

Draft

**North Hero School Board
Meeting Thursday March 19, 2009
at North Hero School .. 6:30 P.M.**

**In Attendance: School Board: Shelly St. Hilaire, Seth Chastenay and
Jennifer Gariety
Administration: Superintendent Taylor
Karen Groseclose
Beth Hemingway
Principal Bennink
Board Clerk: Jo-Ann Tier
Guest: Rick Rose, Louise Guillette, Mary Dupont, Judy
Quintin, Paul Cheeseman, Carol Poquette, Larry Dupont,
Deborah Caneco, Richard and Eileen Mitchell, Bart and
Katya Wilcox, Marie Kilbride, Peter Lawrence, Jessica
Tervits and Corinn Julow.
Note: names appear on the Guest List**

Meeting Called to Order

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

Board Discussion

Chair reviewed the announced high school tuition rates for
2008 – 2009 and the announced high school tuition rates for
2009-2010.

Question was raised as to why was North Hero numbers not
given... What does it cost to attend North Hero and what will
it cost next year?

Ans. 2008-2009..... 11,568
2009-2010..... 12,875

Karen shared that she would be double checking these figures...

Note.. allowable state is 11,542

Chair reviewed transportation costs.. FY2010 budget:

Elementary	\$46,021.00
Extended elementary to Grand Isle for 7/8 grade	10,800.00
Secondary to Essex High School	57,324.00
Extend secondary to AD Lawton for 7/8 grade	5,400.00
Stipends for students without secondary transportation	8,620.00
Total transportation cost.. regular education	\$128,165.00

Elementary K-6	46,021.00
Secondary 7 - 12	82,144.00
Total.....	\$128,165.00

At this time .. the reimbursement cost is 44% for all busses

Questions was asked if state reimbursement is received on stipends... Ans. no.

Comparisons on tuition was briefly noted.

Question was asked.... what enrollment figure was used to figure per pupil cost for 2009 - 2010? Ans. 61.

Question was asked - does this include the principal's three children? Ans. yes. Comment was made that this could "fudge" the numbers and a request was made to get some good number to be shared at the next meeting.

At this time.. the Board opened the meeting for public comment....

Chair shared they are trying to get as much information as possible before the next meeting and the future re-vote.

The following was asked/discussed, etc.

- How many part time employees are at the school ans. 4
- Lawn budget was in for \$1,200.. spent \$3,600.00
- Maintenance budget has no unexpected funds set aside..i.e. dishwasher.
- Is North Hero Board informed of a possible retention of high school students.. this is an unnecessary added expense... input from schools could provide tutoring assistance prior to a retention.
- Realign nurse to provide time and cut elsewhere.
- Secondary transportation removed from education budget.
- Secondary tuition .. line item budget
- Transportation grant.. decreased from 48% to 44% ... could this continue to decline?
- Bids for garbage, food service.. how is this handled?
- Policy... "conflict of interest"
- Four (4) budgets in the county are down.... Board should be frugal at this time.. this should not fall only to the elementary school level - the cost for the supervisory budget should also be looked at
- Transportation
- Staff reduction.... Question.. has there been any thought of an early retirement offer?
- Some folks shared they attend only to listen
- School choice... consolidation ... merging.. should be looked

explored.

- A side by side comparison should take place... i.e. keeping students here... "farming" students out.
- Staff to forego wage increases this coming year.. could be a good chunk of money. Question was asked of Bart Wilcox.. what kind of a figure are you looking at, Bart? Ans. around \$78,000.00.
- What can we do without? Assign duties in a different manner
- Legislation all should stay involved.
- Board was asked to introduce themselves.....
- South Hero has expressed an interest in talking
- Parent shared what a wonderful school Folsom is ... with strong academic standards, wonderful students, staff and Principal.
- Comment was made.. nice to see so many people attend.. consolidation should be looked at... urging Board to have sub-committees
- Having grade 7/8 students back to talk with them about their experiences, etc.

The Board thanked everyone for attending and their sharing questions/ concerns, etc. with those in attendance.

It was noted that the next School Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 01, 2009.

Board Action

Approval of Bills for Payment

Jennifer Gariety made a motion to approve the warrant in the amount of \$173,727.12. This was seconded by Seth Chastenay.. hearing no further discussion this motion was carried 3-0.

Adjournment

Jennifer Gariety made a motion at 8:05 P.M. seconded by Seth Chastenay that this meeting be adjourned... hearing no further discussion.. this motion was carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,


JoAnn Tier

C: School Board - Seth Chastenay, Jennifer Gariety and Shelly St. Hilaire
Superintendent Taylor
Town Clerk, Pete Johnson
Principal Bennink
File