

South Hero School Board

Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

Thursday, April 5, 2018, 6 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

Call to order at 6:01 p.m.

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: David Cain, Melanie Henderson, Tim Maxham, RJ Sweeney, Bentley Vaughan

-Staff: Matthew Brankman, Don Van Nostrand, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV)

Adjustment of Agenda

The board added under Business of the Board a discussion of the issuing of teachers' contracts.

The board added an Executive Session.

Privilege of the Floor

None.

Consent Agenda (Action)

A. Approve minutes from March 15, 2018. The minutes of the March 15, 2018, meeting were approved on a voice vote. T. Maxham made a motion to approve the minutes; RJ Sweeney seconded the motion.

Superintendent Don Van Nostrand's Report

The superintendent pointed out that Rebecca Holcombe has stepped down as Vermont Secretary of Education. Heather Bouchey has been appointed to serve as the Interim Education Secretary. T. Maxham asked about the impact of this leadership change on South Hero's Act 46 petition. D. Van Nostrand has received a memo from the acting secretary that no deadlines will be delayed.

The superintendent noted that a change in meeting schedule delayed approval of the conflict of interest policy. T. Maxham commented that the policy relates to procurement and suggested the policy be expanded to cover personal conflicts of interest.

Principal Matthew Brankman's Report

M. Brankman expressed his enthusiasm for the staff and kids at Folsom. He also shared that as an advocate of project-based learning, he thinks Folsom is poised to take off with that. He shared that principal Susan McKelvie has communicated she is working on a schedule for next year and talking with staff.

M. Henderson asked about SBAC preparation. J. Pidgeon shared that classroom teachers are preparing students. Mrs. Thoma is the point person.

Business of the Board (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Budget to Actuals: R. Gess said high school tuition is fully encumbered. He said there is flexibility in the budget; increases are offset by reductions in tuition and health insurance. He said revenues are in line. He projects the town will be under-budget on expenditures. The audit is in process. D. Cain said the board should still be conservative because it ran a deficit last year. R. Gess strongly encouraged the board to follow this course until after the audit is completed. T. Maxham asked if an audit report would be available at the May meeting. R. Gess said yes. The board discussed balance sheet reconciliation. R. Gess said he plans to do that but he needs a starting point and is looking for one from the audit. R. Gess said this audit will address past issues of reconciliation.

B. Review of the Board's Long-Term Goals: **The board asked D. Van Nostrand to organize an update and activity to revisit the board's goals at the May 17 meeting.**

M. Henderson reported that the brochure for future tuition students is at the printer. She would like an **updated website** that is easier for potential families to access if exploring Folsom. D. Van Nostrand said Dave Brisson can work on that in the next week or two. M. Henderson will send pictures from the brochure to D. Brisson for that new site.

RJ Sweeney asked about the review of policies, and D. Van Nostrand indicated that he will continue to bring policies forward for review.

C. Authorization of Reimbursement of SU Expenses

D. Cain said South Hero has a need for contracted special education services. The GISU will pay for those expenses as long as the board authorizes payment for those services. It is hoped there will be some partial federal reimbursement for this expense.

M. Henderson moved South Hero repay the towns of the GISU any additional assessment value they may incur in their special education budgets as a result of South Hero contracting with external special education services. B. Vaughan seconded. Approved on a voice vote. RJ Sweeney abstained.

D. Issuing of Teacher Contracts: The superintendent asked that the board authorize a person or persons to sign teacher contracts. **T. Maxham moved the superintendent be authorized to issue teacher contracts and to appoint M. Henderson to sign the contracts for the board. D. Cain seconded. Approved on a voice vote.**

E. Future Meetings: D. Cain asked the board if it needed a second meeting in April. T. Maxham said he thinks there needs to be more discussion about how changes at the Agency of Education will impact South Hero's proposal to remain a standalone district and possible changes at the supervisory union level. D. Van Nostrand said the board had discussed previously whether it wanted to provide a statement to the AOE about the possibility of supervisory union restructuring and whether South Hero wanted to take a position on the topic. He also mentioned the possibility of discussion at the GISU Board level. RJ Sweeney said he was unable to make a recommendation without more information. T. Maxham said the board should inform itself before the June 1 deadline for the AOE recommendation to the State Board of Education. M. Henderson said it's possible for the board to research other Supervisory Unions. RJ Sweeney suggested the board wait until June 1 to hear the recommendation. The board discussed possible outcomes and directions. T. Maxham also suggested meeting with the district's legislative

representatives about the topic. **The board suggested the representatives be invited to visit with the GISU Board and added a follow-up discussion to the May 3 agenda.**

M. Henderson asked about staff contracts. D. Van Nostrand said they would be available for the board at the first meeting in May.

The board concurred it would cancel its April meeting. It will next meet May 3. J. Pidgeon informed the board she cannot attend, and she will see if a substitute can be found to take minutes.

F. Approval of Bills for Payment.

The bills were approved for payment on a voice vote. B. Vaughan made a motion to approve the bills; RJ Sweeney seconded the motion.

Executive Session (if needed pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec. 313)

D. Cain moved the board go into Executive Session to discuss a contract matter and a staff matter; T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote. The board went into Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. with Superintendent D. Van Nostrand joining the board. The board came out of executive session at 7:28 p.m.

D. Cain moved to instruct the superintendent to pay Sue McNayr for additional duties she performed this year of 11 hours at time-and-a-half of the equivalent of her hourly rate. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved on a voice vote.

Future Agenda Items & Next Meeting (Discussion)

-Follow up discussion of changes at Agency of Education and invitation of legislative representatives to the GISU Board

-Review Board's long-term goals at May 17 meeting

Adjournment

B. Vaughan moved to adjourn. D. Cain seconded the motion. The board adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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