

Draft

North Hero School Board  
Meeting... Wednesday, November 04, 2009  
at North Hero School 6:30 P.M.

In Attendance: School Board: Shelly St. Hilaire, Seth Chastenay  
and Jennifer Gariety a 7:05 P.M.  
Superintendent: Richard Taylor  
Principal: Joey Bennink  
Secretary: Jo-Ann Tier  
Signed .. guest list: Katie Lynch. Bridget Campbell  
Andrew Julow, Adam Trevits, Corinn Julow  
Chris Shaw  
Note: folks who came to the meeting and did not sign the  
guest list: B. Wilcox a. 6:40 D. Caneco a. 6:41  
M. Ward a 7:15

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Shelly St. Hilaire at 6:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Shelly St. Hilaire

Adjustment of Agenda

- Beth Hemingway .... Building use possibility
- Under Approval of Minutes: Approval of minutes for September 30, 2009

Beth Hemingway... building usage

Beth reviewed the possibility for the space at North Hero School being used for Special Education Program... Alternative Education.  
=savings to the individual schools could be transportation.  
=revenue coming back to North Hero  
=the governance of our own program  
=less money... keeping the program at home.  
=northern schools could also tuition if the space was available

Using the NH facility for a Pre – K was also referenced.

Questions by the Board.... Asking Beth to look into Special Education

1. Numbers if our students did go to South Hero?
2. Would additional staff would be needed?
- 3 . If yes, what would that cost be?
4. What reimbursement from the State could be expected?

Question asked... if this type of a program did exist... would it be a 30% pay back to the State... what examples will not cause a 30% payback.  
Board asked that this be checked in to.

The Board thanked Beth for coming to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of July 29, 2009, August 13 and 20, 2009, September 2, 8 and 21, 2009 and October 7, 14 and 19, 2009

Seth Chastenay made a motion that the following minutes be approved as read with Shelly St. Hilaire seconding the motion.. no further discussion took place... motion carried:

July 29, 2009  
August 13 and 20, 2009  
September 2, 8, 21, 2009  
October 7, 14, and 19 2009

Minutes of September 30, 2009

Seth Chastenay made a motion that the minutes of September 29, 2009 be accepted as read.. this motion was seconded by Shelly St. Hilaire.. hearing no further discussion.. this motion was carried 2-0.

Mr. Chastenay shared that he did the October 05<sup>th</sup> meeting notes and he has them at his home... Tabled for approval at the next Board Meeting.

Comments & Questions From the Public Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

No comments, at this time, from those in attendance

Superintendent's Report

Colchester High School Invitation

Dick shared that the Colchester School District has offered to become the GISD's designated school for high school students.

Larry Waters, Superintendent of the Colchester School District did visit with the Grand Isle Board.

Discussion.

Note: Dick Taylor will send a letter to the Colchester School Board stating that

the Board will re-visit this conversation after the budget season.

## Principal's Report

### Visit by Tom Messner

Joey reported that he was here from about 1.5 hours. Kids loved it. The evening he was here - he referenced his visit on TV to North Hero School.

### After School Schedule

Starting the week of November 9<sup>th</sup> the new schedule will be:

- Monday.. Jewelry making with Ms. Irish
- Tuesday.. Art class with Mrs. Chastenay
- Wednesday - Karate with Mr. Rousseau
- Thursday - Keyboard with Mrs. Little 5/6 only
- Thursday - A running club with Coach Resteghini
- Friday... Mr. Valenta.. "What makes it tick? Or Does a Machine really have a brain?"

### NECAP Review

We did 1 test a day rather than the 2 a day.  
Results should be received late January and/or early February

## Board Discussion

### H1N1 Update

Originally in November children were to receive the shots. The date was moved to December due to the shortage of the vaccine.

Isle LaMote has closed their school for a few days due to 50% of the children being out and with the staff also being affected.

Who can get the shot was received by Superintendent Taylor.  
Dick reported that student absenteeism was high at the beginning of the week in the county schools, however, it appears to be settling down.

### Consolidation Work

The Community Potluck Breakfast was discussed..

