

Meeting Minutes

North Hero School Board

Friday, April 6, 2018

North Hero School

Board Present: Mason Maltais (Chair), Jennifer Gariety, Bridget Brisson

Administration Present: Don Van Nostrand (Superintendent), Rob Gess (Business Manager)

Guests: Paul Guay, Gabrielle Timms, Karen Potvin, Alex Potvin, Bart Wilcox

Call Meeting to Order

M. Maltais called meeting to order at 7:13pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Adjustment to Agenda

M. Maltais states that Don Van Nostrand would like to add Teacher Contracts to Business of the Board

Approval of Minutes

M. Maltais states that motions made at the March 13, 2018 meeting must be ratified due to action being taken before appointed board member, B. Brisson, was sworn in.

- J. Gariety makes a motion to reappoint the Grand Isle Sheriff Department as the truancy officer. B. Brisson seconds and the motion is passed 3 -0 with no further discussion.
- J. Gariety makes a motion to approve the warrant in the amount of \$352,260, B. Brisson seconds and the motion is passed 3 -0 with no further discussion.
- J. Gariety motions to enter executive session for Union Side Letter Request with the NEA. M. Maltais seconds and the motion is passed 3 -0 with no further discussion.
- J. Gariety motions to come out of Executive Session. M. Maltais seconds and the motion is passed 3 - 0 with no further discussion.
- J. Gariety motions to enter into a side agreement with the GISU NEA to add Appendix A explanatory page back into the master agreement. B. Brisson seconds and motion passed 3 - 0 with no further discussion.
- J. Gariety motions to adjourn 3/13/18 meeting. B. Brisson seconds and motion passed 3 - 0 with no further discussion.

M. Maltais states that meeting minutes from the March 20, 2018 meeting need to be approved.

J. Gariety makes a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2018 meeting. B. Brisson seconds and the motion passed 3 - 0 with no further discussion.

M. Maltais states that meeting minutes from the March 28, 2018 meeting need to be approved.

J. Gariety makes a motion to approve the minutes from the March 28, 2018 meeting. B. Brisson seconds and the motion passed 3 - 0 with no further discussion.

Recognition of Visitors

M. Maltais welcomes visitors and states that each can state their questions or concerns.

B. Wilcox begins by dispersing a handout (see attached) regarding tax rates. He discusses what the tax rates might have been for FY2018 had the state error not occurred. Suggests rescinding the Capital Reserve Fund to lower the tax rate if the newly proposed FY19 budget does not pass on April 17th revote.

P. Guay states he is present to see what is going on with the tax increase. He requests that more cuts be made or we make the state pay for their mistakes.

The board states that the state gets their funds to repay the mistakes from the taxpayers. The board also states that they have presented the town with a bare bones budget, no padding, and any further cuts to the budget would imply cutting programming.

K. Potvin presents a letter to the board regarding a preschool request.

The board agrees to revisit the discussion after the May 2nd preschool screening, and agrees to keep in contact with Principal Resteghini regarding outcome.

Superintendent's Report

D. Van Nostrand discusses the resignation of the Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe; and congratulates the newly appointed board member B. Brisson.

Principal's Report

The board reviews the report provided by J. Resteghini (not present). M. Maltais recognizes the newly rated 5 Stars awarded to the North Hero School preschool program, and acknowledges the Spaghetti dinner that will take place on April 17th at North Hero School - all proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

Business of the Board

Teacher Contracts

M. Maltais states that the board needs to make a motion regarding the teacher contracts.

B. Brisson makes a motion to authorize the superintendant to issue teacher contracts and authorize M. Maltais to sign. J. Gariety seconds and the motion passed 3 - 0 with no further discussion.

Review Monthly Budget to Actuals

Business Manager R. Gess states that the budget looks good through the end of the year.

Executive & Policy Committee Appointments

M. Maltais states that the GISU committee dissolved the Policy Committee at the last GISU meeting. The board also agrees to table the Executive Committee appointment until after the next GISU meeting.

Review Get Out to Vote Initiative

M. Maltais will ask the PTYO to make calls to residents urging them to vote on April 17th.

B. Brisson will have postcards printed and mailed to voters the next week. B. Brisson also agrees to complete a Google doc, the content of which will be posted on FrontPorchForum and Facebook. B. Brisson also agrees to create a PowerPoint presentation which M. Maltais agrees to present at the Informational Meeting on April 16th.

Answer Email Questions

The board confirms with B. Wilcox that all of his questions had been answered already during the Recognition of Visitors discussion.

