

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District

School Board Regular Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021, at 6 p.m.

Location: Join with Google Meet: meet.google.com/jcn-guaz-snh

Join by phone (US) +1 513-666-7379 PIN: 476 044 895#

MINUTES

Call to Order

1. Call to order at 6:05 p.m. (B. Chutter)

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: Tim Maxham, Bentley Vaughan, Bob Chutter, Erin Morse, Nathaniel Kouns

-Staff: Susan McKelvie, Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon

-Audience: Buddy Meilleur (LCATV), Janet Yates

2. Adjustment of Agenda

None.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from Jan. 21, 2021. T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of the Jan. 21, 2021, meeting. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote (B. Chutter-yes, E. Morse-yes, N. Kouns-yes, T. Maxham-yes, B. Vaughan-abstain).

5. Reports

A. Financial (R. Gess) (Action)

R. Gess reported that revenues will exceed the budget based on his projections. He noted there has been some unexpected tuition expenses, but he thinks there has been enough underspending in other areas of the budget to mitigate those expenses. On the South Hero FY20 audit, Sullivan and Powers has requested information regarding two items, and that information will be provided. Gess reported that the district is working on writing a grant application for Covid-related reimbursement that it will submit to the Agency of Education. Chutter asked about a tuition voucher in the bills. M. Clark reported the town was ordered by a judge to pay tuition for a plaintiff in a lawsuit. The GISU has implemented a procedure to pay new requests for tuition payment. The district has a certification process to verify it is appropriate under Vermont law that the GISU pay tuition. Morse asked how many people have requested tuition payment and whether

enough money has been budgeted for next year. Clark said there has been one request, and it is for the remainder of the year. Clark said the district makes an estimate of future tuition costs and he is not concerned at this point. Maxham asked about encumbrances and the amount remaining. Gess referred him to the 001 General Fund total (approximately \$186,000 left, with expenditures expected).

T. Maxham made a motion that the board received and reviewed the financial report 14147 of Feb. 11, 2021. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Superintendent's (M. Clark): M. Clark reported about his annual letter to the community. He shared that he had a community meeting on Feb. 18 to discuss recent cases of Covid among members of the Folsom School. He thinks Folsom may be identified as an outbreak, and there is a team from the Agency of Health that will investigate. The school has been remote the week of Feb. 15, and the school is scheduled to return to in-person learning March 2. T. Maxham asked if the cases involved only the middle school. Clark said he cannot share details of individual cases due to confidentiality. Chutter said he thinks the administration made the right choice to move the school to remote learning this week.
- C. Principal's (S. McKelvie): She noted the teachers pivoted on Sunday to provide remote learning for students beginning Monday, Feb. 15. The building closed, but the teachers did not miss time with students as learning shifted to online. She acknowledged the stress of teaching during a pandemic. She said she has reminded the community that the state health guidelines around gatherings and travel have not changed, and she encourages the community to follow those rules. She thanked the South Hero community for sending her many positive messages. Vaughan thanked McKelvie and all the staff for their work. Chutter concurred. Maxham thanked McKelvie for the excellent annual report to the town.

Board Business

6. (C29) District Equity Policy - (B. Chutter) (Action). N. Kouns moved that the board accept the District Equity Policy (C29) as presented on its second reading. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

7. Approve bills for payment (B. Chutter)(Action). B. Vaughan made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #9051 totaling \$78,869.21. E. Morse seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

8. (F22) Electronic Communications Use and Retention (B. Chutter) (Action). T. Maxham moved that the board accept the (F22) Electronic Communications Use and Retention as presented on its second reading. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

9. (F23) Capitalization of Assets (B. Chutter) (Action). B. Vaughan moved that the board accept the (F23) Capitalization of Assets as presented on its second reading. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

10. (D20) Curriculum Development & Coordination (B. Chutter) (Action). B. Vaughan moved that the board accept the (D20) Curriculum Development & Coordination as presented on its second reading. E. Morse seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

11. Finalize Budget presentation (B. Chutter)(Discussion)

The board reviewed the slideshow presentation for the annual town meeting on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m. via Google Meet ([Agenda & Information on how to join the Meeting](#)). The board decided to include the latest projected tax rates based on current legislative actions. The board arranged significant budget changes in order of change. The high school attendance will be reported by school. If attendance is one, then it will be reported as "Other/Public" and "Other/Independent." On the Reserve Fund, the language will clarify the spending is for larger, building/capital improvements. The board will add a slide to remind attendees of the protocol for asking questions (stating name and referring to the budget item by page and line number). Voting is March 2 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the town office for those who have not voted by absentee ballot.

Closure

12. Setting the next agenda

March 18: Board reorganization, new policies

13. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 7:30 PM on a voice vote. B. Vaughan made a motion to adjourn. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.