

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 21, 2018, at 6 p.m.
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: Melanie Henderson, Tim Maxham, RJ Sweeney

-Staff: Don Van Nostrand, Matthew Brankman, Julie Pidgeon

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV)

3. Adjustment of Agenda

-Added discussion of 5-8 Team fall camping trip to Business of the Board

-Added discussion of the athletic director to Business of the Board

-Added discussion of a system to pay bills in July to Business of the Board

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Approve minutes from June 7, 2018. The minutes of the June 7, 2018, meeting were approved on a voice vote. T. Maxham made a motion. M. Henderson seconded the motion.

6. Business of the Board (Discussion and Possible Action)

M. Henderson started by thanking Matthew Brankman on behalf of the board for stepping in to serve as interim principal for Folsom this school year. M. Henderson also expressed appreciation for the graduation ceremony on Monday.

A. Discussion of Act 46 State Plan and SU Boundaries

The State Board of Education has chosen a date for a northern hearing on the Act 46 State Plan. The date is July 18 at Newark School in Newark. This is an opportunity for the state Board of Education to hear testimony on the plan.

B. Review and Possible Approval of Increased Summer Custodial Hours

M. Brankman said last year's Memorandum of Understanding was for 80 hours. A total of 129 hours were worked, and it was noted the board later approved the increase in hours. M. Brankman shared that principal Susan McKelvie said the work is necessary. The principals recommend 120 hours.

T. Maxham moved to authorize the expenditure 120 hours' worth of summer custodial hours. RJ Sweeney seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

C. Update on Kindergarten Waiver Request

The board asked M. Brankman to clarify his position opposing a waiver. He said he recommends having a date and doing away with a waiver. He suggested that if the board keep a waiver process, that it consider a proposal that puts the burden on the family to meet certain requirements rather than asking the kindergarten teacher to assess each child whose family requests a waiver for attendance. He suggested a procedure that includes consideration of class size, attending a licensed pre-K, a birthday by a certain date. M. Henderson suggested the board move forward to amend its policy. It was noted that amending Policy F29 Kindergarten Entrance should be added to a future agenda. M. Henderson moved to support the administration's decision and deny the waiver request. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

D. Review and Possible Approval of Draft Tuition Agreement

D. Van Nostrand handed the board a proposal for a non-resident tuition agreement with Grand Isle School District for rising 7th graders. He reviewed the situation in which the Grand Isle Board is looking for options for rising 7th graders who would be in the position of transitioning to a new school in 8th grade. M. Henderson referenced an email from D. Cain about conversation around this issue at the recent Grand Isle School Board meeting. M. Henderson read D. Cain's email, which included the email of Jeff Maling, a Grand Isle resident who is asking about tuition for students beyond the rising 7th graders. Other districts are proposing a tuition discount for 7th graders of 75% or about \$4,000, according to the email M. Henderson read to the board.

M. Henderson asked if Folsom School could offer a different tuition rate to Grand Isle School District than other schools. The superintendent said Folsom could offer what it wanted. M. Henderson indicated the board has discussed setting a price that would cover the materials cost for a student or about \$1,500 and accepting enough students up to 18 in the seventh-grade class. T. Maxham indicated his reluctance for South Hero to get involved in a Grand Isle issue. T. Maxham referenced the fact that the state sets tuition rates in addition to the town having a cost per pupil, and he said he was not in favor of offering a tuition reduction.

J. Pidgeon asked to speak as a member of the public and expressed her view that this issue was not one of reducing transition because these students would be going through additional transition due to the Act 46 vote. She said she supports attracting those students when the Grand Isle middle school is closed, but she does not support undercutting the middle school program at Grand Isle School before it closes. She also referenced the challenge to Folsom staff to transition a group of students in the summer. M. Brankman said he would want the board to consider offering to pay teachers for additional time needed to prepare for such a move. D. Van Nostrand clarified that a reduced tuition agreement would be with the district. J. Pidgeon asked what the process would be to determine how students would be chosen for reduced tuition. D. Van Nostrand clarified that individual families can request admission via tuition to the school. T. Maxham indicated it is Grand Isle's situation to resolve. T. Maxham moved to table discussion. M. Henderson seconded. Approved on a voice vote.

E. Review Topics for Board Retreat (September TBD)

The board discussed brainstorming topics for the retreat and setting the agenda in August. M. Henderson said she would email David Cain to set dates. T. Maxham suggested setting benchmarks to measure the success of students at Folsom and in high school.

F. Athletic Director: M. Brankman said physical education teacher Andrew Riegler would not be fulfilling the position of athletic director next year due to his changing teaching assignment to include the health curriculum. Payment for the position was part of his salary. M. Brankman indicated that a salary needed to be set for the athletic director position. J. Pidgeon shared that the position used to be a stipend held by Kristin Decatur. M. Brankman said he and A. Riegler had done some investigation and learned Grand Isle pays about \$5,000, while Chittenden County towns pay about \$10,000. D. Van Nostrand recommended S. McKelvie be tasked with moving forward on a job description and hiring for the position. M. Henderson and the board supported having administration move forward on hiring an athletic director.

G. J. Pidgeon asked for permission on behalf of the 5-8 team to take an overnight camping trip to Eagle Camp in South Hero on Sept. 11-12, 2018, for team building and community service. RJ Sweeney moved the board approve the 5-8 Team overnight camping trip to Eagle Camp on Sept. 11-12, 2018. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

H. System for paying bills in July: D. Van Nostrand suggested the district drop off bills to the office. Board members can stop by, review them and sign them for payment. The board concurred with this approach.

G. Approval of Bills for Payment.

The bills were approved for payment on a voice vote. T. Maxham made a motion to pay the bills. RJ seconded the motion.

7. Executive Session (if needed pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec. 313)

M. Henderson moved the board go into executive session to discuss an update on a student tuition request, a support staff contract request and a union side letter request. RJ Sweeney seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote. The Board went into executive session at 7:05 p.m. The board came out of executive session at 7:40 p.m.

D. Post Executive Session Action

M. Henderson made a motion to sign the union side letter. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

M. Henderson made a motion to apply the same terms in the union side letter to the non-union Folsom employees. RJ Sweeney seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

8. Future Agenda Items & Next Meeting (Discussion)

The board's next regular meeting is Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018, at 6 p.m. at Folsom School.

9. Adjournment

The board adjourned at 7:44 PM on a voice vote. RJ Sweeney moved the board adjourn. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved.
