero and other Island towns that South Hero was discussing these issues. K. Banas suggested it be clear that there are opportunities for our students if Folsom accepts tuition-paying students.

M Grube summarized the board's questions for the superintendent:

--What is the policy?

--What are the procedures?

--What should the school consider in terms of what it can offer for transportation?

--What should the board communicate to South Hero and other Island towns about this situation?

T. Maxham shared information from the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District (CIUUSD) meeting including a suggestion in the recent issue of *The Islander* from Bart Wilcox about sending some grades at Isle La Motte and North Hero to Grand Isle School. Mr. Wilcox's suggestion included moving the Central Office to North Hero School. T. Maxham noted that there are a lot of changes going on in the county and the initial thoughts might not be the best in the long-run.

D. Cain shared his feeling that South Hero is fortunate to be in its current position. M. Henderson said there have been 20 babies born in South Hero in the last year, which she knew because she is working on a project to create welcoming books and blankets for families. She thinks it's great South Hero is attracting new families.

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

None.

Closure

10. Setting the next agenda

Dec. 6, 2018

-Tuition policy, procedure, transportation and communication

-M. Henderson asked for an update on long-term substitute coverage for grades 3 and 4 and to know the plan for supporting students in those grades when those teachers are out on maternity leave.

11. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 7:35 PM on a voice vote. B. Vaughan made a motion to adjourn. B. Chutter seconded the motion.
