

Grand Isle Supervisory Union  
**South Hero School District**  
School Board Regular Meeting  
**Thursday, June 16, 2022**, at 6 p.m.  
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center  
& via Google Meet: [meet.google.com/cvw-dvzi-tac](https://meet.google.com/cvw-dvzi-tac)

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order & Introductions**

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

Introductions. In attendance:

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

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

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV)

2. Adjustment of Agenda

-Tabling Community Engagement and Board Goals until next meeting

-Adding student matter in Executive Session

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from May 19, 2022. N. Kouns made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2022, meeting. W. Doremus seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

5. Reports

A. Financial (R. Gess) (Action): R. Gess said GISU migrated to the new Chart of Accounts program. The account number structure is being refined. Gess will have an FY23 budget report in August due to this transition. Gess said he thinks FY22 will end with more revenue than budgeted; expenditures will also be over-budget but will have some reimbursement through special education. Gess said the district received a draft audit report from Sullivan and Powers this week. The business office is reviewing the draft report and responding to requests. Chutter asked about the small schools grant and how that impacts budgeted revenue. He asked Gess for an estimate of where the budget will end. Gess said he is not projecting a budget shortfall.

B. Chutter made a motion that the board received and reviewed the financial report 15696 of June 10, 2022. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Superintendent's (M. Clark): Clark referred the board to his written report. He noted the last student day was June 13, and staff are finishing inservice. Clark said he is proud of the staff and the community for the hard work during this interrupted school year. Clark said teachers are heroes in an ordinary year, and this year they are superheroes. Chutter noted the superintendent's report covered several laws that came out of the Vermont Legislature this session, and the board will begin addressing these changes at its next meeting. Doremus thanked the superintendent for his appreciation of staff.
- C. Principal's (S. McKelvie): McKelvie shared that the school opened its doors the week before school ended for an open house and arts show. She heard appreciation from the community. The last day of school was June 13. She said the Legislature has approved offering free lunch to all students next year.

#### Board Business

6. Approval of Bills for Payment. B. Chutter made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #10650 totaling \$69,342.50 and Batch #10651 totaling \$80,564.88. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

7. Data and Summer Programming Reports: S. McKelvie presented data on the 21-22 school year. She started with absence data. In a typical, non-Covid school year, Folsom would expect about 5-10 absences of students a week. During Covid this school year, some students have 30-50 days of absence due to illness or quarantining. The highest weeks of absences were the first week of January when the school had to close due to Covid, and the first week of May after the mask mandate was lifted. She also shared staff absences during the school year with weekly averages. Average student absences this year were 55 a week or 37% of the student body. This is a 450% increase from a normal year. Average staff absences were 16.4 a week or 40% of instructional and support staff or a 456% increase from a normal year.

She noted the school carried on with teaching and learning, as well as sports, theater, musical programs, mentoring, Hay Day, South Hero Land Trust partnership, Arts Night and more to create experiences for students.

The school continued work on its Continuous Improvement Plan 21-22 working toward its goals of academic proficiency, safe and healthy schools and high quality staffing. New literacy programs were piloted, and the school added literacy interventionists who made a difference to support students in and out of the classroom. Dedicated intervention time in the schedule also supported student learning.

McKelvie shared end-of-year data that show growth in reading fluency and math K-2, comparing scores in the phonics, reading fluency and math screening tests from September to May. Kindergarten reported 37% starting the year not identifying letters or letter sounds to 100% identifying those sounds. Grube credited the curricular shift to the Foundations phonics program for part of the success. K-2 teachers will be implementing the next level in this program, Geodes, in 22-23. The math scores did not rise as dramatically due to the sequential nature of math instruction that may reflect absences more directly. McKelvie and Pidgeon credited the interventionists, who were available to Folsom due to Title and Esser funding this year, for making a difference in literacy growth. Kouns asked whether the math interventionist was available at K-8. McKelvie said the interventionist currently is in grades 5-8. The district is planning to implement a new math curriculum, or first instruction. Grube said having multiple approaches for instruction is important. She shared the hiring of a district math instructional coach who will support teachers piloting new programs.

Grube shared early SBAC standardized test data in grades 3-5. She noted that these results are preliminary because not all student results are reported. The early data show grades 3 and 4 made the scale score equivalent of two years of growth. Grades 6-8 made approximately 1 year of growth in scale score. There was significant growth in reaching achievement levels 3 and 4. There was significant growth in the domains of reading and writing across all grade levels. Grube said the Wit & Wisdom curriculum pilot at Folsom is going to be adopted in all district schools. In response to a question, Grube said the district will closely examine data after it is fully released in the fall for how individual students are performing and what the schools need to do for individuals. Math SBAC scores show growth: one grade level had more than 2 years of scale score growth; two grades had more than 1 year of scale score growth. There was an increase in level 4 (high) scores and a decrease in level 1 (low) scores. The data will help the schools determine which skills need to be retaught. Science SBAC is given in grades 5 and 8, and there is no longitudinal data available.

McKelvie concluded her presentation with information on summer programming. GISU pulled together a list of offerings for Islands children to access at GISU schools or off-island. Many camps in the Islands were no cost, and there is also a voucher program to help offset the costs of other camps. Grube and McKelvie thanked Alyssa Dosztan for her work in arranging for all the camp programs. Her position is funded by ESSER grants.

8. Community Engagement Plan - tabled

9. Board Goals - tabled

10. Other

B. Chutter moved that the board go into executive session (pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec. 313) for a student matter at 7:25 p.m. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

The board came out of executive session at 7:27 p.m.

N. Kouns moved that the board approve Bob Chutter to sign an agreement on behalf of the board for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$10,200. W. Doremus seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

**Closure**

11. Setting the next agenda

July 21: community engagement plan, board goals.

12. Adjourn

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