

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 6 p.m.
Location: Google Meet
meet.google.com/jcn-guaz-snh

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, Nathaniel Kouns
- Staff: Susan McKelvie, Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon, Helen Bishop
- Audience: Buddy Meilleur (LCATV)

2. Adjustment of Agenda

- Consider non-union staff salary increase, under Board Business
- Tuition waiver request from Tara Couture
- Recommendation for 3rd-4th one-year teaching position, after Consent Agenda

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

- A. Approve minutes from March 18, 2021. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2021, meeting. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

5. Reports

- A. Financial (R. Gess) (Action): Gess reports there is no change in the financial outlook. He is still expecting the special education reimbursement from Vermont. He anticipates revenue will be higher than anticipated. On the expenditure side, he expects spending will be at or under budget. There will be a correction in the May report on how a boiler expenditure was labeled. It will not affect the budget. They are waiting to hear back from the Agency of Education on its coronavirus reimbursement application that was made in December. Regarding the ESSER fund application that was due on March 23: the application was made on time and it was approved. The principals, superintendent and Gess are working on allocation plans for this recovery funding. He noted that these

funds require the district to follow federal procurement guidelines, and the district is taking time to make sure it is following the grant spending process correctly.

- a. Audit Update: The draft South Hero School District FY20 audit has been received. The auditors require some documents; Gess does not expect the numbers to change. The board discussed the impact of the additional revenue from tuition-paying students and high school tuition billing.
 - b. T. Maxham made a motion that the board received and reviewed the financial report for FY2021 #14365 dated April 8, 2021. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.
- B. Superintendent's (M. Clark). Clark recommended the board hire Courtney Power-Freeman for the 3rd-4th grade one-year teaching position. Clark said he was impressed with the candidate's experience. She will fill a one-year position for a staff member who will be on leave. N. Kouns made a motion to approve the superintendent's recommendation to offer a contract to Courtney Power-Freeman. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote. The superintendent updated the board on the plan for student learning through the end of the year. At Folsom, that will mean middle school students return to learning four days a week, following a similar schedule to the K-4, while preserving the fully remote learning option. The superintendent informed the board that the number of in-person days will be doubled for middle school students, but if there is a case of Covid, the number of close contacts is increased. The superintendent reminded community members to continue to be vigilant about following Covid safety protocols.
- C. Principal's (S. McKelvie): McKelvie shared an update on the recovery plan, Opportunity BluePrint. She told the board that she and the district are early in the process of creating the recovery plan. She noted the state AOE has directed districts to plan for summer programming, which needs to take place immediately, yet those plans need to be part of the Opportunity BluePrint plan, which is not finalized. McKelvie is meeting with community partners and teachers to plan summer programming. She is hoping to extend the learning opportunities into after-school programs next year.

Board Business

6. Approval of Bills for Payment. Vaughan made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #9137 totaling \$204,933.22. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

7. Approve a salary increase for non-union support staff: Chutter recommended the board consider a 3% increase, which is in line with the rest of GISU staff. Kouns made a motion to increase non-union support staff salaries by 3% for the coming year. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

8. Request for a tuition waiver: Tara Couture has requested the board waive tuition for her children to attend Folsom School. The board noted the precedent with this request. Kouns moved that the board approve the request for a tuition waiver for Tara Couture. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

9. Open South Hero School Board Seat (B. Chutter)(Possible Action): The board received three letters of interest for the open seat on the School Board. The following expressed interest: Jennifer Lyon, Nicole Dubuque, and Cara Soper. The board reviewed their letters. Lyon's previous involvement in School Board subcommittees in the Act 46 process was noted. The superintendent said the appointment is good until Town Meeting Day 2022, and then it will be up for election. Vaughan made a motion to appoint Jennifer Lyon to the board until Town Meeting 2022. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote. Clark said he would contact all those who expressed interest. Chutter said he also would reach out to those who applied to encourage them to seek a board seat in the future. The board expressed appreciation for the strong interest in the position.

10. (C28) Transgender & Gender Nonconforming Students (B. Chutter)(Action). Chutter moved that the board accept the (C28) Transgender & Gender Nonconforming Students as presented on its second reading. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

11. (B22) Public Complaints about Personnel & Instructional Materials (B. Chutter)(Action). Chutter moved that the board accept the (B22) Public Complaints about Personnel & Instructional Materials as presented on its second reading. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

12. (A20) Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution (B. Chutter)(Action). Chutter moved that the board adopt the (A20) Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution as presented on its second reading. Maxham seconded the motion. Discussion: Chutter noted that board members should contact the chair or superintendent if they want input into the agenda. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

13. Approve Calendar (B. Chutter)(Action): Clark reviewed the calendar for the 2021-22 school year. He said the state requires the GISU calendar to be in line with the regional calendar common days. Chutter moved that the board adopt the calendar for the 2021-22 school year as printed. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved (Chutter-yes, Maxham-yes, Kouns-yes, Vaughan-abstain)

14. Other
None.

Closure

15. Setting the next agenda

May 20: Robinson Scholarship, GISU Recovery Plan data presentation, policy review

June 17: FY20 Audit presentation

16. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 7:04 p.m. Vaughan made a motion to adjourn. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.