

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
CIUUSD Regular Meeting

School Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Minutes

To view the recording, please [click here](#).

Board Present: Brad Blanchette, Chet Bromley, Amy Thompson, Michael Inners, Nathan Robinson (joined 7:06 p.m.)

Admin Present: Rob Gess, Lauren Thomas, Amanda Ellison, Michael Clark

Public Present: Sylvia Jensen, Michael Wright, Mary Jo McCarthy, Barbara Callahan, Berney Skutel, Duncan Connor, Maxwell Hansen

Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Michael Inners called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
2. Citizens and/or Staff to be Hear - none
3. Adjust the agenda - none
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the minutes from 12/1/2020 - Amy Thompson motions to approve the minutes as presented, Chet Bromley seconds, all on favor, motion passes.
5. Reports
 - a. Superintendent's - Michael Clark highlighted information from his written report provided in the board packet. This included processes and procedures working around COVID safety. We continue to have substitute shortage. Staff participated in COVID surveillance testing today. Also, we had a staff member pass away over the holiday break, Michael Cain worked as a liaison for IEP students.
 - b. Principal - Lauren Thomas reviewed the combined principal report from the Grand Isle and North Hero campuses. Teachers have expressed that they are "feeling the love" from the community. Lauren shared that she is working with independent contractors around the woodchip boiler and trying to get it working. She indicated that the board should expect to see some quotes around getting the system updated. Amanda Ellison shared that the North Hero playground completed with the new equipment. Michael Inners asked how students are doing educationally as reflected in the report cards. Amanda Ellison indicated that the first round of report cards focused on comments rather than grades to celebrate the success. This allowed teachers to individualize the report cards and comments for students. Brad Blanchette asked if comments will shape the curricular and programmatic needs of the students in the future? Lauren Thomas said the comments were very helpful to parents and students are progressing on grade level curriculum. While there are gaps, they are being filled. Each campus is using the resources available and ensuring everyone is getting what they need. It is an advantage to have students in-person whereas the rest of the country is still experiencing virtual learning. It is a testament to the dedication of the staff that they are all coming each day and our community embracing the way school looks this year. We are all very thankful for the teachers, administrators, and community.
 - c. Financial - Rob Gess shared the budget to actuals provided in the packet. Very close to having the tuition encumbered for the year. Overall, the expenditure budget is well in line and is cautiously optimistic that spending will be under budget. Corona Relief Funds expired on 12/30/2020. Have submitted for reimbursement for COVID-related expenses. ESSR funds will be available and will be getting together with the admin team to determine an allocation process. Will

have this completed by the beginning of March to qualify for funds. Update on the FY20 audit includes: documentation and balance sheet has been sent to Sullivan and Powers, so they have the bulk of the info they need to complete the audit. Michael Clark shared that we submitted a revised service plan for special education funding for FY22 and will be having a conversation with the GISU board at the end of the month.

Board Business.

6. (C29) District Equity Policy - Michael Inners shared that this policy was provided in the packet. This is drafted by the VSBA and it is a recommended policy. Michael Clark this policy is designed to bring some intentionality and commitment around equity to provide accountability to provide equitable access for students to education. Many community members came out in support of the policy at last night's Alburgh's meeting and see that many community members have come out again this evening. Community members spoke in support of the policy.

7. Budget - Rob Gess shared that the budget presented was compiled with both principals and represents a responsible expenditure that benefits students. Michael Clark highlighted that the budget presented meets the parameters the board set in that it has a lower equalized pupil cost as compared to last year. The revenues are up and the equalized pupil cost is going down by 2.6%. Michael Inners explained info about how tax rates are set and what is in control of the school board and what is not. Michael Clark suggested approving the warning at a later date after a draft is reviewed by legal counsel given the circumstances of COVID. Michael Inners suggested having a special meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Michael Clark outlined the challenges that will occur around the timeline and having the signatures. Michael Inners shared that the North Hero town pays for community use of the building, but given circumstances, the community has not used the building. Suggest that the appropriation not be requested for next year. This would drop the revenue by \$31,000 and would have a small percent change in the equalized pupil rate - this is a small percentage change, less than .02%. Michael Inners motions to withdraw the request of \$31,000 for the North Hero use of the school, all in favor, motion passes. Brad Blanchette motions to approve expenditure budget amount of \$8,485,070.26, Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, motion passes. Michael Inners motions to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m., all in favor, motion passes.