April 16 Informational Meeting Preparations

The board confirms that M. Maltais will present at the Informational Meeting on April 16th.

Prepare Flyer

The board confirms that the postcards, announcements, and PowerPoint presentation will be completed by B. Brisson.

Discussion and Action for School Camera Policy

J. Gariety makes a motion to accept the camera policy. B. Brisson seconds and the motion passed 3 - 0 with no further discussion.

Approve Bills for Payment

J. Gariety makes a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$44,189.68 (less \$516.79 for two invoices in question). B. Brisson seconds and the motion passed 3 - 0 with no further discussion.

Executive Session

B. Brisson makes a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

J. Gariety seconds and the motion passed 3 - 0.

J. Gariety makes a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:29pm. B. Brisson seconds and the motioned passed 3 - 0.

No action is needed.

J. Gariety makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. B. Brisson seconds and the motion passed 3 - 0 with no further discussion.

Minutes Submitted by B. Brisson

CC: Board Members

GISU

Principal Resteghini

Town Clerk's Office

4. 6. 18.

North Hero School

Principal's report to the board and information for the community,

Celebrations

Our preschool program was recently awarded 5 STARS, which is the benchmark for excellence in the field. The program began simply with the idea that we wanted to do something really good for the families in our community who had young children. Joey Bennink, North Hero School's previous principal laid the foundation, originally for just four students, to create a first link to school in our community. What has developed over the previous seven years has been an opportunity for our community to: set the foundation for learning, to create a safe and nurturing environment, and to have an asset to our community that is sustainable for generations to come. Adding the next level of service, connecting an afterschool program, was our next important step in really meeting the needs of our families. What we have created, developed, and nurtured over the past seven years has become a measure that all North Hero residents should take pride in. Our preschool program, and the connection to Eagle Care are aspects of this community that will allow parents to work and manage lives in a way that would be, at the least, challenging otherwise. I am very proud of the dedication that Caryn Zambrano has shown as the lead teacher. I am proud that Mary Ellen Hutchins, who operates Eagle Care, is dedicated to making sure that families are supported until 5:30pm every day. 5 STARS is a celebration of hard work.

Our preschool screening is set for May 2nd. Appointments are booking up and the next generation is on the way. One of the vital offerings of preschool is the beginning, formulation, and repetition of relationship building skills. Sharing, empathy, and self-regulation skills are taught explicitly throughout the years students are able to access preschool. The skills nurtured here are building blocks toward successful relationships for life. Attached below is an article of Harvard's study of how joyful, healthy relationships are as key to health and well-being as exercise and diet.

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2017/04/over-nearly-80-years-harvard-study-has-been-showing-how-to-live-a-healthy-and-happy-life/>

Our sixth grade students are continuing to explore options for their next stops in their educational journeys. Last week they were well-cared for and hosted at Tuttle Middle School in South Burlington. Thursday some students visited ADL in Essex, and St. Albans City School. I've had conversations with teachers and administrators at both schools about *what are they expected to know coming in?* I can say with full clarity that our students are well-prepared for learning in their next stops. Our instructional system lines up very well with what some of our receiving schools are even aspiring to do. Our Capstone projects, which are underway for all fifth and sixth graders, open the door to the Transferrable Skills that direct students towards eventual high school graduation. Capstone projects, which require students to: choose a topic that they would like to research, work with a mentor with knowledge on the subject, create a plan of action, and present their knowledge at our Celebration of learning. North Hero School's Celebration of Learning is set for June 14th.

The week of March 19th students and staff paid homage and honor to those members of the community who have, or are battling cancer. Everyone wore common colors representing the fight, and students and staff contributed stories and positive energy in the direction of the people we honor.

On April 11th we will have a comprehensive safety drill utilizing the services of: GISD, Matt Conte of the Vermont State Troopers, and our friends at the North Hero Volunteer Fire Department. Our school safety plan is comprehensive, but this drill will be directed towards variables that only the full team together may be able to identify. We appreciate the time and consideration of our first responders.

The policy on Video Surveillance of School Property is available for your consideration this evening.

In regards to academics and our continuous improvement as an educational staff I highlight the work that our team has done over the past months in terms of learning and sharing strategies for differentiation. Differentiation is the way that we ensure learning is accessible for all learning styles by planning and creating opportunities that reflect the multiple learning styles of all of our students. The skill of differentiation is learned best through collaboration. Our team has spent time sharing out and teaching each other strategies that benefit all.

