

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, at 6 p.m.
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center
Google Meet: meet.google.com/cvw-dvzi-tac

MINUTES

Call to Order

1. Call to order at 6:03 p.m. (B. Chutter)

Introductions. In attendance:

- Board members: Bentley Vaughan, Bob Chutter, Jen Lyon-Horne, Nathaniel Kouns, Tim Maxham (joining at 6:20 p.m.)
- Staff: Susan McKelvie, Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon
- Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV)

2. Adjustment of Agenda

None.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

- A. Approve minutes from Dec. 16, 2021, and Jan. 6, 2022. N. Kouns made a motion to approve the minutes of the Dec. 16, 2021, and Jan. 6, 2022, meetings, B. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

5. Reports

- A. Financial (R. Gess) (Action): Gess reviewed the expense and revenue reports. He noted the South Burlington tuition bill had arrived. By next week, he anticipates billing CIUUSD for tuition for the second half of the year. He said the second equalized pupil number from the Agency of Education arrived, and the new count has been updated into the budget warning and the tax calculation information. He is working on claims for reimbursable meals with McKelvie. Gess noted he will train the new food services manager on the process. Chutter expressed appreciation to Gess for connecting with the school clerk about the budget and warning for the town report. Chutter asked about the overspending in the staff salaries. Gess said half the amount will be covered through Esser funding. The rest is additional compensation between what was budgeted and what was expended in staffing needs. He said there is funding in the overall budget to

cover that amount. Chutter asked about the acronym SWP. Gess said it stands for Schoolwide Program, and it indicates reimbursable expenses.

Chutter made a motion that the board received and reviewed the financial report 15188 of Jan. 14, 2022. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Superintendent's (M. Clark): Clark updated the board on events related to Covid school closure. In the past 2 weeks, GISU has had approximately 60 cases. Clark said the number of positive cases required the school to close last week due to the number of staff and students who needed to quarantine. Folsom has transitioned fully to the new Agency of Education guidelines regarding Covid that shifts screening for Covid to families and ends school contact tracing. The school still does not have enough testing kits to fulfill the guidelines from the state. The district has ordered 6000 tests for the Islands. The new guidance changes schools from being a testing site to a distribution-of-tests site. It focuses on educating families about what they need to do. Regarding the budget, Clark said Central Office sent board members a draft presentation and draft direct mailing on the budget. Clark commended McKelvie and school nurse Jenny Brownell for their work during the last outbreak of Covid. He noted that GISU used Esser funding to pay support staff for the days the school was closed to avoid staff going without pay. Clark said he would like to ask families to do the following: 1) keep children home from school if the child or a family member is sick; 2) get vaccinated because the majority of those catching Covid in the schools are unvaccinated; 3) maintain masking and social distancing. These factors will help keep school open. He encouraged families with questions to call the school. Chutter expressed appreciation to McKelvie and staff for work during this outbreak.
- C. Principal's (S. McKelvie): McKelvie shared that the latest Covid variant impacted the school, with 15% of enrollment and 17% of staff testing positive since the new year. Of those, 35% of unvaccinated students and 8% of vaccinated students were positive. She reported that 78% of the student body is vaccinated. She said it's fortunate none of the students or staff with Covid required hospitalization. She said the school implemented the new state guidance today that eliminates contact tracing. There were six new cases Jan. 20. The school had enough kits to send them home with students who were unvaccinated close contacts. She noted the state requires parental permission to do rapid testing at school. The school sought and received consent from more than 90% of parents for rapid testing. McKelvie said she thought the school would not need to close again because of student absence under the new guidance. Chutter asked McKelvie about challenges finding substitute teachers for two upcoming leaves of absence. She said she will bring a plan forward to the board in February that may involve shifting staff internally if there are no applicants. She noted the staffing shortage is statewide. Lyon-Horne asked about the possibility of an incentive, like a signing bonus. Clark cautioned that it would involve negotiating with the association.

Board Business

6. Approval of Bills for Payment. B. Vaughan made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #10520 totaling \$694,555.84. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

7. Approve FY23 Budget Warning (R. Gess): Chutter shared that the school district will have a fully remote annual meeting on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Gess reviewed the budget warning and financial amounts. Chutter made a motion to approve the warning as presented and an online only annual meeting on Feb. 24, 2022. B. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote. Clark asked if board members would like to sign the warning electronically or in person. Board members arranged for signatures.

8. Budget Communications (B. Chutter): Chutter tabled discussion of budget communication and moved to the announced tuition approval agenda item.

9. FY23 Announced Tuition Approval (R. Gess): Gess explained the process of determining the tuition rate Folsom charges out-of-district students who attend Folsom. The announced tuition rate is recommended at \$16,839. Chutter moved that the board set the announced tuition rate for FY23 of \$16,839, and Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote. Gess left the meeting at 7 p.m.

10. Budget Communications: The board resumed discussion of budget communications. Chutter asked board members to review the presentation and flyer and provide written feedback. Clark reviewed the content of the flyer and powerpoint with the board. Chutter asked for feedback on the board's budget highlights for the town report. The board designated Chutter to review the flyer so it can be mailed to arrive around Feb. 14.

11. Policy F20 - Fiscal Management and General Financial Accountability (B. Chutter) (First Read): The board reviewed Policy F20.

12. Principal contract (M. Clark) (Executive Session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec. 313) Chutter made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a contract; Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote. The board invited McKelvie to attend the meeting. The board went into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

The board came out of executive session at 7:59 p.m. T. Maxham made a motion to nominate Bob Chutter and Jen Lyon-Horne to the Principal Contract Negotiating Committee, and N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Closure

13. Setting the next agenda

Feb. 17, 2022: Policy F20 second reading; budget communication

14. Adjourn

B. Vaughan made a motion to adjourn and N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote. The board adjourned at 8 p.m.