

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 6 p.m.
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

DRAFT MINUTES

Call to Order

1. Call to order at 6:02 p.m.

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: Melanie Henderson, Bentley Vaughan, Bob Chutter, Erin Morse, Tim Maxham

-Staff: Megan Grube, Susan McKelvie, Julie Pidgeon, Michael Clark (joined at 6:45 p.m.)

-Audience: Patrick Maguire (LCATV)

2. Public Comments

None

3. Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from Sept. 5, 2019. B. Chutter made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 5, 2019, meeting. B. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

B. New hire: Pat Condon: S. McKelvie shared P. Condon is a behavioral interventionist who is joining the staff through special education.

C. Resignation: Alicia Poquette, school health aide, has resigned. The board expressed appreciation to Mrs. Poquette for her service to Folsom and wished her the very best. S. McKelvie said she is already advertising for the job and has had several inquiries.

4. Reports

A. Principal's (S. McKelvie): S. McKelvie reviewed the highlights of her report. She included a copy of the updated family handbook for board members and noted it had not been updated for several years. The state requires some of that information be included. She said the handbook is available online through the school website and linked via the school's Facebook page. She met with all teams before the school year started to set up the year's work related to the continuous improvement plan. She also included the school schedule with changes to increase instructional time. Middle school students have more elective choice than ever. She shared that the piloting of digital resources to support math and literacy skill development was successful last year, and the school will continue to use those tools this year K-8.

The school's open house is Monday, Sept. 23, at 6 p.m. The school just received a big pile of woodchips, and there is a community event on Saturday, Sept. 21, to spread the woodchips on the playground. Finally, the soccer season is under way. S. McKelvie also shared that a fire on Sept. 19 damaged the

homes of some of our families. The school has received inquiries about what is needed; S. McKelvie said she would let the community know when she hears news.

B. Chutter asked about whether any tuition-paying students enrolled in Folsom. S. McKelvie said Folsom had two students enrolled who are tuitioned.

Board Business

5. Board goals (M. Grube) (Discussion): M. Grube, director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology for GISU, led the board in a goal-setting process. She reviewed several mission and vision statements from Folsom, the GISU and other school districts. S. McKelvie said she hoped the board would articulate its goals, and how it defines its terms, to ensure the staff is aligned with the board in striving to achieve its goals. The board shared what resonated with members after reviewing M. Grube's documents. T. Maxham noted the music and sports programs show a lot of community engagement. He said past applicants for the Robinson Scholarship have impressive scores and involvement. He discussed the community's involvement in supporting children and the importance of hands-on learning.

Some topics that board members highlighted as important:

- Parental involvement
- Community engagement and collective responsibility for all students.
- Student success beyond Folsom
- Students are an integral part of the community
- Basic skills and foundational knowledge plus practical and experiential learning
- Students develop compassion and integrity
- Maintaining fiscal responsibility
- Students will be self-reliant and confident as adults
- The school is like a three-legged stool: students, staff and community all need to work together, and it's the board's responsibility to ensure that cooperation.
- Support was expressed for the Folsom FIT mission and the role of the school in providing a foundation for students' futures.
- The board needs to show the school is providing value for the money invested
- Students are prepared to make positive changes in the world
- A commitment to student success is a shared responsibility among the board, community and parents
- Students will be central to fiscal decisions
- All students and staff are provided with a safe, high-quality physical environment that promotes 21st century teaching and learning.

The board's next steps will be to take M. Grube's notes from its brainstorm and draft a board mission statement. T. Maxham said he would be interested in the community's feedback. The board will draft a statement at the second October meeting and seek community feedback.

6. Facilities Update: B. Vaughan met with S. McKelvie and Steve Berard, building maintenance. He shared the top priorities:

- Boiler: It would be helpful to have a backup burner in the event the boiler fails. One quote is approximately \$18,000.

- Repaving: estimated \$22,000
- Energy efficiency: add insulation in the attic, pursue an audit with Efficiency Vermont
- Lighting: Replace fluorescent bulbs with LEDs; rebates are available.

S. McKelvie said the board might consider modernizing how the building is heated. She also said the school will have state-required lead testing in the future, and the results of that may dictate building improvements.

7. Community fees for use of the building (S. McKelvie): S. McKelvie notified the board the school will be increasing the hourly rates by \$1 to bring them more in alignment with what the current expense is. She noted non-profits pay half the cost.

8. CIPCC use of Folsom facilities (S. McKelvie): S. McKelvie said her predecessor told her a verbal agreement was made with the Champlain Islands Parent Child Center, and that it would be temporary until CIPCC could expand its space at its site. This is the third year the CIPCC has been in the building. They use it for an after-school program and a summer program. She noted the school does not financially benefit from the building use and that there is no contract. She said there are some problems with the arrangement. One is that the CIPCC's program has different requirements by state law than the school's. For example, their access to bathrooms and their square footage requirements are regulated. She said the school found a space for the program at the time, but the changing needs of the school will require the school to take back the space. She notified the CIPCC director in May that this is the last school year Folsom can house the program and this past summer was the last that Folsom will house the summer program. She said she values having an after-school program and is sympathetic to the needs of the CIPCC. However, she said the school has been bearing the costs for building use for the organization and additionally needs that space back.

B. Chutter asked S. McKelvie to investigate what other schools charge for outside organizations to use the building because the rates appear low. S. McKelvie said they are low, but she wants the community to feel welcome to use the building. There was discussion of charging a cost-reflective fee for outside organizations.

9. Proposal for Principal Board Report Calendar (S. McKelvie): S. McKelvie reviewed her plan to share data with the board. B. Chutter asked questions regarding the timing of the continuous improvement planning process.

10. Approval of Bills for Payment.

B. Vaughan made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #4498 totaling \$48,529.35. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved a voice vote.

11. Other

None.

Closure

12. Setting the next agenda

Oct. 3: financial report, audit update, negotiations, E-911 requirements

Oct. 17: draft board mission statement

13. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 8 PM. B. Chutter made a motion to adjourn. E. Morse seconded the motion.
Approved on a voice vote.
