

Grand Isle Supervisory Union  
**South Hero School District**

School Board Regular Meeting

**Thursday, March 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)

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## MINUTES

### Call to Order & Introductions

1. Call to order: Michael Clark, superintendent, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: Bob Chutter, Whitney Doremus, Jen Lyon-Horne, Tim Maxham, Nathaniel

Kouns

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

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV)

### 2. Board Reorganization (Action)

A. Election of Officers: The board elected the following officers:

- a. Board Chair: T. Maxham nominated Bob Chutter to serve as board chair; J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.
- b. Vice Chair: B. Chutter nominated Tim Maxham to serve as board vice-chair; J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.
- c. Board Clerk: B. Chutter nominated Whitney Doremus to serve as board clerk; J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.
- d. GISU Board: T. Maxham nominated Tim Maxham, Bob Chutter and Whitney Doremus to serve as GISU Board representatives; N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Committees: The board made the following decisions about committee assignments

- a. Negotiating Committee: B. Chutter nominated Bob Chutter and Jen Lyon-Horne continue to serve as Board representatives in negotiations. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

C. Operational Decisions: The board made the following decisions about its operations:

- a. Regular board meeting schedule: B. Chutter moved that the board hold its regular meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at Folsom School. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote. Chutter noted the board would continue to offer a hybrid meeting format so people who need to attend via Google Meet may do so.

- b. Designated posting places: B. Chutter moved the board's official posting places to be designated as the South Hero Town Office, U.S. Post Office in South Hero and Folsom School, as well as the GISU website. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.
- c. Agree on the use of Robert's Rules (or Robert's Rules for Small Boards): B. Chutter moved that the board use Robert's Rules of Order for Small Boards for running its meetings. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.
- d. Discuss Code of Ethics: B. Chutter referred members to the Code of Ethics for Vermont School Board Members. Chutter asked board members to sign the Code of Ethics either electronically or on paper.
- e. Communications Practices: M. Clark reminded board members to conduct business via the GISU email. He reminded them that the work they do as board members is open to public review. He encouraged them not to use private emails or texts for communication. He reminded board members that anything in a GISU email is subject to public request for information. Chutter said emails are for dissemination of information. Email is not for discussion. Discussion takes place in a public session. Clark said board members will receive communication that is sent to the GISU community, and he holds a community meeting and a staff meeting once a week. Chutter asked if the board could also receive Susan McKelvie's communications to Folsom families in the board packet.
- f. Board Development: Discuss board development opportunities and attendance. Chutter suggested the board discuss training for board members and come to agreement about expectations at the next meeting.
- g. Discuss local and statewide education advocacy responsibilities: M. Clark shared that board members will receive information from the superintendent, the Vermont School Boards Association and Legislature. Board members can share what they are learning about education with the community. Chutter said that as board chair, he will lobby when the board asks him to do so.
- h. Designate newspaper: B. Chutter moved that the board designate *The Islander* as the newspaper of record for the South Hero School District. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

### 3. Adjust the Agenda

M. Clark added a discussion of a minimum student day waiver request for the 2021-22 school year after a discussion of the school year calendar

### 4. Public Comments

N. Kouns expressed thanks to the Folsom staff for the efforts to bring back the 3rd and 4th grade play. Kouns also expressed gratitude for the way in which McKelvie and staff have constructed a robust curriculum that is starting to bear fruit. He said the community is fortunate to have Susan McKelvie at the helm.

## 5. Consent Agenda (Action)

- A. Approve minutes from Feb. 17, 2022, and Feb. 24, 2022 meetings: T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 17, 2022, and Feb. 24, 2022, meetings. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.
- B. Resignation of Lexi Wisnowski, Guidance Counselor: Clark informed the board that Wisnowski has resigned due to a move out of state. He has accepted her resignation, and the position is posted.

## 6. Reports

- A. Financial (R. Gess) (Action): Gess referred the board to the revenue summary. There were revenue gains, including some special education reimbursement. He said some vendors are adding fuel surcharges to bills, and he will be communicating to vendors that the district will not pay those surcharges. On food service, data on free and reduced lunches was submitted to the state. People who qualify will receive additional support from the state to purchase food. The USDA is offering funding for supply chain challenges; the GISU is receiving about \$13,000 to offset supply chain challenges with food. Folsom's allocation will be about \$2,800, and it needs to be spent on specific funds. Gess provided an overview of the financial responsibilities and information available to board members.

