

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 3, 2019, at 6 p.m.
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

DRAFT MINUTES

Call to Order

1. Call to order at 6:05 p.m.

Introductions. In attendance:

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

-Staff: Susan McKelvie, Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon, Alison Perry, Tom Nolan

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV), Shelomith Smart, Schuyler Valin, Nathan Kouns

2. Adjustment of Agenda

- Added voting for VSBIT (Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust Inc) and VEHI (Vermont Education Health Initiative)

-Student presentation moved to before the financial reporting

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from Sept. 19, 2019.

T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 19, 2019, meeting. B. Chutter seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

5. Student Presentation on 5-8 Camping Trip: Folsom Students Schuyler Valin and Shelomith Smart shared about the 5-8 Camping Trip to Eagle Camp in South Hero. It included a hike in Niquette Bay State Park, team-building activities with Moretti from Rise VT, a talent show, and community service in South Hero. Students cleaned up the community garden, cleared trails at Round Pond and the Water Wigglers Trail and gleaned at Pomykala Farm. The board expressed thanks to Moretti for his activities and to the Perry family for sharing Eagle Camp.

6. Reports

A. Financial (R. Gess) (Action): R. Gess reviewed the financial report for Sept. 30, 2019. M. Henderson asked for clarification about a Board of Education expense. B. Chutter asked about the instructional salary increase. R. Gess said it was a combination of a new contract and a retirement incentive. B. Chutter asked about the increase in special education. It is due to increased need. R. Gess said a percentage of that cost will be reimbursed to the school. The staff is training on how to use new Frontline software for hiring substitute teachers as well as payroll, time and attendance. The substitute hiring part of the software will be rolled out on schedule. The second part of the software implementation, for payroll, time and attendance, will be delayed until after budgeting and the audit are completed. FY19 budgeting is beginning. R. Gess has started the GISU budget. R. Gess shared some frustration in state accounting requirements for the free and reduced lunch program.

T. Maxham made a motion to state the board received and reviewed the budget report for Sept. 30, 2019. E. Morse seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

B. Superintendent's (M. Clark): M. Clark said he will miss the Oct. 17 meeting to participate in a three-day class for the Snelling Education Leadership Program. He shared the budget timeline for the district. He noted the Vermont School Boards Association regional business meeting is Oct. 23. South Hero is in the Chittenden/Grand Isle VSBA. M. Clark said he anticipates the regions for VSBA will be redrawn to equalize student population representation.

Board Business

7. Approval of Bills for Payment.

B. Vaughan made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #4518 totaling \$112,902.95. B. Chutter seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

B. Vaughan made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #4517 totaling \$14,248.96. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

8. Audit update (R. Gess) (Discussion): GISU has received the first draft of the FY18 audit for South Hero. Gess has already flagged some questions for Sullivan and Powers, the auditors. He anticipates a \$47,000 budget surplus from FY18. Sullivan and Powers has committed to completing the FY19 audit for South Hero by mid-February. M. Clark said he hopes to have the FY18 audit for the board to review in November.

9. E911 requirements (M. Clark) (Discussion): South Hero is not E911 compliant. To be compliant means you must be able to call 911 directly from any place in the building. In addition, 911 needs to be able to tell where in the building the call was made. The phone system at Folsom School is not capable of identifying the room the phone call is coming from. There are two possible solutions: to switch to a voice-over internet system, or to put in a new phone system. The GISU is exploring both options. Dave Brisson, technology director, will make a recommendation, and the board can go with his recommendation or another route. M. Clark said he prefers that all GISU schools move in the same direction so the IT department can maintain the system. Folsom is potentially eligible for a dollar to dollar match up to \$20,000 for this transition. M. Clark said he does not think the voice-over internet system would cost that much. He said Jan. 10 is the deadline for E911 compliance. However, the district has to submit a plan by Oct. 10; M. Clark plans to ask the state for a waiver to provide more time to research the best option for the districts in GISU.

10. Negotiations (M. Clark) (Discussion): M. Clark said the teachers' association has sent a letter expressing interest in negotiating this year, and the supervisory union also wants to engage in negotiations. M. Clark said all bargaining units will be negotiating contracts this year. M. Clark noted David Cain had been the GISU lead negotiator for the past few contracts, but he is no longer available. He said the boards need to decide how they want to negotiate, whether board members themselves want to do that work or whether they want to consider hiring a legal counsel like Chris Leopold or Pietro Lynn. M. Henderson and B. Vaughan shared discussion at the GISU level that it could be helpful to hire a professional negotiator. T. Maxham asked for clarification on which groups had contracts. M. Clark said the teachers' contract covers all teachers in the GISU. The support staff in Alburgh have an association, and the support staff in the CIUUSD have a separate association. The support staff in South Hero operate under board policy and do not have an individual contract governed by a master agreement.

The board discussed how the move to statewide health insurance will impact the negotiations. The health year plan runs from January 1 to December 31. The first half of the first year of the new contracts will have the district's negotiated version of health insurance, and then it will switch to the statewide health insurance that is being negotiated. M. Clark said he does not think there will be much negotiation around health insurance. He also predicts there will not be much language negotiation as that was a focus of the previous negotiation. He anticipates the primary issues will be salary and terms.

M. Henderson asked how the board would communicate its views with the negotiator. M. Clark said that communication would come through the GISU Board. He clarified that South Hero would only be involved in the teacher contract negotiation. E. Morse said she supports hiring an attorney.

M. Clark said at this point the board needs to decide on a structure for negotiations.

11. VSBIT/VEHI Proxy: The South Hero Board can send a representative to the annual meetings of the VSBIT and the VEHI or assign its proxy votes to superintendent Clark or another. VSBIT handles liability insurance. VEHI provides health and dental insurance. B. Chutter moved the board designated Michael Clark to be a proxy for the VSBIT annual meeting. B. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved. B. Chutter moved the board designated Michael Clark to be a proxy for the VEHI annual meeting. B. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved.

11. Other

E. Morse asked for an update on arts integration at K-2 at the next meeting on Oct. 17. M. Clark said neither he nor the director of curriculum, instruction and technology Megan Grube can attend. The board discussed whether it would be helpful to delay that update until M. Clark and M. Grube could attend, and S. McKelvie said she would like to invite the music and arts teachers to report on what they're working on and potentially attend the meeting. The board decided to delay this until November.

M. Henderson encouraged the community to attend the pasta dinner on Oct. 12 from 4-7 p.m. at Folsom School.

Closure

12. Setting the next agenda

Oct. 17: Board vision discussion. Administration will not be available for this meeting.

Nov. 7: Arts integration presentation. S. McKelvie principal report. Financial reports.

13. Adjourn

B. Chutter moved the board adjourn, and B. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved. The board adjourned at 7:15 PM.

