

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 6 p.m.
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

MINUTES

Call to Order

1. Call to order at 6:01 p.m. (B. Chutter)

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: Tim Maxham, Bentley Vaughan, Bob Chutter, Erin Morse (joining remotely),
Nathaniel Kouns

-Staff: Michael Clark, Julie Pidgeon

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV)

2. Adjustment of Agenda

B. Chutter made these adjustments:

- Postpone discussion of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment/CIP updates due to need to refocus district attention on remote instruction during school dismissal for Covid-19.
- Add update on water testing to reports
- Add Covid-19 update including potential staffing pay and food services

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

- A. T. Maxham requested the minutes of March 5, 2020, be revised to change the word “accepted” to “received” in the motion regarding the financial report. T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2020, as revised. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote unanimously.

5. Reports

- A. Principal’s: M. Clark presented the update for Principal McKelvie, who has been helping support the special educators and paraeducators to develop plans to support students with learning needs. The building is now closed to all but essential employees. There will be a Continuity of Learning plan.

Board Business

6. Water Testing: M. Clark reported that the day before the State of Emergency was announced, Folsom dropped off its water testing samples. The state later announced that all future collections of water samples were suspended because of the state of emergency. The superintendent anticipates there will be a delay in the state reporting on Folsom's results.

7. Approval of Bills for Payment. B. Vaughan made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #5669 totaling \$124,888.19. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote unanimously.

8. Covid-19 Update: M. Clark is sharing communication with staff and board members daily. He reviewed the district's response since the governor's announcement on Friday, March 13, of a State of Emergency. Schools were ordered dismissed starting March 18, 2020, to April 6, 2020. This time period would be maintenance of learning, or the prevention of loss of learning. If this dismissal goes past April 6, schools need to transition to Continuity of Learning. The expectation is that GISU would design ways for students to add new learning. The superintendent said it is likely schools will not be in session on April 6 or may not be back in session at all this school year. Megan Grube and Dave Brisson have formed a Continuity of Learning Team, which will look at delivering learning after April 6 to students. The goal is to balance high quality with equity. The first meeting is Friday via Google Hangout. The superintendent noted the district is still required to follow federal law regarding student confidentiality.

Most staff have transitioned to working remotely. Staff participating in making this transition have been working hard. M. Clark said food service staff and custodians will not be able to work remotely. Paraeducators will be fulfilling their contracts by supporting students remotely. The district is trying to be as flexible as possible in aligning the needs of paraeducators and families. The paraeducators are eligible to take time off. He also noted it is possible there may be work in the school for those who wish. All hourly employees have been guaranteed their 37.5 hours of work. M. Clark noted that one potential challenge would be if these dismissal days do not count as school days and have to be made up in the summer, which would require the board to pay the hourly paraeducators then.

The entire GISU Business Office was pulled off work on audits and moved to work on the summer food program to allow the district to provide free food to anyone 18 and younger during this school dismissal. The guidelines have been changing; the latest guideline is that food to anyone who receives free and reduced lunch will be reimbursed. The district will be delivering food to children 18 and younger whether they are on free and reduced lunch or not. The district will still provide the food even if the government only reimburses for food provided to children who receive free and reduced lunch.

M. Clark said the district is committed to keeping people safe, to be ethical and equitable, and to be reasonable.

B. Vaughan asked about day care. Is Folsom being asked to provide day care? M. Clark said the governor's order is that schools are required to cooperate and collaborate with the state to

provide child care for essential workers (such as firefighters, health care workers and grocery store workers). M. Clark said he is waiting for direction from the governor. He said the day care must be provided in rooms with no more than 10 children in them and 1 adult. He said Building Bright Futures is surveying people throughout the state to gauge their needs. M. Clark said GISU may designate one place in the county for this purpose. He noted there is a limited amount of cleaning supplies and some concern about the ability to restock. Folsom School's supplies are limited. He said the district does not have the capacity to open up child care sites in several buildings. He may consider sub-contracting with area day care providers who are closed. T. Maxham asked how soon this should be done. M. Clark said the deadline in the original order was March 18. M. Clark noted the state has asked districts to provide remote learning, food, child care, etc., while the workforce is not necessarily fully available. The Grand Isle workforce has been fully engaged in helping in this crisis.

9. Meeting Schedule: B. Chutter raised the issue of reducing meetings to once a month and providing a remote meeting option. M. Clark said the board by state statute must have one person in a physical place for a meeting. The meeting must be open to the public. The board will recommend the public not attend the meetings in person during this health crisis. B. Chutter will put out a public statement about the changed schedule. M. Clark suggested the board meet the 3rd Thursday of the month and cancel the 1st Thursday of the month meeting. M. Clark noted the Central Office is preparing to work remotely as well. The best way to communicate is by email.

B. Chutter made a motion for the South Hero School District to move to meeting once a month on the 3rd Thursday of the month for the foreseeable future. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Discussion: E. Morse raised concern about the superintendent's health risk. T. Maxham will attend on site, and B. Chutter will be a backup. Approved on a voice vote unanimously.

Closure

10. Setting the next agenda

The next meeting is April 16 at 6 p.m. at Folsom School.

11. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 6:48 PM. N. Kouns made a motion to adjourn. B. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

