

Grand Isle Supervisory Union  
**South Hero School District**  
School Board Regular Meeting  
Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 6 p.m.  
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

**Agenda**

**Call to Order**

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| 1. Call to Order (M. Henderson)        | 6:00 p.m. |
| 2. Adjust the Agenda                   | 6:01 p.m. |
| 3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard   | 6:05 p.m. |
| 4. Consent Agenda (Action)             | 6:15 p.m. |
| a. Approve the minutes from 11/07/2019 |           |
| 5. Reports                             |           |

**Board Business.**

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| 6. FY21 Budget (R. Gess)(Discussion)                                     | 6:25 p.m. |
| 7. Review of board's draft mission statement (M. Henderson)(Discussion)  | 6:45 p.m. |
| 8. December meeting schedule (M. Henderson)(Discussion, possible Action) | 6:55 p.m. |
| 9. Parent Child Center Communicate re: Space (M. Clark) (Discussion)     | 7:00 p.m. |
| 10. Other  |           |

**Closure**

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|---|-----------|
| 11. Setting the next agenda (M. Henderson) (Discussion) | 7:10 p.m. |
| 12. Adjourn   | 7:15 p.m. |

Note: Executive Session: If discussion warrants and the Board so votes, some items may be discussed in Executive Session pursuant to VSA 1 §313(a)

*Discussion Items - Issues the Board needs to discuss and deliberate, but upon which no action is taken at this meeting.*

*Action Items - Issues that require the Board to make a decision by vote, may have been discussed over several meetings prior to this point.*

*Consent Items - Routine matters that need no discussion by the Board, but require Board approval. They are grouped together as a single agenda item. Background materials are provided in the Board packet to be reviewed ahead of the meeting. If there are no concerns, they are approved with a single vote. Any member can request the Board remove an item to be discussed and voted on separately. This frees up time at meetings.*

*Information Items [Incidental Information] - Matters the Board needs to know about, but for which no Board action is needed. The information flow is one way, from presenter to the Board. Questions for clarification are entertained as time allows.*

Grand Isle Supervisory Union  
**South Hero School District**  
School Board Regular Meeting  
**Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019**, at 6 p.m.  
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

1. Call to order at 6 p.m.

Introductions. In attendance:

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

-Staff: Susan McKelvie, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV), Regan Henry, Chris Morse

2. Adjustment of Agenda

M. Henderson added correspondence to the board to Other.

3. Public Comments

-Regan Henry said she wants to learn about curriculum changes and is concerned about the after-school program.

-Chris Morse said he is concerned about curriculum changes and wants an update on their implementation status.

T. Maxham shared about the Maltais memorial service and expressed sympathy.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from Oct. 17, 2019.

T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of the Oct. 17, 2019, meeting. E. Morse seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

5. Reports

A. Financial (R. Gess): R. Gess shared that the budget is running over in instructional salary and special education expenses. He anticipates the budget will be over approximately \$103,000. He said the district has not received high school tuition billing, which could change the budget-to-actuals. He noted there is a surplus from FY2018 that might mitigate the situation.

S. McKelvie asked if the FY18 surplus was part of the town's decision to set aside a surplus into a fund for building improvement. R. Gess said that was the FY19 budget.

R. Gess said he should have the FY21 budget in 2 weeks.

B. Chutter asked about the completion of the FY18 audit. R. Gess said they are still working on resolving questions.

R. Gess said statewide health negotiations continue.

M. Henderson asked for clarification on the special education paraeducator costs. R. Gess said paraeducators are fully reimbursed by the state, so although the expenditures are over budget, the state will reimburse the district for those costs.

T. Maxham asked for clarification about transportation assessments. R. Gess said he bills the towns for transportation twice a year to make it easier for payment.

T. Maxham moved the board received and reviewed the budget-to-actual report of Oct. 31, 2019. B. Chutter seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

B. Superintendent's (M. Clark): M. Clark was attending the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust (VSBIT) meeting and not present.

C. Principal's (S. McKelvie): S. McKelvie reviewed her written report. She highlighted a Career Pathways night at Folsom for middle and high school students who may be interested in a trade school. The Career Pathways night will take place Nov. 13 from 6-8 p.m. at Folsom. Dave Mills, GISU parent liaison, has invited several representatives of trade schools and technical colleges to present.

S. McKelvie also shared about the exceptional Hay Day program art teacher Jamie Bedard put together. She noted it is a favorite day for Folsom students, and Ms. Bedard and the parent volunteers offered an array of engaging programs. She updated the board on Arts Integration, and said Karlie Kauffeld, music teacher, is already integrating the elementary play into the 3-4 classrooms.

S. McKelvie invited the parents to share their concerns and questions:

R. Henry asked for an update on what is happening with arts integration. S. McKelvie suggested she ask her child's teacher and the art and music teachers, who have that information. She said she has offered support for planning. She said she has asked them to think about this year as an opportunity for learning and being creative in trying ideas.

C. Morse said he had the impression that arts would be integrated started at the beginning of the school year. S. McKelvie said her vision was not that it be top-down, but she anticipates in future years the teachers will structure more places for arts integration into the curriculum based on their explorations this year.

C. Morse also said he felt kindergarten parents were not included in the communication plans. He would like more consistent communication. He does not like the Facebook page for communication. He would like a forum for parents to provide critique. He says the curriculum change for kindergartners was short-sighted. He expressed his view that there is too much time in formal study for kindergartners this year. He expressed interest in integrated study for kindergarten. S. McKelvie said she did not think the views of the kindergarten program are accurate and that Mrs. Couture is not teaching by rote. She said she believes in the talent of the staff and their ability to do their work.

