

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
South Hero School District

School Board Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 6 p.m.

Location: Folsom Education & Community Center

Google Meet (meet.google.com/cvw-dvzi-tac)

1. Call to Order & Introductions

W. Doremus called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

In attendance:

Board Members: W. Doremus, B. Chutter, R. Monterosso, K. Althoff
(T. Maxham absent)

Administration: Michael Clark, Susan McKelvie, Megan DeVinny, Megan Grube, Julie Pidgeon

Audience: Mary Beth Klinger-Lawrence, Meaghan Foster, Cody Fiala, Jen Lyon-Horne, Sue McNyr, Sam Cantell, Dan Foster

Minutes prepared by: Rebecca Wisenburn

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Agenda item added to discuss the pay rates, and FY24 closing discussion.

3. Citizens and Staff to be Heard

None

4. Consent Agenda

Motion:

A Motion was made by R. Monterosso to approve the minutes from 5/9/24 with the necessary adjustments. The motion was seconded by W. Doremus. The school board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Resignation: A resignation was submitted by a paraprofessional Colleen Burton. She will not be returning to Folsom for the 2024-2025 school year. The superintendent has taken care of the resignation and expressed appreciation for her work while employed at Folsom.

5. Reports

A. Financial

Based on current projections there should be a 2% surplus in expenses. The business manager expressed her appreciation for everyone working hard and doing their best to close out the FY 24. It has been a smooth close of the fiscal year.

Folsom did have a deficit in FY 23, The expenditures were not over spent but the deficit was found in the revenue budgeted. There was less tuition revenue that was budgeted, also ACT 173 was implemented which also caused a deficit in the revenue budget.

The business manager has talked to the auditors about coming in July to present the FY 23 audit, but is still waiting for confirmation from them.

When a deficit or surplus is discussed it is regarding the general fund; certain items such as funds allocated for food service and grants are not added into the general fund as was previously thought. Over the past year the business office has learned that those funds remain separate from the general fund. This is why in the past it seemed as if there would be a larger surplus, than there currently is.

Motion:

B.Chutter made a motion that the board has received and reviewed the financial report for 6/13/24. Seconded by K. Althoff. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

B. Superintendent's Report

A lot of good things have happened over the past years! It has been a great 6 years working here with the Folsom school board. B. Cutter offered commendation to the superintendent for leaving the Folsom district and the GISU in a much better position than when he first assumed the role.

C. Principal's Report

The written report stands as is. The principal thanked the school board for attending the middle school graduation ceremony. Commendation was given to the middle school team for all their efforts on the ceremony, it was a wonderful event. The school board also expressed their thanks to the principal for leaving the school in a better position than it was when she arrived and assumed the role. The superintendent commented on the leadership the principal offered to the staff of Folsom and the growth of the school.

Board Business

6. Approval of Bills for Payment

Motion:

W. Doremus made a motion to approve payment of batch #11467 for the amount of \$74,975.03. Seconded by R. Monterosso. The school board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

7. Cash Flow Update

The next batch of bills will be the last batch of bills for FY 24.

The GISU business office has a financial plan for the end of the year for cash flow for each of the local school districts. South Hero will be good for cash flow, and there will also be the tax

anticipation note that a small amount of cash can be pulled from if needed. It acts as a safety net.

8. Tax Anticipation Note

It is in a school district's best interest to have a tax anticipation notice as a line of credit. Due to the tax dates being spread throughout the year; and a tax incentive being available for having the tax bill paid before the end of September, this allows the district to have the funds available and ready even though they are not actively collecting revenue through the summer months. The business manager researched 4 different banks to see where they could receive the best line of credit offer. It has come down to Community Bank and M&T Bank. Community Bank has offered a \$450,000 line of credit. With an interest rate of 5.47%. M&T Bank offered a higher line of credit but all that is needed is the \$450,000 so that is what was requested. If the district draws from it they would be offered the best interest rate available at that time. If funds were drawn in different months with different interest rates then the district would have varying interest rates to pay. Currently M&T bank has a better interest rate, but Community bank is a fixed rate.

Motion:

B. Chutter made a motion to take out a Tax Anticipation Notice for the amount of \$450,000 from Community Bank and authorize M. DeVinny to sign on behalf of the school board for this line of credit. Seconded by R. Monterosso. The vote was unanimous amongst the school board.

