

Grand Isle Supervisory Union  
**South Hero School District**  
School Board Regular Meeting  
**Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022**, at 6 p.m.  
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center  
Google Meet ([meet.google.com/cvw-dvzi-tac](https://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: Tim Maxham, Bentley Vaughan, Bob Chutter, Jen Lyon-Horne, Nathaniel Kouns

-Staff: Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV), Whitney Doremus

2. Adjustment of Agenda

None.

3. Public Comments

T. Maxham shared that Whitney Doremus is running as a write-in candidate for the open seat on the School Board. Doremus introduced herself to the board.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from Jan. 20, 2022. N. Kouns made a motion to approve the minutes of the Jan. 20, 2022, meeting. B. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

5. Reports

A. Financial (R. Gess) (Action): Gess reviewed the expenditure budget. The business office has been busy reconciling Esser grant spending with the budget so the district can submit for reimbursement from the Agency of Education. Gess reported there was no change in the latest data from the state that impacts the calculation of the tax rate. Gess also updated the board on reimbursement for school lunch spending. The school business office has picked up financial reporting work that was traditionally done by the Agency of Human Services, Clark added. Gess complimented Cecile Gove in the Folsom kitchen for providing USDA required information so the business office could submit for reimbursement. The board discussed tuition payments, and Clark said one district (South Burlington) will be reimbursing the town for over charging..

T. Maxham made a motion that the board received and reviewed the budget-to-actuals financial report 15280 of Feb. 9, 2022. B. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Superintendent's (M. Clark): Clark reported that Covid case numbers are dropping in GISU, and the district has ample supply of testing kits now. The district is sending home two tests with students before vacation so they can test before returning to school after February vacation. Additionally, the governor and Agency of Education said this week that the mask-wearing guidance is changing to allow masks to be optional if a school is at 80% vaccination. The AOE will be publishing vaccination rates for each school. Until the superintendent receives that data, he said the schools will continue to operate under the current guidance. Clark said he would prefer to hold off on changes until a couple of weeks after vacation. Chutter asked if the rule was 80% of students or population. Clark said he believes it is 80% of students, but he will confirm it. Clark noted the district also has been busy with contract negotiations, hiring staff, and preparing budget communications.

C. Principal's (S. McKelvie): Principal Susan McKelvie was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Her report was deferred.

#### Board Business

6. Approval of Bills for Payment. B. Chutter made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #10554 totaling \$140,695.04. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

7. Kitchen volunteers appreciation recognition: Chutter said S. McKelvie has proposed the Board join her in expressing appreciation for kitchen staff and community members who kept food service going while it was lacking a food manager. Clark shared that the kitchen volunteers are a perfect example of how the South Hero community comes together in times of need. Clark noted the school has a process to additionally compensate staff who stepped up and worked extra hours and took on extra responsibilities. Additionally, McKelvie proposes the board compensate a skilled community member who volunteered many hours. The board supported these measures of appreciation.

8. Adult meal price increase: Gess said \$4.75 is the USDA reimbursement rate for each meal that is served. The USDA requires adult meals be at the same price as the reimbursement rate. Currently, the price of an adult meal at Folsom is \$4.30. Gess recommends that rate be increased to the rate of reimbursement for the USDA. B. Vaughan made a motion to increase the adult lunch rate to \$4.75 for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year. N. Kouns seconded the motion. The board discussed the motion. Clark pointed out that the board does not need to make a change, and Gess and Clark said the reimbursement rate may change. The board discussed revisiting the issue in the fall. Motion approved unanimously on a voice vote.

9. Budget Communications (B. Chutter)(Discussion): Chutter asked for feedback on the delivery of the budget flyer. Chutter is working on the slideshow presentation for the annual meeting with support from GISU Central Office. He will circulate a copy of the presentation to board members before the meeting on Thursday, Feb. 24. Chutter said he intends to communicate in Front Porch Forum about the budget meeting and highlight the financials for the community. The board discussed the logistics of making the online presentation. Kim Julow will attend the meeting and take the official minutes.

10. Policy F20 - Fiscal Management & General Financial Accountability (B. Chutter)(Action). B. Vaughan made a motion to approve Policy F20 - Fiscal Management & General Financial Accountability as presented. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

#### 11. Other

-Retiring Member: M. Clark expressed appreciation to Bentley Vaughan for all his work in support of schools in the Islands. He has served as chair of the GISU Board as well as on the South Hero School Board. Chutter said he plans to recognize Vaughan during the annual meeting. Maxham said Vaughan is the senior member of the board currently, and he thanked him for the time he has devoted. Vaughan thanked board members.

-Negotiations: Chutter shared that negotiations with teachers are underway, and the initial meeting was productive.

#### **Closure**

12. Setting the next agenda:

Feb. 24, 2022: Special Meeting to review the budget

March 17, 2022: Board reorganization. Chutter reminded everyone running for office that those who win seats need to be sworn in by the town clerk before that meeting.

#### 13. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 6:55 PM on a voice vote. B. Vaughan made a motion to adjourn. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.