

## South Hero School Board

Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

Thursday, March 1, 2018, 6 p.m.

### DRAFT MINUTES

Call to order at 6:01 p.m.

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: David Cain, Melanie Henderson, Tim Maxham, RJ Sweeney, Bentley Vaughan

-Staff: Matthew Brankman, Don Van Nostrand, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV), Andre Bertmann

#### Adjustment of Agenda

None

#### Privilege of the Floor

None

#### Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from Feb. 15, 2018. The minutes of the Feb. 15, 2018, meeting were approved on a voice vote. T. Maxham made a motion; RJ Sweeney second the motion to approve the minutes.

#### Superintendent Don Van Nostrand's Report

March is a reorganization month, and the superintendent plans to review the Open Meeting Law with boards. There are Vermont School Boards Association trainings on March 13 and March 15.

M. Henderson asked about proposed legislation for pre-K. The Legislature is considering a law that would eliminate the ADM (average daily membership) for preschool students from the town count if the school does not run its own preschool. The board had questions about the implications of this proposal for South Hero. T. Maxham suggested the board talk with the town's representatives.

The board was reminded that if duly re-elected, members need to go to the town clerk to be sworn in after the election.

#### Interim Principal Matthew Brankman's Report

M. Brankman reported a good first two days with students before the vacation. He has been spending vacation week reading policies. He plans to speak with principal Susan McKelvie when she is able. He noted the parents he has met have been welcoming. He has enjoyed having 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the school.

#### Business of the Board (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Review Act 49 Meeting: Board representatives T. Maxham and M. Henderson and Superintendent D. Van Nostrand met with Secretary Holcombe and staff Brad James and Donna Russo-Savage about South Hero's alternative structure proposal. M. Henderson said the meeting went well, and they expressed sympathy for the unique situation of small schools. M. Henderson said her impression was that they recognize there is not a K-8 partner for merger.

The state officials asked about supervisory unions and noted that it is possible to require supervisory unions to merge. They asked about South Hero's relationship with off-island supervisory unions (Colchester, Essex, Milton, Winooski). T. Maxham said he feels it's necessary to discuss the possibility of losing Grand Isle County as a Supervisory Union. He noted GISU has just over 900 students, which is the minimum. M. Henderson concurred that she thinks the state will look at supervisory union realignment.

RJ Sweeney asked if this was a new possibility. Others indicated that it was not a new topic but as the Secretary will make a recommendation to the state Board of Education, that possibility is up for consideration. M. Henderson clarified that the secretary can dissolve the GISU and assign the towns to other supervisory unions. T. Maxham suggested this topic be put on the next South Hero School Board agenda and the GISU Board agenda.

D. Cain asked about the timeline for a decision. M. Henderson said the secretary's recommendation to the State Board of Education is due June 1; the secretary is hoping to submit it in May. The State Board of Education's plan is due Nov. 30. The board will hold hearings in the summer. D. Van Nostrand clarified that such a change would not impact school choice. The supervisory union handles special education service and fiscal services, for example. He noted that it could save South Hero money if it were purchasing its services from another supervisory union.

#### B. Final Preparations for Annual Meeting

D. Cain shared a change in his presentation to review the board's considerations in setting its budget. The order of presentations will be M. Henderson on Act 46; J. Pidgeon and Helen Bishop and students on experience at Folsom, and D. Cain on the budget.

M. Henderson had a few questions for R. Gess on the GISU budget. R. Gess clarified the following:

- teacher salaries are special education teacher salaries
- tuition reimbursement follows the same contractual language as all teaching staff.
- Professional services are services for students that are submitted to the state in the special education plan
- student transportation is for students in need of special education who are attending school elsewhere
- excess cost tuition is for children in K-12 in need of special education services. Some districts have special education tuition costs in addition to the regular education tuition costs. The only cost in the South Hero district budget for special education is for paraeducators.
- GISU assessment salary is for the supervisory union employees whose positions are not explicitly broken out into another category.

#### C. Approval of Bills for Payment.

B. Vaughan made a motion to pay the bills. RJ Sweeney seconded the motion. The bills were approved for payment on a voice vote. It was noted that there has been no further communication related to the solar bill.

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

D. Cain moved the board go into Executive Session to discuss a union side letter request and to update on a student matter; T. Maxham seconded the motion. The board approved the motion on a voice vote and went into executive session at 6:54 p.m.

The board came out of executive session at 8:05 pm.

D. Cain made a motion to approve the union side letter. B. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved.

Future Agenda Items & Next Meeting (Discussion)

The board holds it reorganization meeting at 6 p.m. March 15 at Folsom School.

Adjournment

The board adjourned at 8:07 PM on a voice vote. D. Cain made a motion to adjourn. T. Maxham seconded. Approved.

---

---

---

---

---