There is a current outstanding line of credit with Community Bank for FY24. The district did not draw on the money from the bank so the line of credit can be closed at any time. The Business manager has asked the school board to pass a motion on a time frame to close that line of credit so it can be finished with the bank.

Motion:

B. Chutter made a motion to authorize the business manager (M. DeVinny) to close the current line of credit with Community Bank for FY24 by the end of June. Seconded by K. Althoff. The school board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

9. I- Ready Data Review

The I-ready data has shown the school improvements made in the last school year, that meets the goals the school and the GISU has set out to achieve. The state testing was moved up significantly this year so state testing was administered in April and the I-ready assessment was given in May. Folsom scored at 71% for reading which was the closest any school came to the 75% goal. Compared to the beginning of the school year the growth was huge! Breaking down the results by grade level in the spring Kindergarten tested at 100% proficiency compared to where they were in the fall, an excellent result to celebrate. 100% of 5th grade achieved their growth goal. 79% of students who at the beginning of the school year tested 3 or more grade levels below their current grade level have met their growth goal. 5 out of 9 grade levels had 73% or more of students improve their baseline placement.

Focus areas for FY25

- Decrease achievement gaps
- Intervention- teaming across grades with common strategies
- Data Review
- Learning- Professional learning on vocabulary and morphology
- Curriculum- Cross grade collaboration on pacing and progression of skills.

The math data is also very impressive. As a school, students started the year with 22% testing 2 or more grade levels below and finishing the year with 6% testing 2 or more grade levels below.

5 out of 9 classes met or exceeded 75% proficiency. 5 out of 9 grade levels had 73% of students improve their baseline placement. Students with IEP made faster and more impressive growth. The data also matches what teachers see with students in the classroom.

Not meeting the growth goal does not mean a student is a low student. Some students at the top of their class don't meet their growth goal because they are starting off at a higher level. Involving students in the analysis of their data has helped the kids to be self reflective about what works best with their education.

The next steps are to continue following the Continuous Improvement Plan. This summer we will be working on an intervention plan to start the first 6 weeks of school with a goal by using the spring testing data.

Pictures of kindergarten student's work were shown to see the amount of growth the students have made in one year with their writing skills.

10. Support Staff Contracts

Last year the principal brought up the need to increase the pay of the support staff. The pay was increased to \$18.00 per hour. Other districts in the union have increased their pay and this has made the contracts at Folsom less competitive.

Motion:

B. Chutter made a motion to increase the support staff contracts by 0.2% increase to be adjusted once the teacher contracts are finalized. Seconded by R. Monterosso. The school board voted unanimously on the motion.

11. Budget Revote

Thanks goes out to the community for all their hard work getting the public interested and getting the school budget passed.

12. Parent Request

A discussion was held between members of the school board and the audience about continuing the discussion about this matter or postponing the discussion to a later date due to an absent board member and the transition of a new superintendent. After a discussion about what is the best course of action for the school board, policy, and the family involved, a motion was made.

Motion:

B. Chutter made a motion to reject the request. The intent is that it be resolved in one of two ways: modify policy or include this benefit in teacher contracts. Seconded by R. Monterosso. The vote was unanimous amongst the school board members.

13. Side Letter

Due to negotiations not yet being completed there is a payroll gap. This letter will eliminate the 4-6 week gap that teachers do not get paid. If the payroll dates are changed to the 13th and 28th of each month those dates are in each month and this would provide consistent pay to all employees throughout the year. A letter and new payroll schedule will be sent out to the staff on Tuesday.

Motion:

B. Chutter made a motion that South Hero approves the Side Letter Agreement and indicated to the GISU board that they approve this agreement at their next meeting. The school board authorizes W. Doremus to sign on behalf of the school board. Seconded by W. Doremus. The vote amongst the school board members was unanimous.

15. Other Board Business

Members of the school board discussed building a calendar for different board business throughout the year to keep track of all the matters that need to be discussed. If this is a resource the school board asks for then it is achievable. School board members would like to be able to look ahead and see what is coming up timeline-wise to build a calendar.

16. Next Agenda

Calendar timeline

Discussion on creating policy for staff bringing their children as students to Folsom.

Executive Session for the Safety Plan for the year.

Potential review of the FY23 audit.

Board Retreat schedule for August

Building Report review and setting goals for improvements.

16. Adjourn

Motion:

B. Chutter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by R. Monterosso. The school board voted unanimously to end the meeting.