

# **GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD**

Meeting Minutes from Thursday, June 28, 2018  
North Hero Elementary School

## **GISU Board Members Present:**

Mike Savage, Alburgh  
Mallory Ovitt, Alburgh  
Stephanie Waters, Alburgh  
Don Bartlett, Grand Isle  
Nathan Robinson, Grand Isle  
Jane Zera, Isle La Motte  
Chet Bromley, Isle La Motte  
Keri Johnson, Isle La Motte  
Bridget Brisson, North Hero  
Mason Maltais, North Hero  
Tim Maxham, South Hero  
Bentley Vaughan, South Hero  
Melanie Henderson, South Hero  
Gary Marckres, CIUUSD

## **Members of the Public:**

Ben Joseph  
Mike Donahue  
Louise Koss  
Michael Clark  
Michelle Murray  
Paul Zera

Meeting called to order by Mason Maltais at 7:31 p.m.

**Adjustment to the Agenda:** None

**Public Comments:** None

## **Business of the Board:**

**Accept Superintendent's Resignation:** Mason Maltais read Superintendent Donald Van Nostrand's letter of resignation to the board. Tim Maxham asked for more information on the reasons behind Superintendent Van Nostrand's decision to leave. After commentary from Chet Bromley, which included some details regarding the performance of individual SU employees, it was quickly decided that that discussion must be held during Executive Session. Chet Bromley made a motion to accept the Superintendent's resignation. Second by Mike Savage. Of the board members present, 12 voted in favor, 2 opposed (Nathan Robinson and Gary Marckres), and zero abstained. Motion carried.

**Discussion of Superintendent Vacancy Process:** Gary Marckres suggested that the GISU engage an impartial party to find a new, long-term Superintendent. Mason Maltais agreed, and a few possible individuals were suggested. Mason Maltais also reminded the board that an

interim Superintendent must be employed while the long-term search is conducted, so that essential SU services will continue to be provided. After communicating with the Agency of Education, Mike Savage informed the board that the GISU cannot offer the position to anyone until the AOE has given their written approval to hire a new Superintendent. Gary Marckres quickly reviewed the educational statutes and agreed with Mike Savage's assessment. Mike Savage assured the board that the AOE understands the need for urgency. Chet Bromley and Jane Zera recommended a possible Superintendent candidate, John Poljacik, and offered to contact him. As one additional method to ensure continued services at the SU, Gary Marckres suggested that an existing SU employee could be authorized to sign checks and oversee critical SU functions.

During the Superintendent vacancy discussion, Mason Maltais informed the board that the Vermont State grant funds will still be awarded to the GISU, despite the incomplete FY2018 audit. However, Mike Savage cautioned that the Federal grant funds may be withheld due to the incomplete audit. Gary Marckres explained that the external auditors are unwilling to accept the findings of previous audits (performed by different auditing firms), and are struggling to independently verify the starting balance of the GISU from 2017. Bentley Vaughan asked whether a different auditing firm could be engaged, but Mason Maltais explained that getting a new firm up-to-speed would take even longer.

#### **Executive Session:**

Bentley Vaughan motioned to move into Executive Session to interview Superintendent candidate, Michael Clark, at 7:47 p.m. Second by Bridget Brisson. All in favor.

Meeting reconvened at 8:47 p.m.

Mike Savage motioned to reinstate Ellen Norris as the Executive Assistant of the GISU at her previous pay level. Second by Chet Bromley. Of the board members present, 7 voted in favor, 7 opposed, and zero abstained. With a tied result, the motion did not pass.

#### **Future Agenda Items:**

If possible, a second Superintendent candidate interview will be scheduled for Monday, July 2nd. If that interview can be arranged, the GISU board will meet at 7 p.m. at the North Hero Elementary School.

#### **Adjournment:**

Bentley Vaughan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second by Chet Bromley. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.