

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

CIUUSD Regular Meeting

School Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Minutes

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

Board Present: Michael Inners, Chet Bromley, Amy Thompson, Nathan Robinson

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

Public Present: Buddy Meilleur, Andrew Meehan (joined 7:40 p.m.)

Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Michael Inners calls the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
2. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - none
3. Adjust the agenda - audit presentation has been postponed. Michael Clark indicates that add a resignation that came in today - Michael Inners asks for it to be added during the report
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the minutes from 7/28/2020 & 8/4/2020 - Chet Bromley motions to approve minutes from 7/28 and 8/4 All in favor, motion passes.
5. Reports
 - a. Superintendent's
 - i. Opening Plan Updates - GISU and its schools will open in a hybrid model, the model will be a ABCAB schedule. Families also have a choice to select a fully-remote option. Will provide bus transport for those that need it, but encouraging those who do not need it to transport their student. Rob will have updates on food service. Set up to maintain 6 ft of social distance and guidance from the state requires everyone in the buildings to wear a mask. Planning to increase outdoor breaks for "mask break" opportunities. Hand washing and sanitizing stations and signs have increased. There are several questions asked every day and temp checks conducted daily as well. Michael Inners asked about duplication of entry process on the bus. Michael Clark shared there have been challenges around finding bus monitors and the updated guidance does not require it. Will not be allowing parents in the building per guidance, with some flexibility within the first week of school.
 - ii. Michael Clark shared his written report and highlighted the two outstanding teachers, Andrew Reigler and Susan Trowbridge.
 - iii. Childcare partnership updates - Michael Clark shared updates about the spaces available in the islands and the governor has not activated the site they have in mind as an option for childcare.
 - b. Principal - Lauren Thomas shared the written report drafted by herself and Amanda Ellison. This has included highlights on enrollment and staff professional development ongoing throughout these first weeks. There is also the implementation of Alma, which will replace 3 systems currently in place. The first rounds of users have had very positive feedback about the new system and the seamlessness of use. Amanda Ellison shared the updates around the questions of the kitchen and the equipment. North Hero has also received a grant for \$4,000 for unified arts teachers to get more individualized supplies for students.

- c. Michael Clark also shared the resignation of Rauri Clancy (as adjusted on the agenda). He is the home school coordinator within the Grand Isle Campus. Lauren and Amanda have started conversations about sharing the position between the two campuses.
- d. Chet Bromley asked Amanda about the sign from the Isle La Motte School Building. Michael Inners indicated that the board has not discussed the use of the building. Michael Inners expressed concern about creating a piece-meal of the resources. Amanda Ellison described the sign in question. Chet Bromley makes the motion to give the sign described to the owner of the old Isle La Motte School Building. Amy Thompson asked what the value of the sign is and what the use of the sign is. Michael Clark expressed that it would be best practice to have this be a board discussion at a later date. Nathan Robinson indicated he felt that anything not absorbed into other CIUUSD campuses should be turned over to the town. Michael Clark shared the process that has been used in his previous district. Michael Inners and Amy Thompson indicated there needs to be a process rather than individuals requesting items. Roll call vote: Chet Bromley - yes, Amy Thompson - no, Nathan Robinson - no, Michael Inners - no.
- e. Financial - Rob Gess shared the budget to actual in the board packet. Tracking of COVID expenditures continues. Rob shared the info around food service reimbursement requests as well as the processes for submission to FEMA. Summer food service program has been extended through December. Auditors were not prepared for this evening as they are wrapping up one last thing. Michael Inners asked about when the FY20 audit will be complete. Rob Gess shared the goal is to be complete by the end of the calendar year.

Board Business.

6. Audit Presentation - postponed

7. Approval of bills for payment - there are two payable lists. The first one is for FY20 bills for \$21,003.82 - Nathan Robinson motion to approve the invoices, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes. The second is a batch for \$56,114.11 - Nathan Robinson motion to approve the invoices, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes. Chet Bromley motions to authorize Michael Inners to sign the warrants, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.

8. Food Service Contracts - Rob Gess shared that the board had previously authorized a one year extension of the Abbey Group contract. Requesting for another one year extension. The CIUUSD is one of four SU/SDs under the reimbursement model, which is a lower cost model. Rob Gess asked the board move to approve the one year extension. Michael Clark clarified that the board discussed not completing the RFP in December of 2019. Anticipate with the summer food service model extension, will be able to negotiate a more favorable price. Michael Inners expressed concern about trying to make changes to the food service contractor at this time and there will need to be an RFP for next year. Nathan Robinson moves to authorize himself to sign off on the Abbey Contract when negotiated to terms at least as favorable as presented. All in favor, motion passes.

9. French Program Goals - Lauren Thomas shared the progress around the world language goals and scheduling. This included: Goals of a K-6 World Language program:

- Generate excitement and interest in world language and culture
- Through the lens of another language the overarching target is to develop global citizens ready to embrace their world as curious, creative, courageous, and capable people.
- Focus on oral and receptive language first to give strong basis for future learning (middle school and beyond) of grammar rules and application of language
 - Much like in a child's first language, we expose them to and practice oral language for years before they begin to match their oral and receptive language skills to reading and writing with fluency

- Goals for the youngest learners are to be able to comprehend the meaning from strands of language they hear and respond in either English or the language of study and use the language fluently in recitation of poems and “songs” (chants)

Goals for older learners are to comprehend meaning from strands of language they hear and read and link strands of the language of study together orally to make meaning and create short sentences independently written and/or oral. Michael Inners asked about grammar - Lauren indicated that this was not an explicit goal to encourage the immersion into the language and foster love of the language. Another thing to add are signs throughout the buildings to increase the exposure. Amy Thompson expressed that she is very excited as to how fun the integration of the world language program is within the new school year.

