

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 6 p.m.
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center
Google Meet: meet.google.com/jcn-guaz-snh
By phone (US) +1 513-666-7379 PIN: 476 044 895#

MINUTES

Call to Order

1. Call to order at 6:02 p.m. (B. Chutter)

Introductions. In attendance:

- Board members: Tim Maxham, Bob Chutter, Jen Lyon-Horne, Nathaniel Kouns. Absent: Bentley Vaughan.
- Staff: Susan McKelvie, Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon
- Audience: Buddy Meilleur (LCATV)

2. Adjustment of Agenda

- B. Chutter added an executive session for a student matter
- B. Chutter added under Board Business a discussion of the resignation of Erin Morse as the school district clerk.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

- A. Approve minutes from June 17, 2021. T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2021, meeting. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously 4-0.

5. Reports

- A. Financial (R. Gess) (Action): R. Gess reviewed the revenue and spending reports. Revenue is \$224,000 more than budgeted primarily due to tuition and an unbudgeted small schools grant. On expenditures, the school district will be slightly over budget due primarily to special education costs and unanticipated staffing needs. Gess projects an approximate \$115,000 surplus for FY21. He plans to add a summary page in future board reports providing a big picture look at the financial information. Finally, Gess updated the board on the food program. The USDA is reviewing the school's application for the food program. B. Chutter asked if Gess anticipated additional expenditures for

FY21. Gess said there will be small bills; tuition bills have already been encumbered. Clark said the GISU business staff has been flagging tuition bills from Rice in a timely manner. Maxham asked questions about specific line items that had not shown expenditures.

T. Maxham made a motion that the board received and reviewed the financial report of July 6, 2021, batch 14625. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously 4-0.

- B. Superintendent's (M. Clark): M. Clark shared highlights from his report, noting it was a more typical July in the supervisory union. T. Maxham offered Clark congratulations on *The Islander* article. Maxham noted the article was incorrect about South Hero being part of CIUUSD, and the superintendent said he had called in the correction.
- C. Principal's (S. McKelvie): McKelvie said the school is busy with summer activities for children and hosting community events. McKelvie has already met with Nick Devita, new director of student services. McKelvie shared the challenges in hiring for paraprofessional positions. She is participating in the literacy curriculum team for GISU next week. She will be adding a behavioral intervention support person to the middle level team as a result of student needs. Chutter asked about kindergarten numbers, currently at 20. McKelvie said she is focusing on increasing the support in the classroom and notes that enrollment can fluctuate in the fall. McKelvie said she plans to confer with the superintendent as well, but she acknowledged any more enrollment may require a different solution. Clark noted the board's policy for class size is an average for K-3 of 20. Chutter asked about 7-8 tuition students, and McKelvie said it's in the 8-10 range. Clark said early August is usually the time schools firm up enrollment numbers. McKelvie also shared what the school needs to consider in addressing students' social-emotional needs and the vaccination status of students. Clark said the supervisory union leadership team will review the Agency of Education recommendations on masking and other Covid protocols when they are provided.

Board Business

6. Approve bills for payment (B. Chutter)(Action) B. Chutter made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #10264 totaling \$364,869.07 for FY22 and Batch #10265 totaling \$37,482.92 for FY21. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously 4-0.

7. C24 - Interscholastic Sports (B. Chutter)(First Reading): Chutter asked if GISU provided training on the policies and procedures. Clark said athletic directors are responsible to communicate this information. Clark shared that CIUUSD proposed changing the language "1. Students should have passing grades in ____ credits in courses taken during the previous marking period" to say "1. Students should be in good academic standing as determined by the principal." McKelvie said the school has a procedure for determining good academic standing. She also said the Vermont Principals Association offers training for coaches. The board asked Clark to make that change.

8. F26 - Security Cameras (B. Chutter)(First Reading): The board reviewed the policy and had no questions.

9. C20 - Student Conduct & Discipline (B. Chutter)(First Reading): The board reviewed the policy. T. Maxham asked for clarification about why the word suspension was not included as a definition in the policy. Clark said the procedure to implement this policy would provide that definition. The board discussed the role of policy v. procedure and the appropriate place for certain definitions.

10. B21 - Professional Development (B. Chutter)(First Reading): The board reviewed the policy. Chutter asked if this was a GISU-level policy. Clark recommended each board approve the policy.

11. Board Retreat planning (B. Chutter) (Discussion): Chutter asked the board to consider dates for a retreat. The board discussed meeting from 1-5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5. Clark shared suggestions for the retreat agenda, including a presentation from the Vermont School Boards Association on responsibilities; a review of Act 173, a new special education law; administrative duties in the GISU; a primer on school budget formation and tax rate calculation; setting board goals. Lyon-Horne and Kouns advocated for time for the board to get acquainted and cultivate unity around board goals. Clark affirmed that the board sets big picture goals for itself for its responsibilities. Chutter said board members can independently watch a video on the roles and responsibilities of board members. Maxham encouraged time when all members can meet in person. The board set the retreat for 1-5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5, at the GISU Office. The agenda will include board goals. Maxham asked for an update on the Opportunity Blueprint Covid spending. Clark and the board discussed reviewing the changes in capital spending in Vermont and the implications of legal changes.

12. Other

Chutter shared that Erin Morse, school and town clerk, has submitted her resignation in writing. The Selectboard has appointed Kim Julow to be the town clerk. The school board needs to appoint a replacement to be school district clerk to serve until Town Meeting Day. Chutter will talk with the Selectboard chair to determine the school district's options.

13. Executive Session (pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec. 313)

B. Chutter made a motion that the board go into executive session to discuss a student matter. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote, 4-0. The board went into executive session at 7:50 p.m.

The board came out of executive session at 8:08 p.m. B. Chutter made a motion to approve the agreement as discussed. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously, 4-0.

Closure

7. Setting the next agenda

-Aug. 5: Board Retreat, 1-5 p.m.: board team-building, board goals, board training

-Aug. 19: Summary of legislation passed, policy approval, board retreat outcomes, replacement for school district clerk.

8. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 8:09 p.m. on a voice vote. T. Maxham made a motion to adjourn, seconded by N. Kouns. Approved unanimously 4-0.