

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District

School Board Special Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 6 p.m.

Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

Google Meet: meet.google.com/rdi-xvxt-niu (Phone: +1 651-347-4266 PIN: 749 765 453#)

MINUTES

Call to Order & Introductions

1. Call to order at 6:03 p.m. (B. Chutter)

Introductions. In attendance:

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

Doremus

-Staff: Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon, Kay Shutt, Sue McNayr

-Audience: Buddy Meilleur (LCATV)

2. Public Comments

- T. Maxham read a note from Steve Berard. He expressed appreciation for financial and job support.

- T. Maxham reported the GISU Board has changed its meeting night to Tuesday.

3. Reports

A. Financial (R. Gess) (Action)

R. Gess said there have been no significant changes on the expenditure side or the full year outlook from what has been previously discussed. The reimbursement request for federal funding has been submitted. He expects to see revenue from this in mid-May.

Gess reported on what the business office is doing for audit documentation. Chutter expressed appreciation for the summary report. Chutter asked the timeline for the audit.

Gess said mid-May. The business office has provided auditors Sullivan and Powers with the documentation it has requested.

Maxham made a motion that the board received and reviewed the financial report 15512 of April 7, 2022. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Superintendent's (M. Clark): Clark reported that the district has a ratified contract with teachers. Clark also reported that Steve Berard and he applied for an efficiency grant for South Hero. He referred the board to his regular communications. He shared that he and other administrators have been in the building to cover S. McKelvie's absence.

C. Principal's:

- a. Summer programming: Clark shared that information has been distributed to families. The GISU has created vouchers. All Island families are able to use 4 vouchers in 4 separate weeks for \$150 for summer programs. He also noted there are programs taking place at South Hero, including a camp with the South Hero Land Trust. Chutter asked for information on summer programming to be sent to board members. He also asked whether transportation would be provided for summer program vouchers. Clark said transportation will not be provided. Chutter expressed concern that families will not be able to use the vouchers if they do not have access to transportation.
- b. Data report: This report was deferred until a future meeting.

B. Chutter requested the board table items 4-7. No concerns were expressed. The board tabled items 4-7, discussed and acted on item 8, and then returned to item 4 on the agenda.

Board Business

4. Approval of Bills for Payment. Chutter made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #10598 totaling \$487,416.49. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously by a voice vote. Chutter made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #10600 totaling \$694.98. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously by a voice vote.

5. Waiver Update and Conversion of Remaining Days: Clark said he would submit South Hero's waiver request by April 18. The state waiver request is for 3 student days. Clark said the board still has to determine whether to make up or not make up 4 days. Clark recommends the board convert 3 of the remaining days to professional development for the teaching staff. He does not recommend converting the days for support staff. That would leave one day, which he recommends the board waive. Clark said the time will be used to start the implementation of Geodes and Wit & Wisdom for literacy, a math pilot program, and special education training. Chutter moved that the board follow the superintendent's recommendation for the remaining teacher contract days. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

6. Act 173 Update: Clark said the budget contains \$159,000 in revenue for special education, but new information from the state indicates the district will be receiving less than that under Act 173. Clark and McKelvie have been discussing how to make up the money by increasing revenue and decreasing expenses. Clark said that may involve funding some expenditures through ESSER grant money. He said the supervisory union does not have a firm figure for what funding the district can expect for Act 173. He is informing the board to make sure the situation is clear. He will continue to update the board as the situation develops. Clark said one challenge is that the state appears to be ready to implement the financial changes in Act 173 without implementing the other changes that would reform how special education costs are determined.

7. Carpeting: Clark shared that he and McKelvie have talked about carpeting the library and office. She has received two bids for the carpet and is continuing to look for more bids. He shared that delaying the carpeting purchase could be a budgetary decision. He also noted the board could consider the capital improvement funding. Clark shared McKelvie is still looking for bids, and that the bids received are for the summer of 2023. Chutter acknowledged the discussion can be continued later, and that it would be funded through the capital fund. Chutter reminded the board it has 5 years to spend money reserved in the capital fund.

8. Support Staff FY23 Salaries: M. Clark said South Hero has historically tried to line up the staff contract with the teacher contract. The teacher contract had a 4.99% increase to the grid plus a \$1,000 signing bonus. Clark encouraged the board to offer a signing bonus as a dollar amount rather than percentage. He also recommended the raises be in line with the teacher contract.

Chutter moved that the board increase staff salaries 5% and include the \$1,000 signing bonus separate from the 5% increase, payable in the second pay period of September. Seconded by Lyon-Horne.

Discussion: Sue McNayr said she never knew the process that the board went through to determine the support staff salary, and she attended to find out. Kay Shutt said she wanted to understand whether the signing bonus offered to teachers would be offered to support staff. She thanked the board.

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

9. Board Development and Training: Chutter said he would like the board to discuss training. Chutter said he thinks it's important for board members participate in training through the Vermont School Boards Association. Doremus said she appreciates guidance on what she needs to learn, and she said occasional group training can be motivating. Chutter said he can recommend training videos and sessions for Doremus. Lyon-Horne also asked for guidance on what training would be valuable. Chutter said he would provide this information to all board members. Kouns said his interest in being on the board was based around a better awareness of curriculum and instruction and volunteering in the community. However, since joining the board, the focus has been on keeping the lights on. He expressed support for the structure in place. Kouns said he would like to focus on fostering community engagement and understanding the dynamic of the board's role in educational aspirations for Folsom School. Maxham agreed with N. Kouns about community involvement and shared his thoughts. Chutter said it's important for a couple of board members to be able to understand and review the financial information so the board can provide that oversight. Chutter also acknowledged that the board needs to be stimulating and engaging for people to want to join. Kouns asked if tutorials could be included at the end of shorter meetings, including a discussion about the topic. He also suggested the community could be invited to a tutorial session. Lyon-Horne said she supports the suggestion for increasing connection with community members.

Closure

10. Setting the next agenda

May 19, 2022

-Approve the minutes for April 14, 2022, and March 17, 2022.

11. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 7:16 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote. J. Lyon-Horne made a motion to adjourn. N. Kouns seconded the motion.