16. Tuition Waiver Request - Andrew Meehan joined the meeting. Michael Inners moved the tuition waiver request to be respectful of Andrew’s time. Michael Clark shared a verbal summary of Andrew’s letter: he has a kindergarten student that he has custody of. They are currently living in Alburgh and is trying to rent on North Hero. He has a rental space available in the spring. He is requesting waiver of fall tuition and he will be a resident in the spring. Andrew shared in the letter that it would be advantageous to not transfer his student mid-year. Andrew Meehan shared that his student will not need transportation and the family will be moving in the spring. He feels it is in her best interest to not have to transfer schools multiple times. Nathan Robinson asked if this would create a requirement for an FTE. Michael Clark shared that it would not require an increase of an FTE, but would be creating a precedence as it is a new board. Michael Inners shared that previously the Grand Isle district only allowed this for students already enrolled and finishing out the year. Nathan Robinson expressed that after hearing the circumstances and the letter of intent being available, it seems like this is a unique situation. Michael Inners shared he does not feel it is unique because there is not a lease agreement signed and what would happen if the lease were not to go through. Have already dealt with finding high school choice and tuitioned students. Seems as though needs can be met within the Alburgh School and if needs could not be met, it would be Alburgh’s responsibility to tuition the student. Andrew indicated that he can get the letter from Todd tomorrow. Chet, Nathan, and Amy expressed they would be willing after seeing the letter of intent. Michael Inners expressed concern about creating a precedence and needing to apply decisions equitably. Michael Clark asked if the board would like to get a legal opinion prior to making a decision. Discussion took place around the liability associated with taking on a tuitioned student. The CIUUSD has interdistrict choice and so any properties in Grand Isle, North Hero, or Isle La Motte are eligible to choose between the two campuses. Andrew thanked the board for their time. Amy Thompson motions to approve the Meehan request. Roll call vote: Chet Bromley - yes, Nathan Robinson - no, Amy Thompson - no, Michael Inners - no.

10. CIUUSD Open Seat - Michael Inners shared that Mason Maltais has tendered his resignation. Appointment for the North Hero rep falls to the select board. North Hero has posted and has had no applicants and is on their meeting agenda for September.

11. Board Reorganization - Michael Inners shared that the chair has resigned and he is the vice chair, acting as the chair. So there is a vacant chair seat and vacant GISU seat. Nathan Robinson nominates Michael Inners for chair, no further discussion, all in favor, Michael Inners abstains, motion passes. No nominations for vice chair at this time. Nathan Robinson indicated that the GISU seat should be vacant until a North Hero rep is found.

12. Add .1 FTE PreK conversation - Michael Clark shared the schedule requirements for 10 hours per week for in person instruction under Act 166 is not met under the hybrid model. The cost associated for this is approximately \$5,000. Nathan Robinson moves to approve the .1 FTE to comply with Act 166. No further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.

13. Electronic communications policy and addendum - At the last meeting, this was tabled to allow the board to review Michael Inners proposed addendum. Michael Inners shared that research on the policy

shows that the policy must be adopted per vetum. He has drafted an addendum that addresses what he sees as deficiencies. Nathan Robinson motions to not adopt this policy at this time. Michael Clark advised the board about the legal requirement to adopt the policy and would not advise to not adopt the policy and feels that Michael Inners has created a work around in the addendum drafted. Nathan Robinson would like to detract his motion and motions to defer adoption of this policy until the addendum may be passed. All in favor, motion passes.

14. Hybrid Policy - Michael Inners shared that this is the second reading on the policy. He suggested starting a local policy numbering system. Michael Clark shared this is a temporary policy and expects it to be retracted once COVID is over. Amy Thompson motions to pass the policy as presented, all in favor, Nathan Robinson abstains, Roll vote: Chet Bromley - yes, Nathan Robinson - abstain, Amy Thompson - yes, Michael Inners - yes, motion passes.

15. HSTuition Request - Michael Clark shared the email from Angela Ross to aks for consideration for her student to attend Rice High School. The VT state constitution bars payment to such institutions and included in the packet is Pietro's response. Nathan Robinson motions to decline the request for payments to be made to Rice, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.

17. Unpaid Leave Request - Michael Inners shared the request of Mary Ellen Hutchins to take an unpaid leave of absence to allow her to run Eagle Care from her home while the schools are in a hybrid model. Michael Clark shared and he and Amanda are in support and a sub would not be needed. Amy Thompson motions to approve Mary Ellen Hutchin's unpaid leave of absence as presented. Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

18. Weighting Study Conversation - Michael Inners shared information regarding a weighting study conducted by UVM, which adjusts the formula for calculating the equalized pupil numbers. Michael Inners expressed opposition and would like to express his intent to speak against this. Amy Thompson expressed her concern about not having more information prior to having him represent the board. Michael Inners clarified that he will not go as a representative of the board, but as a personal expression. Michael Clark shared that in his board report there is a link to the VT Digger article and some work the joint fiscal office completed to allow for more information.

19. Other - none

Closure

20. Setting the next agenda - further academic & program goals, North Hero space, Isle La Motte space and property, electronic communication policy, board reorganization - potential new board member, reports inclusive of opening updates, audit presentation.

21. Adjourn - Nathan Robinson motions to adjourn. Chet Bromley asked about when in-person meetings will resume. Discussion took place around remote meetings. Plan to further the discussion in October, which will be a remote meeting. Amy Thompson second the motion to adjourn, all in favor, motion passes, meeting adjourns at 9:03 p.m.