

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

CIUUSD Regular Meeting

School Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Minutes

Board Present: Gary Marckres, Chet Bromley, Nathan Robinson, Michael Inners

Administration Present: Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Amanda Ellison

Public Present: Tim Maxham, Sarah Peacock, Reggie Allen, Jeri Frank, Kristi Roche, Barbara Larvey, Chad Wimble, Mindy Sesera, Jo-Ann Tier, Lindsay Stanhope

Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Gary Marckres called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Adjust the Agenda - add a negotiations update in executive session
3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard -
 - Barb Larvey from Isle La Motte: question about the warning and there is a concern that the town meeting for Isle La Motte is at 10 a.m. on the same day. Is there an alternative or other options for information? Gary Marckres thanked Barb for the comment. Michael Clark clarified that this will be discussed in item 12 tonight. Looking for the board to discuss if there will be informal budget presentations for each town.
 - JoAnn Tier from North Hero is looking to ask school board members to come visit school because all reps have not been met and they would love to meet them.
 - Mindy Sesera from North Hero asked questions about the board soliciting feedback from parents for staff members' evaluation. Gary Marckres clarified the roles of Superintendent and Principals. Board will not solicit feedback because it is not in their legal boundary. Michael Inners clarified the grievance process and how concerns come before the board. It is best for the board not to get directly involved in evaluating staff members. Gary Marckres shared that the process is outlined in GISU and CIUUSD policy.
 - Lindsay Stanhope from North Hero asked about the procedure for evaluation and survey and how this is going? Michael Clark clarified the process is ongoing and encouraged Lindsay to set up an appointment with him to review.
 - a. LCATV correspondence - Michael Clark shared the letter from LCATV to help the board produce a video to broadcast budget discussions. Gary Marckres said this has been done before, but he is unable. He asked if there were any board members willing to participate. Michael Inners indicated he would be willing.
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the Minutes from 1/7/2020 & 1/14/2020 - Chet Bromley motions to approve minutes as presented, Nathan Robinson second. No discussion, all in favor. Motion passes.
5. Reports
 - a. Superintendent's - Michael Clark shared his annual letter that was provided for the town reports and in packet. The three budgets are out and warned. Negotiating 3 contracts with 3 associations. Daily tasks continue.
 - b. Financial - Rob Gess shared the budget to actuals from February 6th presented in packet. No significant maintenance repairs, which has saved money. Latest equalized pupil is the same as what was warned. AOE has frozen pupil count. First Central Office and CIUUSD admin meeting

was last week. Looking to streamline accounts payable processing and looking to create a quarterly meeting. Looking to roll out frontline soon. The FY19 audits are in and are being reviewed. Continue to make progress on the findings. Only two findings so far - nothing operational so far. Gary Marckres expressed appreciation to Rob's team and Michael for turning around a very difficult financial situation from an auditing perspective. Michael Inners asked about the tuition categories. Rob Gess clarified the journal entries that need to occur. Michael Clark celebrated the success of having audits at this timeline.

- c. Principal's - Amanda Ellison shared the written report and that there is a Valentine's brunch put on by the student council and other student activities happening to celebrate. Gary Marckres asked about the kitchen renovations in Isle La Motte. Amanda Ellison clarified that this is complete. Gary Marckres asked about the GISU lead testing. Michael Clark clarified that April 10 is when it will happen for all buildings, but the Grand Isle school. Michael Clark is working with the Department of Health to establish the same testing schedule for the Grand Isle building.

Board Business.

