

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Thursday Jan. 16, 2020, at 6 p.m.
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

MINUTES

Call to Order

1. Call to order at 6:03 p.m.

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: Melanie Henderson, Tim Maxham, Bob Chutter, Erin Morse. Bentley Vaughan (at 6:40 p.m.)

-Staff: Susan McKelvie, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV), Joy Gess, Andy Chevrefils

2. Adjustment of Agenda

None.

3. Public Comments

Andy Chevrefils said he had come to an earlier meeting in November with concerns about the school's relationship with the Parent Child Center. He asked for an update on the situation tonight or at a future meeting.

S. McKelvie said she met with the director and assistant director for the Parent Child Center this week. The school is working with them on completing the building use form for the Parent Child Center to rent space at Folsom School. The directors will bring the building use form to the Parent Child Center board for its review. Then McKelvie said there may be some further negotiation. A. Chevrefils asked if there is a timeline for an agreement. S. McKelvie said that once an agreement has been reached on a rental fee, it would be more possible to set a timeline.

A. Chevrefils said after-school care is a statewide issue and referenced a recent story on the issue in the media.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from Jan. 2, 2020.

T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of the Jan. 2, 2020, meeting. B. Chutter seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

5. Reports

A. Principal's (S. McKelvie): S. McKelvie said the school has not yet received water testing results. Otherwise, there is not much to report since the last meeting. She updated the board on the bid for the burner. The company's bid is the same, and it can schedule installation this year if that funding is approved by voters. She shared a copy of her annual principal's report for the Town Report.

E. Morse asked for an update on arts integration. S. McKelvie asked if she would like a monthly update. E. Morse said she would like that. S. McKelvie said the arts integration is currently focused in 3rd and 4th grade with the music teachers, and the art teacher is working with 1st and 2nd grade. The music teacher is planning to work with the youngest students on their own musical in the spring. She said the staff is learning about planning with the schedule in mind. She reported that classroom teachers are working on the shift of collaborating with another teacher. Teachers are also talking about bringing in an outside artist next year. E. Morse said she appreciates all the updates from teachers and in the Patriot Press. J. Pidgeon added that students in 8th grade are integrating through the goal process in the 3-4 musical and are learning how to direct and manage the stage.

T. Maxham asked about the high school fair and if there was interest from Grand Isle students in attending Folsom. S. McKelvie said she has had some inquiries.

Board Business

6. Approval of Bills for Payment.

B. Chutter made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #5618 totaling \$376,280.38. E. Morse seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

7. FY21 Budget (R. Gess)(Discussion, possible Action): R. Gess said the total expenditure budget is at \$3,904,721. The administration believes it is a solid budget. It is a 1.2% increase over last year's budget or a \$47,492.32 increase. Gess noted the budget is one of the lowest year-over-year increases. The equalized pupil figure is 199.25; Gess said he does not expect any changes. Last year the number was 206. The CLA (common level of appraisal) is up.

The tax rate is a 3.153% increase. The tax rate would be \$1.6953 or 5.18 cents higher than the FY20 rate. The spending per equalized pupil is \$18,197.

He said the increase is on the low end for what he has seen statewide. The other districts in the GISU will be higher.

M. Henderson made a motion that the board approve the budget for FY21 in the amount of \$3,904,721.

T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

8. Town Warning (M. Henderson)(Action): M. Henderson made a motion to approve the South Hero Town School District official warning for the annual meeting for Article 4: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,904,721 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,197 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.8% higher than spending for the current year. E. Morse seconded the motion. Approved on the voice vote.

M. Henderson moved the board approve Article 5 to elect all school officers as required by law, and Article 6: Shall the voters authorize the School Directors to place unencumbered funds from FY20 in a Reserve Fund for the purpose of capital improvements to the school facility under the control and direction of the School Directors of the South Hero School District. B. Chutter seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

9. Town Meeting Presentation (M. Henderson)(Discussion): The board expressed appreciation to M. Henderson for preparing the written report to the town. The board discussed its presentation to the town. M. Henderson noted the state had changed the way it calculates student population per staff. M. Henderson asked about SBAC data and asked S. McKelvie if she could provide updated data beyond what is available on the state’s website. S. McKelvie said she can do that. M. Henderson said she would ask Megan Grube to provide data on the achievement gap. M. Henderson said she would have the power point presentation ready for review at the next meeting.

M. Henderson asked if Steve Berard could cover the gym windows for the presentation. There was discussion of student representation at the meeting. The board discussed a musical presentation or a video of school activity.

The board would like an auditor to present to the board on the audit before Town Meeting.

10. Other

None.

Closure

11. Setting the next agenda

Feb. 6: Preparation for Town Meeting, update on the audit, finalize mission statement

12. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 6:49 PM on a voice vote. B. Chutter made a motion to adjourn. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.
