

South Hero School Board

Meeting **Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018**, at Folsom Education & Community Center

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: Don Van Nostrand, Beth Hemingway, Julie Pidgeon

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV), Andre Bertmann

Adjustment of Agenda

The principal's report was removed from the agenda.

Under Board Discussion, the board added a discussion of an opportunity to meet with the Education Commissioner.

Under Board Action, the board added consideration of a Pre-Kindergarten partnership

Under Executive Session, the board added discussion of a student need

The date of the next meeting will remain Feb. 15. RJ Sweeney said he cannot meet Feb. 15th due to a family conflict. The rest of the board said they would be in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the Jan. 18, 2018, meeting were approved on a voice vote. T. Maxham made a motion to accept the minutes. RJ Sweeney seconded the motion.

In a follow-up, D. Cain asked J. Pidgeon to coordinate with the town office on getting the School Board's meeting schedule posted to the town website.

Public Comments

None.

Superintendent Don Van Nostrand's Report

Assessments: The Smarter Balanced testing window is March – June. There will be no Science NECAPs anymore and instead the state has a new science assessment in grades 5, 8 and 11. There also is a new state assessment in PE.

The GISU received a VEHI grant to do an analysis of its human resources. D. Cain asked if the Human Resources policies apply to everyone in the supervisory union. D. Van Nostrand said yes.

The Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBACs) at Folsom are scheduled for the week before April vacation and the week after April vacation, J. Pidgeon reported. She shared that Mrs. Thoma is the SBAC coordinator for the school.

Board Discussion

-Discussion and preparation for the annual school meeting: D. Cain and M. Henderson reported that their presentations for town meeting are in draft stage. The Folsom Improvement Team (Folsom FIT) will make a presentation on current school life and community feedback about the school's vision statement. J. Pidgeon will ask Helen Bishop whether PTO will be providing food for town meeting and if baby sitting be available. J. Pidgeon will communicate the information to T. Maxham.

T. Maxham asked D. Van Nostrand for a copy of the material that was provided for the town report. It was noted that the board will review town meeting presentations at its next meeting. D. Cain asked the board to consider what should be communicated to the community in advance of the town report. RJ Sweeney asked what was envisioned. D. Cain and M. Henderson suggested a letter with a detailed explanation and link to the website with more budget information. B. Vaughan said it's nice for people to have the information in advance so they can come into a meeting and ask questions. M. Henderson suggested the town meeting presentations be made available to people in advance of the meeting online and that the board communicate in a letter with links to those presentations. T. Maxham suggested that people could be encouraged to attend the Feb. 15 meeting to ask questions. RJ Sweeney said it's important to be concise and articulate in communicating the reasons for the budget and tax increase. The board discussed the timing of its communication and how to present that information on the website. They discussed sending the information to Front Porch Forum and *The Islander*. A. Bertmann suggested sending it out via the school email list. J. Pidgeon noted the staff would want it to be clear that the communication was from the board, and the superintendent said that was OK to forward. D. Cain said he spoke with principal S. McKelvie about the budget, and she said it is a very lean budget, and if it were not to pass, any cuts would come out of Folsom.

-Superintendent D. Van Nostrand read a request from the Commissioner of Education to meet with towns that have made a request for an Act 46, Section 9, alternative structure. D. Van Nostrand, M. Henderson, and T. Maxham will attend, and D. Cain said he would attend if possible. B. Vaughan and RJ Sweeney also said they would like to attend if possible. The board discussed the options for the 30-minute meeting. The superintendent will respond with the board's choices for a meeting in February.

Board Action

-Approval of Bills for Payment: B. Vaughan moved to pay the bills. RJ Sweeney seconded. Approved.

-Approve Facilities Use Request: D. Van Nostrand removed the item from the agenda.

-Hire Special Education Paraprofessional: M. Henderson made a motion to sign a 1.0 FTE contract for Isolde Frank effective Jan. 22, 2018. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved.

-The board considered a partnership agreement for CU2 Childcare LLC in Williston. The board discussed with the superintendent and director of student support services the fact that preschools must meet criteria to operate before they are accepted for a partnership agreement. D. Cain moved to accept the partnership agreement with CU2 LLC. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved.

Board Correspondence / Sharing

None.

Follow-Up / Old Business

None.

Executive Session

D. Cain moved the board go into Executive Session to discuss the principal contract, the principal leave of absence, and the solar contract. T. Maxham seconded. The board went into executive session at 6:45 p.m. The board came out of executive session at 7:25 p.m.

D. Cain moved to grant Principal Susan McKelvie paid sick leave at a rate of 75% of her salary through June 30, 2018, once she has exhausted her current contracted vacation and sick leave. RJ Sweeney seconded. Approved.

D. Cain moved to authorize the superintendent to sign the amendment to a contract with Cambridge Solar. B. Vaughan seconded. Approved.

D. Cain made a motion to move back into executive session to discuss a student need. T. Maxham seconded. Approved. The board went into executive session at 7:32 p.m. The board came out of executive session at 9:25 p.m.

Adjourn

The board adjourned at 9:25 p.m. B. Vaughan made a motion to adjourn. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.