T. Maxham made a motion that the board received and reviewed the financial report 15425 of March 9, 2022. B. Chutter seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Superintendent's (M. Clark): Clark thanked voters for approving the budget and for their support of education. He drew the board's attention to ESSER funding. He is holding a community meeting next Wednesday, March 23, to hear from the community about their hopes for ESSER spending. Maxham asked that McKelvie distribute the agenda for that community meeting in the Folsom newsletter.
- C. Principal's (S. McKelvie): McKelvie shared Folsom has not had a Covid case in 3 weeks, which is a tremendous relief. The masks optional policy is in its second week, and she said it has been a boost in morale to see the kids' faces. Report cards for Trimester 2 were sent home March 17, and the school has started Trimester 3. J. Lyon-Horne expressed appreciation for McKelvie's note home to parents recognizing the concern about "catching up," and the staff's goal of meeting students where they are academically, socially and emotionally and helping them progress. McKelvie shared the excitement of activities returning, including the middle school play.

## Board Business

7. Approval of Bills for Payment. B. Chutter made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #10582 totaling \$57,304.63. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

8. Informational Meeting & Budget Process Review: Chutter shared that the informational meeting went well, and he thought the early dissemination of budget information in the Every Door Direct flyer that was mailed home is helpful. He also suggested the board continue to highlight big items in the budget in its report to the town. Clark said he appreciated S. McKelvie's providing pictures. Clark expressed appreciation to B. Chutter for his work proof-reading the flyer. Chutter said he hopes the information can be provided earlier for review. Clark acknowledged that would be helpful, but the district is often waiting for information from the state Agency of Education. Chutter said thank you to the community for approving their school budget.

9. Masking Guidelines: Folsom met the 80% vaccination requirement and was able to change its policy to mask optional two weeks ago. Clark thanked the community for working with the district. He also said the district has a supply of antigen test kits and masks if needed.

10. 2022-2023 Calendar: Clark shared that GISU belongs to the Champlain Valley region for calendar adoption. All the districts in the region must have a calendar with common student days. Clark presented two calendars to the board. One is the traditional calendar that has Indigenous Peoples Day off. An Alburgh Board member has requested students be in school on Indigenous Peoples Day to provide an opportunity for education. The proposal is that students will be in school on that day. The Friday before will be a day off, and the inservice that was scheduled for that Friday will be moved to Thursday. He will be asking permission from the Franklin-Grand Isle Tech Region for permission to change the GISU calendar to allow for Indigenous Peoples Day off. The Alburgh Board favors the change. The CIUUSD Board did not reach consensus about the change. Clark advocates that the district support this change as the Abnaki request it, and it aligns with the district's equity policy. Clark also pointed out that by statute, the authority to adopt the calendar resides at the GISU Board. Clark shared the district will have special programming on that day. Kouns and Doremus said they support the move. T. Maxham moved that the board support the calendar which has students in school on Indigenous Peoples Day, and J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

11. School Days Waiver: Clark shared Folsom has missed 7 calendar days (4 days due to Covid and 3 days due to snow). By statute the school needs 175 student days, and it has 172 days with these closures. The options are for the school to ask the state for a waiver of 3 days, or to extend the school year 3 days. Clark asked the board whether it would like him to pursue a waiver with the state or make up the days. The last day is currently Monday, June 13. J. Lyon-Horne says she supports seeking a waiver. Kouns shared it's important for the board to think about quality over quantity. He said he prefers the school days remaining have quality instruction, and the board needs to think about the kids' needs. Chutter said he was glad to hear about the opportunities for summer camps. Chutter moved that the board request from the state a waiver of 3 student days for the 2021-22 school year. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Chutter said he believes there is a balance between robust summer programming vs. extended

school days. Clark shared planning is already well underway for summer programs. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

12. Principal Contract (Executive Session (pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec. 313)

B. Chutter moved that the board go into executive session at 7:42 p.m. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

The board came out of executive session at 7:53 p.m.

N. Kouns moved that the board approve a contract for Susan McKelvie as presented. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

### **Closure**

13. Setting the next agenda

April 14, 2022 (special meeting): (The regular meeting of April 21, 2022, would fall during school vacation)

-Discussion of board development and training

-School day waivers

14. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 7:54 p.m. N. Kouns made a motion to adjourn. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.