

North Hero School Board
Tuesday, December 11, 2018 | North Hero School

Board Present: Mason Maltais (chair) and Bridget Brisson

Absent: Jennifer Gariety

Administration Present: Joseph Resteghini (Principal), Rob Gess (Business Manager)

Guests: None

Call Meeting to Order

M. Maltais called the meeting to order at 8:13PM.

Adjustment of the Agenda

M. Maltais moves item 7. Residency Verification Process to immediately following item 10. Discussion of Term Ends for School Directors.

Citizens or Staff to be Heard

None are present.

Consent Agenda

Approve the Minutes from 11/13/2018: B. Brisson moves to approve the minutes. M. Maltais seconds the motion and it passes 2-0 with no further discussion.

Reports

Principal's

A written report is distributed to the board for review. J. Resteghini reviews the highlights:

- December is a month of celebration; the school has or will celebrate Hanukah, St. Lucia, Chinese New Year, and Sinterklaas.
- An afternoon of learning will be Titanic themed based on student interest.
- The school was evacuated recently when the source of a foul odor detected by staff could not be detected. The fire department, sheriff, and DC Energy all responded but the smell could not be located.
- Asbestos was found during work to replacement the floor in the bathroom. Work is scheduled to be completed by Friday. B. Brisson asks J. Resteghini to verify if notices need to be sent to families when asbestos work is done.
- The Library Media Educator position is anticipated to be filled by the previous person who held the position.
- An assessment of the local PBIS, positive behavior incentive practices, was completed. An internal analysis of how the staff behavior system works shows it is healthy. This is a compliance activity through which the school will gain some coaching from district level funding.
- Results of a student survey are distributed with positive responses.

Financial

R. Gess distributes the budget to actuals to the board. The SU office is still trying to confirm all tuition invoices are accurate and the residency of all students is verified. Tuition bills are being held until this is done.

R. Gess notifies the board that the State has mandated a switch to a statewide chart of accounts effective July 1. Our supervisory union has about 7000 account numbers to migrate to map properly. The current account numbers are generic and won't transfer well to the detailed accounts required in the new system. Tyler will be contracted with to move all the data to a web based solution that will map all the historical data to a network drive.

Brief discussion of the many changes ahead in the district, schools, and supervisory union follows.

R. Gess has completed 8 of 14 findings from the recent audit. This has been shared with the Agency of Education. The board thanks Rob for his continued hard work.

Board Business

Approve Audit Engagement Letter

R. Gess gives the engagement letter for the FY18 audit to the board. He says the language and rate structure are identical to the previous year based on the five year contract signed last year.

M. Maltais motions to approve the audit engagement letter. B. Brisson seconds the motion and it passes 2-0 with no further discussion.

M. Maltais signs two copies of the letter; one for R. Gess and one for the audit firm.

Capital Improvement Fund Expenditure Ideas

M. Maltais reviews that to date the gym floor replacement, a building maintenance line item amount removed from the budget, and the safety updates have been taken, or are anticipated to be taken, from the Capital Improvement Fund. A brief discussion of these projects follows. J. Resteghini states these items will total approximately eight thousand dollars in expenditure from the fund.

The board discusses replacing the aging heat transfers in the school. J. Resteghini says there are 4 high priority transfers that need constant maintenance. The building has 13-14 transfers in total. The estimated cost to replace each heat transfer is 3,500.00 to 4,000.00. Discussion follows on continuing to repair vs replacement of the transfers.

The board encourages J. Resteghini to look for grants and to replace as many heat transfers as possible with the remainder of the Capital Improvement Fund.

Approve Bills for Payment

B. Brisson motions to approve bills in the amount of \$176,906.12. M. Maltais seconds the motion and it passes 2-0 with no further discussion.

Discussion of Term Ends for School Directors

M. Maltais says two members have terms that are expiring; B. Brisson and J. Gariety will need to run again. B. Brisson states she will run again. M. Maltais will contact J. Gariety to verify her intent.

Residency Verification Process

M. Maltais refers to new forms for residency verification as proposed by Michael Clark and approved by the GISU board at their last meeting. These forms will allow the central office to verify the residency of students in North Hero that tuition is being paid for and will ensure more accurate budgeting and bill verification.

M. Maltais motions to approve the new residency verification process as presented. B. Brisson seconds the motion and it passes 2-0 with no further discussion.

Closure

Setting the Next Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2019.

Agenda items:

- Further discussion of the Capital Improvement Fund
- Building update

B. Brisson asks about the land transfer from the school to the town. J. Resteghini says a vote will happen on town meeting day and documents are being reviewed by Lynn Blackman and Associates.

Adjourn

B. Brisson motions to adjourn. M. Maltais seconds the motion and it passes 2-0 with no further discussion at 8:50PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Corinn Julow

CC: Board Members, GISU Office, Principal, Town Clerk's Office