

# Grand Isle Supervisory Union

School Board Meeting  
Tuesday, June 23, 2020

## Minutes

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

**Board Present:** Whitney Maxham, Chet Bromley, Amy Thompson, Erin Morse, Tim Maxham,

**Admin Present:** Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Dave Brisson

**Public Present:** Megan DeVinny, Buddy Meilleur, Michael Inners

### Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Erin Morse calls the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. Adjust the Agenda - Erin Morse would like to motion for Tim Maxham to chair the meeting tonight, Tim Maxham seconds. No further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.
3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - Michael Inners encourages people to read the AOE guidance document that was released related to school openings. Michael Clark will send a link to board members and it will be included in the local board packets.
4. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approve the minutes from 5/26/2020 - Chet Bromley motions for minutes to be accepted as printed, Amy Thompson seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
  - b. Hiring updates - Michael Clark shared that the .8 admin assistant has been filled by Alyssa Dosztan. She was the .8 FTE admin asst at CIUUSD

### Reports

5. Superintendent's Report - Michael Clark shared info from his written report. The AOE released information late Wednesday last week with guidance to reopen schools. Will be discussed at tomorrow's leadership meeting in conjunction with the school nurse. Plan to have a comprehensive plan and collaborative development of the plan much like the continuity of learning plan and will be shared as progress is made on it. Schools are in good shape to open from a project standpoint. Hiring is going well, and there are few open positions across the SU at this time. Tim Maxham asked about the Alburgh budget. Michael Clark said today is the day and the informational meeting was positive and Tim Maxham wished Alburgh the best in passing their budget.

Financial Report - Rob Gess shared the budget to actuals supplied in the packet. Very little changes in the budget and GISU is targeted to run under budget. Fiscal year closing is going well, including the last payroll being processed this week. COVID19 expense tracking continues and we expect reimbursement sometime early in FY21. We have started the migration to the state mandated accounts that will be effective July 1, 2021. Frontline roll out for the Central Office has occurred and will roll out to all districts in August. The AOE has given positive feedback around fiscal monitoring and monthly reporting will become quarterly reporting. Audit update - CEFA has been sent in and auditors have everything they need and anticipate they will be all clear soon. Food service has gone well and throughout the SU we have claimed over 40,000 meals served throughout the islands. Waivers have been given for the rest of the summer to provide meals through the end of August. Tim Maxham motions the review and receipt of the budget to actuals printed on June 19, 2020. Chet Bromley second, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.

## **Board Business.**

6. Update on audits - Rob Gess shared the update in his financial report

7. Student Information System (Alma) - Dave Brisson shared Our current SIS has proven to be cumbersome, difficult for end-users, and difficult to extract useful data from. Little to no data is being used from the current SIS to make informed decisions because of the difficulties in exporting, reporting, and end-user usability. We have come up with a SIS platform called Alma from a list of 4 SIS vendors that participate in Vermont. After exhaustive research, communication, and presentations with each of these vendors, Alma stands out as the clear choice for the GISU. Alma provides a modern, intuitive interface, and a dashboard that is real-time and puts needed daily information in the hands of Administrators, Admin assistants, and teachers. Alma will bring a new way to manage attendance, schedules, proficiency-based reporting, and report cards. All things currently not being done within our current SIS. All of these areas have needed "homegrown" solutions to cover the need and are hindering the overall efficiency of each school and the SU. Alma also utilizes a parent/student interface, which GISU will be able to provide parents with information about their students including attendance and progress reports. There is also a parent initiated onboarding portal for new students. Alma has also agreed to house our tuition students info for no cost, so we can better track tuition. Alma would be initially replacing Tyler SIS, BlackBoard, and Jupiter Grades. We will continue to work to attempt to consolidate Vcat, SNAP, and SWIS into Alma. Alma is 100% on board with GISU being able to report successfully and efficiently to the AOE. The current SIS vendor will help but is not generally interested in improving the process. Alma is already working with other Vermont school districts that are successfully reporting to the AOE. Finally, is the cost justification. Once we consolidate the money we spend for Tyler SIS, Blackboard, and Jupiter Grades, Alma will be about \$1000 less annually than we spend now. We will be working to consolidate even further after the initial implementation, especially focused on Vcat which has a significant cost associated with it. There is, however, an initial implementation cost that creates a barrier to us just flipping the switch and going to any new SIS vendor. Alma's proposal requires about \$8000 in implementation fees, costs for a dedicated project manager, and end-user training. This additional cost was not necessarily budgeted for in the current year. The \$8000 implementation cost is comparable across the other SIS platforms we reviewed. Michael Clark shared that there is about \$10,000 budgeted for the student information system in FY21. Dave shared that the admin team and a cross-function group including teachers, admin assistants, and special educators assist in reviewing all SIS platforms. Michael Clark clarified that the money is in the budget and looking for approval to switch. Tim Maxham motions to authorize administration to move forward with Alma with the understanding that billing will be after July 1, Amy Thompson seconds, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.

8. Legal costs associated with Appeal - Michael Clark shared that \$3,016 for the bulk of the work. The Appeal is still pending review.

9. Teacher Contract Ratification - Michael Clark shared that the local boards have ratified the teacher contract and will need a motion to approve at the GISU level. Chet Bromley motions to ratify the teacher's contract for the GISU and to authorize Mason Maltais to sign the contract as a representative to the board, Amy Thompson second, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.

10. Work schedules update - Michael Clark shared the central office is working on a work schedule update and transitioning people out of remote work and back into the office. This has included signing up in half-day chunks. Anticipate that July 6 everyone will be back in the office for 1 day and by the end of July everyone will be back on the regular schedule. It has been found that some positions can be efficient in a remote setting.

11. High Risk Determination Letter - Michael Clark shared this letter was provided in a packet. This is a letter from the VT AOE. Team had a conversation with the AOE and Rob Gess shared the positive feedback. Want to take a moment to celebrate the team and the progress made and is headed in the right direction

12. Lessons Learned Strong Start Presentation - Michael Clark shared there will be a community meeting tomorrow to share a presentation about the lessons learned during remote work and tentative plans to start next school year strong. This will align with the presentation given to staff during inservice. We welcome you to attend this meeting. Looking to have a collaborative approach and gather community feedback to the development of the plan. The guidance from the AOE must also be considered. Looking to open in a safe way that is educationally sound. This meeting will be recorded and be available on the website. Tim Maxham asked about the involvement of the board in recommendations and approvals or if this will be an administrative decision. Michael Clark shared he envisions looking for feedback from the community based on administration planning and boards will be updated at regular meetings.

13. Other - none

### **Closure**

14. Setting the next agenda - Anticipate needing a July meeting, possibly a special meeting to approve special educator hires; hiring, update on opening plan, update on audit. Chet Bromley motions to allow Mason Maltais to approve the Superintendent 2 special ed candidates, Erin Morse seconds, no further discussion, motion passes 4-1.

15 . Adjourn - Chet Bromley motions to adjourn, Amy Thompson second, all in favor, motion passes, meeting adjourns at 7:26 p.m.