

# Grand Isle Supervisory Union

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

## Minutes

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

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

**Public Present:** Michael Wright, Megan DeVinny, Michael Inners

### Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Bentley Vaughan called to order at 6:35 pm
2. Adjust the Agenda - Michael Clark needs to add selecting a rep for the VSBA meeting, VSBIT, and VEHI annual meeting proxies - suggest adding as "other" agenda items, and will need to take Ryan Fallon off the hire list. Erin Morse brought to the attention a correspondence from a community member regarding the school calendar.
3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard -
  - a. Positive email from Secretary French re: Business Office provided in the packet. This contained a congratulations to the GISU business office regarding progress and celebrations for our business office and the progress made.
4. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approve the minutes from 8/25/2020 - Amy Thompson motions to approve the minutes as presented, Chet Bromley second, all in favor, motion passes.

### Reports

5. Superintendent's Report - Michael Clark shared his written report from the packet. Reopening update - have had students in the building since board last met. Dealt with small hiccups like health screening taking longer than expected, but this is improving as faculty and students learn the routine. The hybrid approach seems to be working. Parents are appreciating the increased structure to remote learning and improving the experience. Kids have been great about face mask wear. Continue to experience some infrastructure issues and have been working with the state to identify this. Encourage community members to use the high speed hotspots available in school parking lots. Sub lists have decreased based on subs not willing to participate until there is a COVID vaccine. Have partnered with UVM to utilize 60 preservice teachers, working in pairs with GISU teachers, to increase capacity in remote learning. Want to give a shout out to faculty and community members who participated in creating the opening plan. The Secretary of Ed. announced that schools will move to level 3 effective Saturday, Sept. 26. The Champlain Valley Super Ass. has identified 3 things to consider as we move to level 3. This includes: staffing, ability to continue safety, capacity of the DOH. Expect based on the approved hybrid policy, the admin team will meet to consider implications and create a methodical, steady approach to bringing more students back. Need to consider spacing in classrooms, and custodial staff capacity. Need to consider implications on resources when we increase the number of students in the building.

Financial Report - Rob Gess shared the budget to actual provided in the board packet. Still early in the year to evaluate trends. Business office is busy preparing the STAT book, processing accounts payable, and completing the food service free & reduced application process. COVID 19 financial updates include: received reimbursement for the summer food service grants, starting getting data collected for additional reimbursements. Business managers throughout the state are also navigating: FEMA related to public assistance grants, reimbursements for corona relief funds, and reimbursement for FY20 - most of the GISU COVID expenditures occurred in FY21, which offers some relief from tight deadlines. Work on the crosswalk of the new chart of accounts and implementation of the new financial system continues.

Bentley Vaughan motions that the board received and reviewed financial statements dated September 18, 2020, Chet Bromley second, all in favor, motion passes.

#### **Board Business.**

6. Audit Update - Rob Gess shared that it was anticipated that the single audit would be complete by now. Sent an updated trial balance to the auditors today and believe that the office has completed what is necessary and waiting to hear from Sullivan & Powers has submitted the single audit to Publisher Clearing House.

7. CFP monitoring email - Michael Clark shared that the consolidated federal program was subject to monitoring last year. Michael Clark read the email included in the packet. This congratulated the office on the progress and recognition of improvement. Based on this, our monitoring of the CFP is complete for now.

8. Electronic Communications Policy - Michael Clark shared that this is the second read of this policy. This has been approved by most of the boards. Chet Bromley motions to accept the policy as presented by Michael Clark, Erin Morse second, all in favor, motion passes.

9. GISU Hybrid Instructional Policy - Bentley Vaughan shared that this is the second reading of this policy as well. Chet Bromley motions to accept the policy, Bentley Vaughan second, all in favor, motion passes.

10. Superintendent 2019-2020 Self Evaluation - Michael Clark presented the highlights from the written report. This included the challenges faced in the 19-20 school year and the progress towards the goals established. Michael Clark also shared the goals going into the 20-21 school year. Anticipate bringing a powerpoint at the next meeting to review the progress towards the SU goals. Amy Thompson expressed thanks to Michael Clark and the team - everyone has done outstanding work

11. Other:

- VSBA - Michael Clark shared that board is entitled to one rep at the VSBA meeting. Michael Inners was the rep last year and he has indicated that he is willing to act as the rep again. Bentley Vaughan motions to nominate Michael Inners as the proxi for the GISU at the VSBA annual meeting.
- VSBIT Annual meeting - Michael Clark shared that each year the districts get a number of votes at the annual meeting. This will be an electronic meeting on 10/22. Michael Clark will attend as he is the vice chair of the board, and so he is willing to act as a proxi. Whitney Maxham motions to nominate Michael Clark as the proxi for the VSBIT meeting, Chet Bromley second, all in favor, motion passes.
- VEHI annual meeting - Michael Clark shared that the meeting is 10/20 and will need to nominate a proxi for voting. Bentley Vaughan motions to nominate Michael Clark as proxi to the board at the VEHI meeting, Amy Thompson second, all in favor, motion passes.
- Letter from Meghan C. expressing concern about school calendar and the inservice days that are scheduled and prioritizing student inperson calendar days. Michael Clark shared that the admin team has reviewed this and the policy that has been approved. The Superintendent does not have the authority to change the calendar. General practice has been that the school calendar is approved by the individual boards and the GISU board, which is different from the practice of most districts where the SU would be the only board to approve the school calendar. Michael Clark shared that the admin team has been considering the implications of legislation around 170 vs. 175 student days. There are 5 inservice days scheduled at this time and so if legislation passes, the calendar would not need to change. Wednesdays are counted as student days and teaching and learning is occurring on these days. Michael Inners expressed concern about changing anything abruptly. Bentley Vaughan agrees, as does Amy Thompson. Bentley Vaughan suggests tabling for now until more information can be gathered.

#### **Closure**

12. Setting the next agenda:

- a. GISU Evaluation and Goals for 2020-2021
- b. Policy review plan
- c. Audit Presentation by Sullivan and Powers
- d. Budget process/possible first draft
- e. School calendar

13 . Adjourn - Erin Morse motions to adjourn, Bentley Vaughan second, all in favor, motion passes, meeting adjourns at 7:39 pm.