6. Discussion of budget (Including Isle La Motte configuration and transportation) - Michael Clark wanted to ensure public had an opportunity to hear about the budget as much as possible. Clarified that there is a decrease in expenditures, approximately 1.3%. CLA and equalized pupil count have also decreased. So even though spending less money, taxes will still increase because of formula calculation and the effects of the CLA and equalized pupil counts. Budget proposals were reviewed and grade configurations for the Isle La Motte School were reviewed. Isle La Motte parents have reached out to exercise school choice into North Hero or Grand Isle. Isle La Motte town has also reached out to inquire about taking space in the Isle La Motte school building. Under Act 46, board does not have authority to close the school for 4 years. FY21 is the second year of the four year block. Sarah Peacock asked if the town can vote to close the school. Michael Clark clarified that he has asked the school attorney. This is unchartered territory and doing further research. There is a possibility that the school may not have students. There are options to use the building in a variety of ways and the board will need to make decisions. Attorney not sure if a town petition and vote could allow that to happen. Gary Marckres wants to hear from the Isle La Motte community so they are representing fairly. Sarah Peacock shared that she is a supporter of the Isle La Motte school, but it seems like time to acknowledge that may be time to turn the page, but there is a large concern about busing. It is important that this is done respectfully to the staff and community. Michael Inners added that getting community feedback and engagement to ensure the board is soliciting as much feedback as possible to ensure best use of facility and best education to students. Michael Clark thanked Sarah for her input and said that busing transportation is in research for next year for school choice students. Gary Marckres said no action is needed and trusts administration to make the decision without board action. Jeri Frank extended an invitation to the board before the school changes.

7. Approve bills for payment - Gary Marckres shared there are two warrants tonight that were sent in a separate email this morning, including tuition and GISU assessment. Gary Marckres moves to approve \$934,355.58, Chet Bromley second, no further discussion. All in favor, motion passes. Michael Inners moves to approve \$14,311.84, Nathan Robinson second, no further discussion. All in favor, motion passes.

8. Approve Audit Engagement Letter - tabled for now.

9. Announced tuition - Rob Gess shared the announced tuition rate, \$18,974.00. Gary Marckres motions to approve, Chet Bromley second, no further discussion. All in favor, motion passes.

10. Budget flyers - Michael Clark shared the budget flyer draft. Last year these were sent out via every door direct, in color. Two pieces of info need to be updated. Michael Clark shared his thoughts on the budget flyer adjustments. Board gave feedback on their thoughts on the flyer.

11. Informational Meeting presentation & 12. Informal informational meeting presentations - Michael Clark shared that there is a base of a presentation that has been used in years past in powerpoint format. Need to decide who will present at the official presentational meeting. Michael Inners is willing to participate in the formal meeting and suggests the town reps do the individual towns. Gary Marckres asks the community members present if a common location would be acceptable for an informational meeting. Chet Bromley said it would be best to have it be at the Isle La Motte town and the community agreed it should be at each individual town. Michael Clark said it could be presented before their selectboard meetings. Gary Marckres said this could work. Logistics were discussed. Saturday, February 29, informational meeting at Isle La Motte at 9:30 am, noon is the official meeting at North Hero for CIUUSD, and an informational meeting at 2 pm at Grand Isle. Michael Clark will reach out to town clerks to verify. Michael Inners will do a presentation at noon in North Hero and at 2 p.m. in Grand Isle. Chet Bromley will be the rep at the informational meeting at isle La Motte and Michael Clark will present. Michael Clerk will also reach out to see if Mason Maltais is available to ensure three board members are present at formal meeting.

13. Possible retirement incentive - Michael Clark said that at last budget presentation a retirement incentive was discussed. Michael Clark clarified how this would affect budgets if reductions had to be made from the less senior teachers, looking at a total compensation package of \$55,000, but if a retirement incentive could save \$150,000 in total compensation. Discussion took place regarding analysis of budgeting and what has been offered in the past and informal conversations around retirement. Gary Marckres asked Rob Gess about a \$30,000 retirement incentive and allowed individuals to choose 1,2,3 year buyout. Budgeted for \$25,000. Parameters were given for retirement incentive.

14. Other - Michael Clark shared this is Gary's last meeting as an Islands Board member for almost if not more than a decade. Michael Clark thanked Gary for everything he has done to support education in the Islands.

15. Admin Contracts - Lindsay Stanhope encouraged the board to talk to teachers and parents before making decisions that will be discussed in executive session. School climate has suffered due to communication and safety. Improvements need to be made and that should be taken into consideration. Gary Marckres thanked her for her comments.

Nathan Robinson moved to enter executive session, Chet Bromley second, all in favor, board enter executive session at 8:11 p.m. Board exits executive session at 10:20 p.m.

Closure

16. Setting the next agenda

17. Adjourn - Gary Marckres moves to adjourn, Michael Inners second, all in favor. Meeting adjourns at 10:21 p.m.