

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District

School Board Regular Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, at 6 p.m.

Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

& via Google Meet

MINUTES

Call to Order

1. Call to order at 6:16 p.m. (B. Chutter)

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: Tim Maxham, Bob Chutter, Jen Lyon-Horne,. Absent: Bentley Vaughan,

Nathaniel Kouns

-Staff: Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV)

2. Adjustment of Agenda

None.

3. Public Comments

B. Chutter said the Board received a letter from Julie Pidgeon and other Folsom staff members regarding health care negotiations taking place at the state level.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from Sept. 16, 2021, Sept. 27, 2021 and Oct. 7, 2021.

- a. T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 16, 2021, meeting. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote unanimously.
- b. T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 27, 2021, meeting as corrected to change the spelling of Chutter. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote unanimously.
- c. T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of the Oct. 7, 2021, meeting as corrected to include missing text on the school mission. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote unanimously.

5. Reports

A. Financial (R. Gess) (Action). Gess updated the board on progress and challenges with payroll accounting. He reported that the food service system is changing to use a new program. He has shared the FY23 budget template with principal Susan McKelvie. Gess said he reviewed the tuitioned student enrollment to provide an accurate projection. He

aims to have a draft budget for the November meeting. He noted he will not have the information that comes from the state that influences the tax rate. He is concerned about the equalized pupil count due to Covid and the common level of appraisal data because of the real estate market. Chutter asked if the number of tuition students was down. Gess confirmed that 3 students who were tuitioned moved, which reduced tuition. He projects a reduction of \$10,000 in tuition revenue. T. Maxham made a motion that the board received and reviewed the financial report 14994 of Oct. 14, 2021. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved.

- B. Superintendent's (M. Clark): Clark reported he is making progress in having staff sign the Covid safety pledge. A new OSHA rule that employers with more than 100 employees must require mandatory vaccination or weekly testing means the State of Vermont must write rules on how it will comply. Schools are waiting to see what rules the state produces. Folsom is still conducting weekly surveillance testing. A new form of Covid testing allowed the school to conduct a drive-through testing on Day 7 of a quarantine last week. Clark is involved in helping with collection. He shared other means of testing the district will use. Clark said implementing the antigen "test to stay" approach is challenging. This approach would allow students who were close contacts to a positive Covid case and not vaccinated to take a test each day, and if the test were negative, they would be allowed to attend school. Clark said the state is still not set-up to manage the test results. He is trying to figure out how the schools will manage this program. He also reported that the FDA is considering authorizing the Pfizer Covid vaccination for children ages 5-11 at the end of October. Clark has contacted the state about setting up a vaccination clinic in the Islands if a vaccine is approved for children.

T. Maxham asked if the state had changed its position on children being out of school from Covid resulting in school days not counting. Clark reported that so far, GISU schools have not lost any school days due to Covid quarantining.

Chutter agreed with Clark that the district's focus should not be the test-to-stay program until the state is ready. Chutter also said he is concerned about the equity of families that do not have transportation to get to school for a test-to-stay program. Clark concurred, but he also noted that if children are vaccinated when they are eligible, then they will not need to miss school. J. Lyon-Horne agreed that providing vaccination opportunities for children is a good focus for GISU.

Clark expressed thanks for Dr. Rob Althoff for his presentation to the community about stress management. He also thanked GISU staff for working on payroll; GISU is still short a payroll clerk. He shared that GISU has a number of open positions that it has not been able to fill. He encourages the community to check the job listings and apply.

- C. Principal's (S. McKelvie): The board reviewed S. McKelvie's written report.

Board Business

6. Approval of Bills for Payment. B. Chutter made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #10410 totaling \$59,871.91. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote unanimously. R. Gess left the meeting.

7. Summary of October 7 meeting (B. Chutter): Chutter reported that at its special meeting on Oct. 7, the Board decided to create a list of goals and review how they fit with its mission statement.

8. F23 - Capitalization of Assets (B. Chutter). T. Maxham moved that the board accept the (F23) Capitalization of Assets as presented on its second reading. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

9. A23 - Community Engagement & Vision (B. Chutter). T. Maxham moved that the board accept the (A23) Community Engagement & Vision as presented on its second reading. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

10. C21 - Search & Seizure of Students by School Personnel (B. Chutter). T. Maxham moved that the board accept the (C21) Search & Seizure of Students by School Personnel as presented on its second reading. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

11. C27 - Student Self Expression & Distribution of Literature (B. Chutter). T. Maxham moved that the board accept the (C27) Student Self Expression & Distribution of Literature as presented on its second reading. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

12. F1 - Travel Reimbursement (update) (B. Chutter). T. Maxham moved that the board accept the (F1) Travel Reimbursement as presented on its second reading. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

13. Budget Timeline (M. Clark). Clark shared a timeline with the board. A draft will be presented in November and revisions will be discussed and made in December. In January, the board will be finalizing the budget in time to warn it for Town Meeting. Clark noted that fall is the time for community members to communicate their thoughts for the budget. Chutter asked the Board if there were topics they would like more information about regarding the budget. Clark offered to help orient new board members to the budget. Chutter mentioned a VSBA budget training workshop. T. Maxham confirmed that the budget would be built based on a teacher contract that will be negotiated this school year. Maxham also asked if the school is projected to increase its student population. He said he has heard concern expressed about space for a growing student population. Additionally, Maxham noted that student social and emotional needs require different staff and space. Maxham also said the Board needs to consider the age of the facility as it looks forward to the future.

Closure

14. Setting the next agenda

- A) Nov. 4, 6 p.m. Special Meeting to continue work on Board goals.
- B) Nov. 18, 6 p.m. Regular Meeting
 - Review draft of FY23 budget and engage the public in sharing its thoughts

15. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 7:17 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote. T. Maxham made a motion to adjourn. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion