

**South Hero School District
School Board Meeting**

Thursday, September 12th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/roy-xoxp-dsf>

Or dial: (US) +1 361-271-4292 PIN: 517 608 322#

1. Call to Order and Introductions:

Board Members: Whitney Doremus, Kaight Althoff, Rich Monterosso, Bob Chutter, Tim Maxham

Administration: Julie Pidgeon, Lisa Ruud, Megan DeVinny

Minutes Prepared by: Rebecca Wisenburn

2. Adjustments to the Agenda: CD renewal

3. Citizens and Staff to be Heard: None

4. Board Reorganization: W.Doremus has decided to step down as the chair of the board. She will remain on the school board as one of the members.

Motion:

B. Chutter nominated R.Monterosso to assume the role of board chair. Seconded by T. Maxham.

B. Chutter made a motion that R. Monterosso receive the appointment to the role of board chair. Seconded by K. Althoff. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion, amongst the voting board members. (R. Monterosso abstained from voting)

R. Monterosso is stepping down as board clerk. W. Doremus made a motion to nominate K. Althoff as the new board clerk. Seconded by B. Chutter. The school board voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

5. Consent Agenda: Minutes approval from August 8th. Adjustments need to be made in the explanation of the maintenance plan and parking lot update section of the August minutes.

Motion:

With the adjustments made T. Maxham made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 8/8/24. Seconded by W. Doremus. The school board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

6. Reports:

Principal's Report- It has been a great start to the school year! Staff members and students are excited.

PBIS- Positive Behavioral Intervention Systems are being utilized by the teaching staff to help remind the kids of the classroom expectations as they transition from summer vacation to the start of the school year.

Folsom has also put in place the Folsom High 5. These 5 qualities; being kind, safe, speaking up, doing your part, and honoring the staff are being taught to the students on a daily basis.

The open house at Folsom was a success. There was a nice turnout from the community.

Folsom is currently on track with the safety protocols and drills that need to be completed.

One of the Folsom teachers, Mr. Nolan, was honored as an exemplary teacher by the supervisory union this year. Congratulations to Mr. Nolan for this achievement.

The current student count that was provided to the school board is believed to be accurate. There were some last minute enrollments right before the start of the school year. Folsom has small second and sixth grade classes. They entered as a small group and stayed a small group. Kindergarten is large but they are doing excellent. Having more students in the building is a positive thing.

7. Financial Report:

The packet of board materials contains FY 24 data. Due to illness and staffing it has been a struggle to get the FY25 budget into the system.

Currently the FY24 data is showing a 183,000 surplus. These numbers have not been audited yet so the data can still change, but the projections look positive. In FY23 there was a deficit over 160,000. Once this was brought to the school administration's attention, administrators worked hard to limit spending for the remainder of the school year. Folsom budgeted for 62 tuition students this year;

currently the district has 61 tuition students. Due to the tuition rates not being announced until February, the estimate that was included in the budget was underestimated. The district does have a one student buffer in the budget which may help to offset the tuition rates.

Announced tuition stays where it is. Once it is announced it does not change, even if it was announced before the budget for that school district is passed. The first round of tuition bills usually is paid in the beginning of November. There is now a residency verification, and a tuition voucher that helps the district track where students are being sent for school. This will help the school district account for tuition and plan accordingly.

If there is a surplus, the school board has to make an official motion as to where the surplus funds will be transferred to. The school board can decide to put it in the general fund, move it to capital reserve or use it to offset the FY23 deficit.

8. Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent gave a review of the Truancy report included in the meeting agenda. This report is a live document that will be updated from month to month. Truancy accounts for unexcused absences, whereas chronic absence is all absences. In the state of Vermont a student is considered chronically absent if they have missed 10% or more of the school year. The goal of this report is to help the district to keep an active message in the community about the importance of regular school attendance.

Folsom, compared to other schools, has excellent attendance numbers. Examining the South Hero procedures may help the district as a whole to improve and increase their attendance numbers. This report does not include the tuition students. The district is hoping to receive attendance data from the schools that have Folsom tuition students; however, the district can only request the data. It is up to the other schools if they want to send it.

Attendance Works is an organization that creates infographics informing the readers of the importance of regular school attendance. The site is linked in the report so all can explore it. These infographics can be ordered and printed to post in the school offices and other key locations for community members to view.

The superintendent would also like to streamline communication through the correct channels. A document is being created to help school board members know who to contact and where to direct community members when certain questions are asked. This will be a laminated FAQ sheet that board members can refer back to with the contact information of the district or school employee who can assist with the matter.

Board business

- 9. Bills to Approve for Payment-** With the recent illness in the business office the bills are not ready for approval but will be ready for board approval in October.

10. Building Use Forms Approval

An updated digitized form has been created to replace the old building use forms for Folsom. This document is a draft for the school board to review, discuss, and approve. The school board is ultimately responsible for the building, and what they would like to see put in place for the security of the building. The principal highlighted different sections added to the draft and why the school board may choose to keep these elements or continue researching and discussing what is essential for the safety of the community members using the building and building security.

Various questions were raised during the discussion for further review and research by the school board members.

Motion:

T. Maxham made a motion for B. Chutter and R. Monterosso to continue research for the building use forms. Seconded by W. Doremus. The motion was unanimously approved.

11. Payment of Postage for South Hero Bill Payment

A question was raised by the town office regarding the payment of postage for checks being mailed to vendors that support the education at Folsom. Options were presented to the school board by the business manager as to how this matter could be corrected. The school board decided that it would be best for the checks to continue to be mailed from the town clerk's office due to a second authorized signer being present in those offices. The town office can then invoice the school district for the expense of the postage.

12. CD update

TD bank has reached out because the South Hero CD has reached maturity. There are terms for CD renewals that the school board is being made aware of for consideration. This CD is for the Robinson scholarship. The business manager does not currently have a recommendation and is agreeable with what the board decides.

Motion:

B. Chutter made a motion to renew the scholarship CD at a 6 month term, and to transfer any remaining money over \$1,000 from the account into the CD.

Seconded by T. Maxham. This motion was unanimously approved by the school board.

13. Setting of the Next Agenda

Building maintenance priority list

Food services; more information to prepare for budgeting

R. Monterosso will not be at the next meeting, B. Chutter will chair the next meeting.

Motion:

T. Maxham made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by K. Althoff. The school board voted unanimously to end the meeting at 7:53 pm.