

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022, at 6 p.m.
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center
Google Meet (meet.google.com/fye-uidh-hrn)

MINUTES

Call to Order

1. Call to order at 6:06 p.m. (B. Chutter)

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: Tim Maxham, Bentley Vaughan, Bob Chutter, Jen Lyon-Horne, Nathaniel Kouns

-Staff: Susan McKelvie, Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon

-Audience: Buddy Meilleur (LCATV)

Board Business

2. FY23 Budget: Board members reviewed the FY 2023 proposed budget. B. Chutter asked R. Gess if he had budgeted a margin for high school tuition or if the budgeted numbers reflected the actual numbers. Gess said the budget reflected the data the district had on actual students, and he noted the residency verification process has led to more accurate data for budget projections.

S. McKelvie proposed moving the Art teacher to full time and adding a theater director, comparable to an athletic director, to manage two musical plays per year. She and Gess found about \$40,000 in reductions to cover the cost of about \$20,000.

The board discussed funding for a 0.5 cleaning position. The school has not been able to fill the position and has been using a substitute for it. Gess said there are areas in the budget that could fund cleaning if a candidate is found.

Chutter asked about the increase in instructional salaries. Gess explained that 2 individuals at a cost of about \$37,000 are covered through federal grants; the district will be reimbursed for that expense. B. Vaughan, N. Kouns, J. Lyon-Horne and T. Maxham said they are comfortable with the budget as revised. Chutter said he is comfortable with the budget, and he appreciated Gess answering his questions.

Chutter said he wanted to note that some expenses in the budget were removed (such as technology) because ESSER grants were funding it. He encouraged the district to be mindful of

the fact that those expenses will return in the future. Gess said he and Dave Brisson, director of technology, plan to develop a technology refresh lease program.

3. Act 173 Update: M. Clark shared information on how Act 173, a special education law, might impact the budget in terms of revenue. Act 173 shifts special education funding to a census-block reimbursement. Instead of schools' billing for specific expenditures and receiving approximately 50% in reimbursement, Act 173 will give the GISU a block grant to cover special education costs based on a census. Clark shared that after doing research, he discovered that the state based its census block grant estimate on Supervisory Union costs, and it did not include the individual district costs. The estimate did not pick up the cost of local education paraprofessionals who are located, budgeted and reimbursed through individual district budgets. Clark said he emailed the state about the missing revenue in the state's estimates, and the state is looking into it. As a result, Clark believes the state's census block estimate is short on revenue.

Clark reviewed the FY23 budget numbers in light of Act 173: Depending upon whether the state defers or implements Act 173 and adjusts the estimate of the Act 173 block grant, the budget's revenue projection may change. The board reviewed two scenarios for revenue based on Act 173, and discussed the impact on local spending and the tax rate. Clark also noted that the excess spending threshold of \$18,789 may be revised. The common level of appraisal (CLA) changed to 88.32%; last year's CLA was 97.28%. The board discussed that the CLA is likely to remain the same for a few years as it is a three-year rolling average. Chutter and Clark discussed how the yield (how much money is raised from \$1 of the homestead tax rate) was adjusted at the state level and offset the CLA. The superintendent said he thinks the state will need to adjust the revenue estimate to capture local expenditures that it missed in its Act 173 census estimate. Chutter noted that the small schools grant helped keep the tax rate down. The board discussed the revenue issues at length. Clark said the board can adjust spending based on the most recent revenue data.

B. Chutter moved that the board adopt a budget of \$4,273,851 for FY 2023. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

4. Approve Warning (B. Chutter)(Action)

The board decided to wait until its next meeting to approve the warning. Chutter moved the board table consideration of the warning on the budget until the Jan. 20 meeting. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Closure

5. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 7:20 PM. T. Maxham made a motion to adjourn. J. Lyon-Horne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.