

Grand Isle Supervisory Union  
**South Hero School District**  
School Board Regular Meeting  
**Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019**, at 6 p.m.  
Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

## MINUTES

### Call to Order

1. Call to order at 6:06 p.m.

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: David Cain, Tim Maxham, Bentley Vaughan, Bob Chutter, Melanie Henderson

-Staff: Susan McKelvie, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon, David Mills, Christine Vaughn, Helen Bishop,

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV), Kari Banas, Maia Skutel Jensen, Isolde Frank, Kaight Althoff, Wendy Horne, Christel Nase, Liese Reagan, Andre Bertmann

2. Adjustment of Agenda

-D. Cain added succession plan to the agenda

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from Jan. 3, 2019. T. Maxham requested the minutes of Jan. 3, 2019, be amended on page 2 to change the word "published" to "posted" in the sentence "M. Clark said the warning for Town Meeting must be posted between Jan. 24-Feb. 3." T. Maxham then made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. B. Chutter seconded the motion. The minutes of the Jan. 3, 2019, meeting were approved as corrected on a voice vote.

5. Reports

A. Principal's (S. McKelvie). S. McKelvie asked the board to consider the conflict between the Feb. 21 *Wizard of Oz* K-4 production and a regularly scheduled board meeting. Due to other conflicts, Ms. Kauffeld was not able to reschedule the play. The board indicated it was flexible on rescheduling its meeting. The board will reschedule its second February meeting to Wednesday, Feb. 20, from Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019, to avoid the conflict with the K-4 play. S. McKelvie received feedback on her report to the town from T. Maxham.

### Board Business

6. Approval of Bills for Payment. B. Vaughan moved the board pay bills in Batch 4201 in the amount \$15,038.93. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

7. Approve FY20 Budget (D. Cain) (Action). R. Gess reported on issues with the state's data that generate the equalized pupil report. R. Gess credited M. Henderson's research with helping bring to the state's attention discrepancies in the state AOE's Average Daily Membership (ADM) count for South Hero. The AOE was only showing 44 high school students from South Hero, while GISU has a count of 66 for South Hero. The state has provided a methodology to calculate the equalized pupil number if a town believes the state's data are in error. R. Gess recalculated the state's number and is confident South Hero's estimated equalized pupil number will be 214.69, with last year being 216.73. The school is looking at \$16,400 spending per equalized pupil. That is a 0.05 percent increase.

D. Cain noted South Hero is spending the same and has about the same equalized pupils, which means the tax rate should go down. It was noted, though, that it would likely be flat because the CLA (common level of appraisal) went down. M. Henderson said she researched that number. In 2014, the houses that sold were sold for less than what they were listed at. That fact brought the 3-year running ratio down. This year, those 2014 numbers are gone and replaced by 2017 numbers, and the 2017 houses sold for more than listed price. As a result, the common level of appraisal was adjusted to reflect the fact that the appraised value is less than the market value.

#### 8. Approve 2019 Annual Meeting Warning

R. Gess distributed the warning. B. Chutter asked if the board needed to revisit the announced tuition rate that was set at the last board meeting. R. Gess said no, that figure is not connected to the equalized pupil data.

R. Gess said the tax rate will be \$1.5782, which is a 0.6 cent reduction or 0.4 percent reduction in the tax rate.

T. Maxham clarified the board is considering whether to approve spending \$3,857,229 for education.

T. Maxham moved the board approve a budget to expend \$3,857,229 for the expenses of the South Hero School District for FY20. B. Vaughan seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

D. Cain reviewed the board's consideration to ask the town to create a reserve fund for unexpended dollars for the purpose of building maintenance.

T. Maxham moved the board approve the official warning as proposed. B. Chutter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The board reviewed D. Cain's draft of a letter to the town about the budget and R. Gess suggested one change.

#### 9. Instructional Time (S. McKelvie) (Discussion)

S. McKelvie presented a detailed overview of the federal, state and supervisory union regulations and policies that affect the schedule. She shared the process the staff is going through this year to review the schedule and ensure Folsom is meeting all requirements for content and minutes.

K. Banas asked if changes in Act 46 and the state's approval of South Hero as an independent district would impact the rules for instructional minutes. S. McKelvie said that it would not. K. Banas said she was concerned about the arts and the loss of French and chorus and arts instructional minutes this year. S. McKelvie said the middle school schedule has different constraints. She said she received feedback

that students would like choice, and she would like to move forward with building in choice into the schedule. She said she is interested in embedding the arts into the core classes.

M. Henderson asked who is on the Data Team that will be looking at data and forming a schedule. S. McKelvie shared the team is in addition to herself, also Shannon Jankowski, special education; Tom Nolan, 5-8 social studies; Kathy Buermann, paraprofessional; Dani Holm, fourth-grade teacher; Conny Thoma, librarian.

The board asked for a timeline for a schedule. S. McKelvie said there would be a workable schedule by the end of the school year. She said the group hopes to have a draft by April vacation.

L. Reagan asked if the specials teachers would still have enough work for full-time positions. S. McKelvie said yes. There was an expression of support for the arts. S. McKelvie said she thinks the requirements for science instruction may change in the future to reflect the greater emphasis on that subject. It was clarified that the words embedding and interdisciplinary are used interchangeably.

10. Succession Planning: D. Cain announced his family will be moving out of South Hero at the end of the school year. He asked the board for feedback on whether he should resign his seat before Town Meeting. D. Cain said he would continue to help, including with Town Meeting and teacher contract negotiations. T. Maxham suggested D. Cain remain on the board until he moves, and the board then appoint someone to fill his position. D. Cain said he is OK with that decision.

**Closure**

11. Setting the next agenda

-Feb. 7 (Thursday): Town Meeting preparation. M. Henderson asked that students attend and present information at Town Meeting. She requested S. McKelvie share SBAC data as well.

-Feb. 20 (Wednesday)

12. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 7:58 PM on a voice vote. B. Chutter moved the board adjourn. D. Cain seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

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