My work as our educational leader, and in terms of the return on investment that North Hero has made in me I offer you a glimpse at what we will be working on in terms of systems learning as a team. At the Vermont State Leadership Project cohort, where I am currently at, I have developed a learning plan, or elements that will guide my work in building the capacity of the staff. The North Star of which we strive is: Successful Futures for All Students. The elements we will channel our work towards are:

*All teachers are differentiating instruction for all learners.

*All teachers are using formative assessment as a fundamental practice to measure engagement. (formative assessment is a day to day means to measure—are students understanding what I am teaching?)

*All teachers are engaged in meaningful projects, inquiry (hands on) based science, and teaching practices reflect the need for students to have some say in their learning. There is personalization in how we view student progress.

*All students contribute to the greater good in our PBIS practices. Service Learning is presented (developmentally) in every classroom.

*Social skills, expected language, self-regulation skills, and conflict competence are explicit teaching points in general instruction. Multi-tiered systems of support are implemented.

*Academic curriculum is in place. Social curriculum is in place. Teachers have necessary professional development in order to deliver curriculum growing towards excellence. Coaching, mentoring, and professional support is sustainable so that when attrition occurs we are better capable of managing it.

The elements listed above are the over-arching practices that we all must work towards. It is easy to get caught up in the day to day work. It is my role to ensure that we keep the elements listed above as embedded pieces of that every day practice. None of the elements listed above are new initiatives. All of these elements are practices we all need repetition developing.

*We will be taking a practice SBAC test next week to prepare the students for the tools on the interface and prepare staff for the process. We will take the actual SBAC test beginning on May 2nd and 3rd. SBAC is taken in grades 3-6.

*Our annual spaghetti dinner is set for the evening of April 17th. The event will take place between 5:00-6:30pm. We have received some donations towards the budgetary costs of the event, which are greatly appreciated. All proceeds go toward our service learning project and the Ronald McDonald House.

Respectfully,
Joe Resteghini

BART WILCOX
(ATTACHMENT)

North Hero School District

Sample Permutations of Budget to Budget Changes in School Tax Rates (Cents / \$)
Homestead Tax Rate (including CLA adj)

1. Numbers published in Current Town Report			
Fiscal Year	2018	2019	% Change
Tax Rate	\$1.2185	\$1.6832	39.3%
		\$0.4647	

2. Current Town Report as it should have been.			
with FY 2018 Equalized Pupil number corrected 91.86 instead of 104.89			
Tax Rate	\$1.3987	\$1.6581	19.8%
		\$0.2594	

3. With the correction of High School Tuition			
Tax Rate	\$1.2185	\$1.6203	34.2%
		\$0.4018	

4. Correction of High School Tuition and Prior year error in Equalized Pupils			
Tax Rate	\$1.3987	\$1.6203	17.1%
		\$0.2216	

5. Number 3 PLUS RESCISSION OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUND versus Tax rate in FY 2018 (now)			
Tax Rate	\$1.2185	\$1.5333	27.0%
		\$0.3148	

6. # 5, RESCISSION OF CAPITAL FUND versus rate that should have been paid in FY 2018			
Tax Rate	\$1.3987	\$1.5333	10.8%
		\$0.1346	

North Hero School District

Sample Permutations of Budget to Budget Changes in School Tax Rates (Cents / \$)

Homestead Tax Rate (incl CLA adj)

	<u>January ver</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>w Rescission</u>	<u>Change</u>
1 Expenditures	1,663,502	1,630,502	33,000	1,630,502	33,000
2 minus local Rev	214,542	214,542	0	314,542	(100,000)
3 Net Ed \$	1,448,960	1,415,960	33,000	1,315,960	133,000
4 Eq Pup	88.79	88.79	0	88.79	0
5 \$ per Eq Pup	16,319	15,947	372	14,821	1,498
6 Divided by base \$	9,842	9,842	0	9,842	0
7 Eq Rate	1.6581	1.6203	0.0378	1.5059	0.1522
8 CLA	98.21%	98.21%	0%	98.21%	0%
9 Act rate	1.6883	1.6499	0.0385	1.5333	0.1550

2.28%

9.18%

North Hero School Board

April 6, 2018

Sign In Sheet

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name	Mailing Address
Paul Guay	P.O. Box 105, North Hero, VT
Gabrielle Timms	146 Windridge lane
Karen Potvin	93 Maple Ridge Rd North Hero VT
Alex Potvin	93 maple ridge rd N. Hero VT
Bart Wilcox	226 East Shore Ridge Rd N. Hero