

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

School Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Minutes

Board present: Chet Bromley, Tim Maxham, Stacy Gould (via phone), Mason Maltais, Bentley Vaughan (via phone), Erin Morse (via phone)

Admin present: Michael Clark, Rob Gess

Public present:

Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Michael Clark calls the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
2. Board reorganization -
 - Chair of the Board - Tim Maxham nominates Mason Maltais, Chet Bromley second, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.
 - Vice Chair of the Board - Tim Maxham nominates Bentley Vaughan, Chet Bromley second, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes
 - Board Clerk - Tim Maxham volunteers. Mason Maltais nominates Tim Maxham, Chet Bromley second, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.
 - Standing committees - None at this time
 - Regular meeting schedule - Currently, regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Tim Maxham motions to maintain the current regular meeting schedule and amends the motion to have meeting location be at the North Hero school. Chet Bromley second, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.
 - Designated posting places - Currently, schools and town clerk offices are the designated posting places. Tim Maxham motions to maintain current posting locations, Chet Bromley second, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.
 - Use of Robert's Rules - Mason Maltais motions to use Robert's Rules for small boards, Chet Bromley second. Discussion took place around the necessity of a "second motion" and compliance to small boards, all in favor, motion passes.
 - VT School board code of ethics - shared in packet, has been signed at local levels. Mason Maltais motions to adopt the code, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.
 - Identify communication practices - generally use the email address for local boards, or mail for those who do not use an email. Discussion took place regarding expectations. Michael Clark shares info with the board chair in an emergency and the board chair passes information on as needed. Discussion took place regarding communication practices.
 - VSBA provides opportunities for board development and info is sent to communication on file.
 - Newspaper of record - Tim Maxham motions to use the Islander, no discussion, all in favor, motion passes.
3. Adjust the Agenda - MC wants to give an update on the Appeal after COVID 19 updates
4. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - none
5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the minutes from 11/26/2019 & 2/28/2020
 - i. 11/26/19 - Tim Maxham motions to approve as submitted, no discussion. Roll call vote: Tim Maxham- yes, Chet Bromley- yes, Mason Maltais- yes, Bentley Vaughan- yes, Erin Morse- abstain, Stacy Gould - yes, motion passes.
 - ii. 2/28/2020 - Tim Maxham suggested corrections to minutes, including clarification that the meeting was held at GISU office - clarify who was participating via phone- Tim, and Melanie present. Mason, Bentley, and Michael Inners participated by phone. Tim Maxham motions to approve with corrections. Roll call vote: Tim Maxham- yes, Chet

Bromley- yes, Mason Maltais- yes, Bentley Vaughan- yes, Erin Morse- abstain, Stacy Gould - yes, motion passes.

6. Reports

- a. Superintendent's - Michael Clark shared that COVID 19 has consumed most of the staff time. Board has been updated on Faculty and staff, and community communications. Everyone has been fantastic through this and have pitched in to help with everything. Sending emails in morning and afternoon to bring everyone together. Other operations continue within the office. Most folks working remotely, cannot continue after tomorrow based on the governor's orders. Getting the meal delivery and "summer program" (food service) detracted from the audit. This was necessary to ensure the food delivery during the dismissal. Encouraging folks to complete the free & reduced meal application based on status changes (like unemployment). The approval is good for a year and will allow the districts to qualify for other grants.
 - i. Erin Morse shared that the letter sent to families today highlighting concern for kids mental health was much appreciated.
- b. Financial - Rob Gess shared the budget to actuals shared in the packet. Nothing has changed since the last board meeting in November - anticipate special ed over budget and from GISU stand point, shared that we will limit purchases for strategic purposes. Nursing supplies for all of SU have not been limited. Central office is proactive and ensures productivity in a remote setting - including processing of payroll. Created new account numbers to track COVID 19 expenses at the request of the state. Audits - feds came out with new guidance for procurement flexibility during this time. And the deadline for audits has been extended to September 30. We plan to get this done long before then, have a call with our auditors tomorrow. All AOE working remotely and fiscal monitoring has a slowed response time. Planning a new chart of accounts effective July 1 and have started crosswalking. Tim Maxham motions that the board has received and reviewed the budget to actuals dated March 19, no discussion, all in favor, motion passes.

Board Business.

7. School calendar - copy of proposed calendar sent to board via email this evening, by statute the region needs to approve 175 student days - CVSA has approved a calendar of 175 common days, then we add in the GISU days, working with the union and leadership team. Tim Maxham asked about the last day of school? Michael shared the calendar has June 15 (common day). Discussion took place regarding the calendar that is proposed. Tim Maxham motions to adopt calendar as presented, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.
8. COVID 19 updates - school dismissal - Michael Clark shared a quick update in the Superintendent report. Most staff are working remotely. Some have a hybrid work situation and will be discussing this tomorrow to get them fully remote. Created opportunities for hourly employees to work their full hours remotely. People can choose to not participate in remote work based on the governor's guidance, and leave has been offered. Goal is to be humanistic with our employees and offer compassion. Have a solid plan from the Continuity of learning team that has been tasked to Megan Grube and Dave Brisson. They have been doing a lot of work to get everyone ready; some educators have volunteered to work on the teams. Maintenance of learning right now, past April 6, will be a continuity of learning. Starting to navigate what happens as COVID 19 affects our community more. We have been working closely with the association for support of the plan and offer teacher and support input into planning. Things are changing by the minute and we are adapting as quickly as possible. Everyone is pulling together. Tim Maxham thanked Michael Clark and all staff for what they are doing to support students during this time.
9. Appeal response - Michael Clark shared an update on the appeal for the disallowed costs. Received response from the dept of ed as COVID 19 broke out. This response contained information on the hearing and timeline. On or before April 6 will file the complete hearing record before the AOE - nothing we need to do. GISU's first deadline is on or before April 27. Pietro is assisting with coordinating the GISU

response. Seems like it will resolve before the summer. Anticipate that the AOE will need to file for an extension, which will set our timeline back as well, but we are prepared.

10. Teacher and Central Office contracts - Mason Maltais motions to enter executive session to discuss contracts, all in favor, motion passes. Board enters executive session at 7:33 p.m.

Board exits executive session at 7:50 p.m. Mason Maltais motions to authorize the board chair to sign teacher contracts, all in favor, motion passes.

Mason Maltais motion to authorize Superintendent to issue GISU employee contracts per the guidance of the GISU board, all in favor, motion passes.

Closure

11. Adjourn - Tim Maxham motions to adjourn at 7:52 p.m., all in favor, motion passes.