8. Approval of bills for payment - Michael Inners shared the voucher was sent this morning. Nathan Robinson motions to approve and authorize Michael Inners to sign the warrant of \$796,860.64, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.

9. Information/Information meeting prep - Michael Inners shared he thinks it is in the best interest to host a virtual meeting - in the past LCATV has offered posting a recorded presentation, think it would be good if this is offered again. Michael Clark indicated that last year the date and time was set for the official meeting, this would need to be a virtual meeting. In the past, the board has hosted two other events warned as special meetings that are informational. These would also need to be virtual. Michael Inners shared that based on the fact that the official meeting will be a virtual meeting, don't feel that there needs to be extra meetings for individual towns. Brad Blanchette agrees that one virtual meeting would be sufficient. Each Town Report would be providing a written report as well. Discussion took place around how to present in a virtual setting. Discussion took place around the mailing, much like what was sent last year. Anticipate having the mailing and powerpoint available for preview by the board at the February meeting. Michael Clark highlighted that the flyers need to highlight that it is an estimated tax rate - we are still unsure of the yield and other info out of our control. Brad Blanchette highlighted the flyer should highlight what the board is in control of and the decrease in cost per pupil.

10. (C12) Prevention of sexual harassment as prohibited by Title IX - Michael Inners voiced his apprehension around the policy as presented and issues with the regulations represented in the policy. Discussion took place around ripple effects of approving or not approving the policy and Michael Clark

highlighted the legal liability of not adopting the policy. Role vote: Michael Inners - no, Brad Blanchette - yes to protect the district from legal liability, Amy Thompson - yes for the same reasons as Brad, Chet Bromley - yes, Nathan Robinson - no because it does not go far enough to protect potential victims from sexual harassment. Motion passes, 3-2.

11. (F24) Prevention of conflict of interest in procurement - Nathan Robinson motions to adopt the policy, Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

12. (B8) Electronic Communications & addendum - Michael Inners motions to adopt policy with supplemental provisions, Nathan Robinson seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

13. Audit engagement letter - Michael Clark indicated that this is approved on an annual basis. Nathan Robinson motions to authorize Michael Inners to sign the audit engagement letter, all in favor, motion passes.

14. North Hero & Isle La Motte campus updates - Michael Inners shared that the North Hero town office move is progressing, but is slow-going. Brad Blanchette highlighted the positive interactions with the town during the process. Michael Inners shared the committee is in ongoing discussions with the Isle La Motte select board and the select board is looking to put the movement of the town offices on the ballot. Chet Bromley listed the items in the proposal. Michael Inners indicated a lease would only be needed should the town vote for the move. This is still an ongoing discussion, but looking to see if the board is willing to execute a formal lease should the town pass it. Amy Thompson motions to approve the letter of intent. Discussion took place around which entity would pay what - something to be negotiated in the lease at the end of the process. Discussion also took place around the potential length of the lease. All in favor, motion passes.

15. North Hero appropriation request update - covered when the budget was reviewed.

16. Isle La Motte Asset dispersion process - Michael Clark shared the asset dispersal process that was in the December packet and tabled at that meeting. Nathan Robinson suggested if this is premature since the school may still be used in an educational capacity. Nathan Robinson motions to approve the process as presented, all in favor, motion passes. Michael Clark indicates this could also be a dispersal procedure used for equipment from the North Hero kitchen. Board agrees this is good practice.

17. Other - none

Closure

18. Setting the next agenda - January 19, special meeting for signing the warning, for the February meeting, there would be a focus on informational meeting prep and the equity policy second reading.

19. Adjourn - Chet Bromley motions to adjourn, all in favor, motions passed. Meeting adjourns at 9:17 p.m.

Hi Chet,

Happy New Year. I am sending this in writing so you can have it in front of you and not have to see me since I have been under the weather a little bit. Even wearing a mask I guess you can catch something I am almost better.

For the year 2021/2022 the select board is purposing the town would take care of:

Garbage service

Snow plowing

Lawn maintenance

Will not need any or almost any propane

That comes up to almost \$5,500.00 plus the \$14,500.00 that was given in the past. And for that we would like the library, bathroom and main entrance and hopefully the annual town meeting in the mulipurpose room.

In summation that would be a \$5,500.00 a reduced cost to the district. Plus the \$14,500.00. We hope we can work out an arrangement on the space we would use. If we can come to an agreement we will take this to the voters.