

Grand Isle Supervisory Union  
**South Hero School District**  
School Board Special Meeting  
**Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020**, at 6 p.m.  
Location: Via Google Meet  
meet.google.com/qie-kcfo-bwt  
phone (US) +1 620-750-2162 PIN: 220 232 005#

## **MINUTES**

### **Call to Order**

1. Call to order at 6:05 p.m. (B. Chutter)

In attendance:

-Board members: Tim Maxham, Bob Chutter, Erin Morse, Nathaniel Kouns

-Staff: Michael Clark, Julie Pidgeon

### Board Business

2. Board Recruitment, community engagement (B. Chutter) (Discussion): B. Chutter asked board members to share ideas about engaging the community. The board discussed providing information on school board participation on the Folsom website and town website. The board can share a link to a video that provides information on the responsibilities of school boards. One seat will be up for election in 2021, and three seats will be open in 2022. B. Chutter said it's important to develop a list of people who may be interested in serving on the board. B. Chutter asked if the board supports publishing information in the Front Porch Forum, *The Islander* and other community resources about open board seats. N. Kouns suggested that the board include in that communication its long-term vision. B. Chutter concurred and noted it should include board responsibilities. T. Maxham said it is difficult for people to participate in board meetings in this virtual format. E. Morse asked to have principal Susan McKelvie publish meeting times on the school website and Facebook page, and to let the community know the board is looking for new members. The board discussed a direct mailing with an estimated cost of \$150-\$200. B. Chutter will put information together.

3. Board Education: Budgeting & Oversight (B. Chutter) (Discussion): B. Chutter encouraged board members to make use of the Vermont School Boards Association webinars on budgeting and other responsibilities (<https://www.vtvsba.org/webinars>). Additionally, the VSBA has a Budget and Financial Oversight presentation on Nov. 5 from 12-1 p.m. B. Chutter reminded the board of its responsibilities related to the financial management of the school district. Board members are encouraged to engage in education about budgeting. B. Chutter asked if board members had questions about the big picture of budgeting. B. Chutter shared a couple of approaches in budgeting. One approach is to direct the superintendent to prepare a budget that is funded at a certain amount. Another approach is to invite the principal and supervisory union staff to present the funding decisions and options in different sections. T. Maxham said the budgeting process has worked in the past. He noted that sometimes one line item will be

overspent due to unforeseen circumstances, and the school will strive to cut in another area. B. Chutter noted the board needs information quarterly on revenues so it can determine whether overspending in one area will be covered in either revenues or reductions in other areas. E. Morse said the budget will be difficult to create this year due to all the unknowns associated with Covid. M. Clark suggested the financial staff pre-record a presentation on how to read the budget. T. Maxham requested a review of the budget line-by-line in person during the budgeting process. M. Clark offered use of the GISU office for board members who wish. The board discussed options for providing access to the budget reports.

4. Further discussion and refinement of board goals (B. Chutter) (Discussion): The board reviewed goals from its retreat meeting on July 30. The board said it was interested in students having Critical Thinking Skills, Applying Knowledge, Emotional Self Awareness, Social Awareness of the Community, Opportunities to Learn and Build Confidence by Doing, Environmental Education, and Social Justice Education. N. Kouns asked how the board should present this vision. M. Clark noted the GISU mission statement and asked the board to consider how it might connect its goals. The board discussed how to present the information. It was noted the board needs to define what it looks like to accomplish this vision. The principal would then be tasked to work toward the vision through specific goals. M. Clark suggested it would be helpful to have principal Susan McKelvie share what currently is happening toward this vision, and he noted that a past practice of staff and students presenting to the board provided helpful information. B. Chutter asked about prioritizing the list. N. Kouns agreed that it would be helpful to have S. McKelvie look over the current list and provide feedback about what is currently happening, what is doable, and what is further into the future. N. Kouns said he would like to see physical health and fitness included. B. Chutter concurred and suggested physical and mental well-being be included. T. Maxham and E. Morse agreed.

T. Maxham said the school will not have the traditional events the community attends, such as musical presentations, due to the pandemic. He expressed how impressive those past events have been, and he said those events have communicated effectively about Folsom to the community. The board encouraged the school to come up with whatever activities students can engage in that are safe. J. Pidgeon suggested the board consider creating a video to show the community what is happening in the school. E. Morse said the VSBA recommends video sharing of school activities with the community. The board requested that M. Clark connect with S. McKelvie about its goals and next steps.

M. Clark recapped action items:

- B. Chutter will draft a statement to the public about board recruitment, community engagement and learning more about serving on the school board.
- M. Clark and R. Gess will work on providing education about reading the budget report.
- M. Clark will explore a video project on the schools during Covid
- M. Clark will connect with S. McKelvie to share what the school is currently doing related to its goals.

**Closure**

## 5. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 7:21 PM on a voice vote. N. Kouns made the motion to adjourn, and T. Maxham seconded the motion.