

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District

School Board Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 21, 2022, at 6 p.m.

Location: Folsom Education & Community Center
and Google Meet: meet.google.com/cvw-dvzi-tac

MINUTES

Call to Order & Introductions

1. Call to order at 6:00 p.m. (B. Chutter)

Introductions. In attendance:

-Board members: Bob Chutter, Whitney Doremus, Jen Lyon-Horne, Tim Maxham, Nathaniel Kouns

-Staff: Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Julie Pidgeon, Matt Brouillette

-Audience: Jim Jones (LCATV)

2. Adjustment of Agenda

-B. Chutter added an executive session regarding a legal matter

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Consent Agenda (Action)

- A. Approve minutes from June 16, 2022. N. Kouns made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2022, meeting. B. Chutter seconded the motion. The board tabled consideration of the minutes at 6:06 p.m. The board resumed consideration of the minutes at 6:20 p.m. The board voted on the motion, and it passed on a voice vote, 3-0. B. Chutter-yes; N. Kouns-yes, W. Doremus-yes, T. Maxham-abstain; J. Lyon-Horne-abstain.

5. Reports

- A. Financial (R. Gess) (Action): Gess shared the wrap-up of FY22 and said the district has begun FY23 ordering. The business office is providing training for administrators on the new chart of accounts program and school lunch accounting changes per the federal government. Gess also shared highlights of the draft FY21 audit. Revenue exceeded expenditures in FY21. The auditors found no issues in financial accounting procedures, and Chutter expressed appreciation to Gess and staff for that clean audit result. They do have some recommendations for changes in policy to respond to federal guidelines. B. Chutter asked about encumbrances for FY22, and Gess said the district is holding onto

the encumbrances until the arrival of late bills. Chutter also asked about a surplus in FY21 that was noted in the audit results. Gess said the higher-than-expected revenue was due to the small schools grant and late-arriving special education reimbursement. Gess anticipates a surplus in FY22. Chutter noted the small schools grant has returned to the budget and there will no longer be a surplus. T. Maxham made a motion that the board received and reviewed the financial report 15866 of July 13, 2022. N. Kouns seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Superintendent's (M. Clark): The superintendent reviewed his report. The GISU is moving to a new web host, which should be more user-friendly and ADA compliant. It will include a mobile App. PCB testing in GISU has started in Alburgh. South Hero is scheduled for the fall of 2023. Summer programming is going well. He plans to share data on participation at the GISU Board meeting in August. Maxham asked about open positions. Clark said Folsom is in good shape but has an open guidance position. Susan McKelvie, principal, has a plan to cover that position and will start the year with a licensed guidance counselor. There is also one open paraprofessional position. Maxham asked for an update on school safety. Clark has scheduled the leadership team for training with Sheriff Allen. Maxham expressed concern about managing airflow in the buildings vs. closing doors and windows for safety. Clark said keeping students safe is key, and the meeting with Sheriff Allen will help administrators determine the safest approach for students. Chutter asked about a presentation on the safety plan. Clark said the administration can share the plan in August, but he noted it may be necessary to withhold some details for safety.

Board Business

6. Approval of Bills for Payment. B. Chutter made a motion to pay the bills in Batch #10715 from FY22 totaling \$18,757.20, and Batch #10716 from FY23 totaling \$387,649.59. N. Kouns seconded the motion. T. Maxham asked if the larger bill (which is the GISU assessment) is the full assessment. Gess said it is half the assessment. Approved unanimously on a voice vote. Gess left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

7. Introduction of District Facilities Director (M. Clark). Matt Brouillette, GISU Facilities Director, joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Clark introduced Brouillette to the board. He had been the CIUUSD Facilities Manager. Brouillette introduced himself and said he is reaching out to GISU Boards to learn about the priorities for the buildings. Chutter shared that the capital reserve fund has a five-year window, and the board would like a priority list for spending that money. Chutter also said he hopes Steve Berard will be included in evaluating the building and prioritizing spending. Brouillette said he is looking forward to supporting Berard. Maxham said he thinks the position is important in terms of paperwork and regulations, but he hopes Brouillette will work in partnership with Berard, and Brouillette said he respects Berard's experience. Kouns said he is interested to hear Brouillette's and Berard's priorities. Brouillette said he has walked around Folsom, and Berard has done an excellent job keeping up the building. Chutter noted he would like to hear if there are recommendations for securing the building, as well as how climate

change is impacting learning in the building. Brouillette said he is working with Efficiency Vermont related to HVAC improvements. Brouillette left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

8. Board Goals & Community Engagement: Chutter suggested the board focus on engagement with the community. Kouns said it's important to share recommendations from the sheriff with the community to make sure everyone knows what is possible. As the school starts to welcome back families with the reduction in pandemic restrictions, Kouns said he hopes the school can benefit from a strong relationship with the community, keeping children safe without keeping them locked down. Kouns suggested waiting for safety guidance before making plans for community interaction. J. Lyon-Horne wondered about the ability for the community to use the facility after hours. Clark said he thought the school would have a building use similar to pre-pandemic. The board tabled its discussion to enter executive session. The board resumed its discussion of community engagement after the executive session. T. Maxham suggested the sign in front of the building be updated weekly, and he wondered if this might be an eighth-grade responsibility. He also would like to see the school submit information on school activities to *The Islander*. He thinks it would be beneficial for the community to receive the principal's weekly updates. N. Kouns noted that an active website will serve the school well, and keeping it relevant and updated would be good. Clark clarified the focus of the discussion is how the board engages with the community. J. Pidgeon shared school plans to participate in the town survey this fall in response to J. Lyon-Horne's suggestion the school participate in the Recreation Committee survey. Chutter reiterated that community members who do not have children need to know what is going on in the school. J. Lyon-Horne suggested students be involved in sharing updates in *The Islander*. Kouns suggested the school reach out to the community to let them know how to use the facility so it can be a center for learning. Clark summarized that the board would like to develop plans to communicate about the school with the community; for example, related to the budget process. Maxham suggested communicating about how the federal ESSER money has been spent so the community is prepared to decide whether to continue funding new positions or programs in the future. Kouns suggested the board write an update on the school for *The Islander* monthly.

9. Executive Session (pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec. 313): At 7:03 p.m. B. Chutter made a motion that the board go into executive session to discuss a legal matter. T. Maxham seconded the motion. Approved unanimously on a voice vote. The board went into executive session at 7:03 p.m. The board came out of executive session at 8:00 p.m. with no action taken.

Closure

10. Setting the next agenda for Aug. 18

-School safety plan

-Update on community engagement (building use) - Kouns & Chutter

12. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote. T. Maxham made a motion to adjourn. N. Kouns seconded the motion.

