

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 7th-8th 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.