- Shelly did get names of the voters from NH Town Clerk
- Board agreed to randomly phone voters to attend
- Board will meet at 7:30 a.m. to prepare
- Posters will be put up for comments and/or questions by those in attendance
- Soccer for Saturday morning (in the gym) has been canceled

## Board Action

### Approval of bills for payment

Discussion...

Numbers did not seem to line up.. Difference of \$493.48 between the payable and voucher...

Dick stated he would have Karen reconcile the paper work.

Further investigation revealed that the placement for 8 items caused the original questioning...

Board asked Dick to explain the pre-school billing payment which Mr. Taylor did.

Warrant totaling in amount of \$32,802.76 was signed for payment by Shelly St. Hilaire, Jennifer Gariety and Seth Chastenay.

## Other Board Business

At this point of the meeting, Adam Trevits, presented the following list of questions that came about at the recent North Hero Community Meeting at the Pubic Library about the consolidation issue...

- What are the opinions of parents in South Hero about this consolidation issue?
- What is our goal? It is not clear what we are looking for out of this arrangement beyond financial? What are our educational goals?
- Why are we considering a second bus for North Hero students? We eliminated one bus to save money and now we are looking at reinstating a second bus in order to send our kids out of town?
- If we consolidate will the state review our current 7 and 8 designation and perhaps “force” us to bring our 7 and 8 students back if we combine with South Hero? Is it possible that we will end up splitting up grades in this arrangement?
- What will happen to our real estate values if the school closes? What will happen to our community? Why would families come to our town if there is no school?
- If we close the school, why is choice not available for K-6? Why wouldn't we consider this instead of designation and/or consolidation?
- If we go into a union and give up a significant amount of voting control, how do we prevent the South Hero school from designating a high school and then taking away the choice that our students currently have in choosing a high school?
- Do we need more time, it seems like there are many unanswered questions?

At this time in the meeting the following was questioned and/or suggested:

- What is South Hero offering?
- What is the feeling of the South Hero community about this?
- The importance of the Board putting information out to the public
- Cost of the Essex bus.. other children don't have the opportunity of transportation to high school.
- Meeting times .. not everyone can make it to a Wednesday night meeting..
- Meeting another time may be helpful to some people.
- A list of resources for the people... Ans.. this will be given to people on Saturday

- The invitation from the Grand Isle School Board to Alburgh School Board, Isle LaMotte School Board, North Hero School Board and South Hero School Board meeting on Thursday, October 29, 2009 at Grand Isle School was discussed.. The Board was asked why were they not in attendance? Ans. because of the involvement with South Hero they want to work through Phase one with them before getting involved .. Phase one shortly to come to an end with a decision about starting phase 2 after the Community Potluck Breakfast ..etc.....  
Dick Taylor shared that this invitation was extended for the boards to discuss a Consolidation Study Committee...  
Board shared that the vote could go to the voters in North Hero in January – if they felt.. questions that needed to be answered could be answered.  
Dick Taylor shared the state legislature passing recently Act 44, which allow school boards in districts without a high school (such as our community) to adopt or designate – a particular high school. The intent of the legislation is that school boards will better be able to predict and control their tuition costs.  
The legislation still allows for school choice, however, parents who choose a more expensive high school would have to pay the different between the tuition of the designated school and that of their chosen school.  
The permanent decision regarding school designation would be a vote of the community by a public ballot vote.  
Various high school tuition rates in the area were shared by Dick.

### Executive Session

Jennifer Gariety made a motion at 8:36 P.M. for the Board to recess this meeting and to go into Executive Session due to a Student Matter. This motion was seconded by Seth Chasteney... hearing no further discussion this motion was carried 3-0.

Seth Chastenay made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:05 P.M. and to recess the North Hero School Board Meeting with no action to be taken. This motion was seconded by Jennifer Gariety.. hearing no further discussion.. this motion was carried 3-0.

### Adjournment

Jennifer Gariety made a motion to adjourn the meeting.. this motion seconded by Seth Chastenay.. hearing no further discussion.. this motion was carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo-Ann Tier

Note: Next School Board Meeting is at North Hero School Wednesday, November 18, 2009 starting at 6:00 P.M.  
This is a joint meeting - North Hero/South Hero.