She said the suggestion to communicate information to the pre-K parents is a great idea, and she thanked C. Morse for that suggestion. She said she has spoken with the parent liaison about holding

regular parent forums. There was one last year about screen time that was poorly attended. S. McKelvie acknowledged that parents have many different views about what the educational program should look like.

C. Morse said he thinks the communication from the school could be improved on an individual class level.

M. Henderson shared that the kindergarten blog when her kids were that age showed the variety of learning activities.

R. Henry said she is happy to get a sheet at home if technology is not working. She is interested in learning more.

S. McKelvie offered to meet with the parents about their concerns.

S. McKelvie continued with her report: She reviewed enrollment data. From 2012-2019, enrollment has increased 17%. The kindergarten trend is up. The school has 128 students in the building and 5 students in K-8 in alternative settings. B. Chutter suggested using the town birth report to track potential numbers. S. McKelvie noted there has been more movement in and out of the town over the summer. E. Morse asked about Grand Isle students. S. McKelvie said she is working with Grand Isle School about presenting Folsom as a 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade option. The free-and-reduced lunch level is 27%, which has been steady in recent years. Special education is 20% at Folsom; it is a range of needs. She noted a concern about ensuring the foundational skills and supports are in place to help the students who have learning needs. She also reviewed progress on the 2019-20 Continuous Improvement Plan.

M. Henderson asked about identifying resources for a school-based clinician. S. McKelvie said she has met with NCSS to explore a contractual agreement. She said it would be a few students who need the services, and she is working on the foundational pieces to support having that in place next year.

B. Chutter asked for an accounting of the number of days for instructional time vs. field trip and other activities. S. McKelvie noted the staff had done that, and she would find that information.

S. McKelvie encourage board members to attend the Career Pathways night, and T. Maxham noted the importance of providing exposure to students about the trades.

#### Board Business

##### 6. Approval of Bills for Payment.

B. Vaughan made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #5556 totaling \$42,106.46. B. Chutter seconded the motion. Approved a voice vote.

B. Vaughan made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #4534 totaling \$85,726.21. B. Chutter seconded the motion. Approved a voice vote.

##### 7. Other

M. Henderson said she received a letter from the Parent Child Center requesting a quasi-judicial hearing regarding a concern.

M. Henderson read Policy D10 re: Public Complaints About Personnel. It was noted that the policy requires the complaint to go to the superintendent. She said she will forward the complaint to the superintendent. M. Henderson said she will respond to the Parent Child Center that the board will not supersede its process.

E. Morse asked S. McKelvie about the decision regarding the Parent Child Center's use of Folsom School. S. McKelvie said the school needs the space back, and she has offered information and support. M. Henderson said she spoke with superintendent Michael Clark, and he did not indicate that he was done talking with the Parent Child Center.

M. Henderson clarified the issue also relates to Code H3: Community Use of School Facilities.

**Closure**

**8. Setting the next agenda**

Nov. 21, 2019

-Review of board's draft mission statement

-FY21 budget

**9. Adjourn**

B. Vaughan made a motion to adjourn. B. Chutter seconded the motion. The board voted by voice to adjourn at 7:25 PM.

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Dear Grand Isle Supervisory Union School Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Champlain Islands Parent Child Center-3, which is a licensed after school program run out of the E7 classroom in the Folsom Education and Community Center. Our program provides a vital service to the families at the school allowing for safe, supervised, developmentally appropriate after school care for up to 19 students per day. Over the last several months, we have been in negotiations with the principal at Folsom, Susan McKelvie, to find a solution which will allow us to continue running the program from a classroom at Folsom. The principal has made it clear that she no longer wants to host the after school program at Folsom. The program currently serves 15-20% of her students. We have asked Superintendent Michael Clark to advocate for our program, but he too has argued that there is no space for the afterschool program. We are reaching out to the board to make you aware, request your support and ask to be added to the next school board agenda to discuss.

Susan McKelvie notified CIPCC that the classroom where afterschool resides would no longer be available after June 2020 due to her renovation plans. The classroom we utilize will be turned into a closet for curriculum storage and a sensory classroom for student de-escalation. The classroom is already used in this capacity during the day and CIPCC happily shares the space for this purpose. The only option Ms McKelvie and Mr Clark are willing to entertain is for CIPCC to purchase a modular unit to be placed in the parking lot to host our program. CIPCC's Board of Directors did not feel this was a reasonable request, especially since the bulk of our program hours the school is not operating.

Our partnership with Folsom began in the Spring of 2017 after years of collaboration with the former Folsom principal. CIPCC sought this partnership because the need in the South Hero community had outgrown the capacity of our Farmhouse building. Our enrollment fluctuates from 13 - 18 children daily, our maximum enrollment being 19 children.

CIPCC-3 is a 5 STAR rated after school program, which is the highest ranking available in Vermont. It is one of the few after-school programs in Vermont that holds this ranking. We offer a sliding scale for families who struggle to find room in their budget for tuition. We provide the food program to all enrolled children (breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack), free of charge. Our program runs year round, Monday-Friday with hours fluctuating based on the needs of the community. During the school year our program operates from 3-5:30 Monday- Friday. During school vacation and summer camp weeks our hours change to 7:30 - 5:30 pm. We strive to keep out tuition costs as low as possible for families while providing a high quality program. We are one of three after school programs that serve Grand Isle County and the only one in South Hero.

Through this partnership we are instilling the importance of community in our students. We have looked into other rental properties within South Hero, but the rent associated with these locations greatly exceed tuition revenue created by this program. The rental options do not have the outdoor space required for the program.

CIPCC is willing to pay rent to Folsom to balance the increased utility usage our program creates. All other supplies are provided by CIPCC. We are reaching out in hopes you will be willing to add us to your next School Board meeting agenda and weigh in on this important issue. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Katie Brown

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**Katie Brown**  
**Executive Director**

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