

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Minutes

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

Board Present: Bentley Vaughan, Chet Bromley, Tim Maxham, Erin Morse, Michael Inners, Amy Thompson

Admin Present: Michael Clark, Rob Gess

Public Present: Buddy Meilleur

Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Bentley Vaughan called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. Adjust the Agenda - Michael Clark would like to add an update around the management decision letter based on a correspondence received yesterday evening from the Department of Ed.
3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - none
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the minutes from 10/27/2020 - Chet Bromley motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Tim Maxham second, all in favor, motion passes.

Reports

5. Superintendent's Report - Michael Clark shared his written report provided in the packet. He highlighted that GISU member districts have had two positive covid cases. Working with the DOH and contact tracing has gone smoothly. We have learned through this that the whole class is considered a direct contact. There is a need for more substitutes as we are struggling with staffing when staff has had to quarantine. Michael Clark outlined the needs for quarantine based on governor's orders.

Financial Report - Rob Gess shared the budget to actuals provided in the packet. Next month, the report will include a revenue report. Not much has changed since last month. Anticipate special education costs will be less than expected - continue to monitor excess tuition costs and transportation costs in the remote setting. With remote work, there is a leveling out of the general expenditures. Technology expenses are projected to be over budget, but anticipate there will be savings elsewhere to balance this. The state of VT has still not released information on the application process for corona relief funds. Still making progress on implementing eFinancePlus. FY20 audit update includes that balance sheet reconciliation for GISU and Alburgh is complete and are looking to submit to Sullivan & Powers next week and will begin CIUUSD and South Hero next week. Tim Maxham motions that the board has received and reviewed the budget to actuals dated Nov 19, 2020, Bentley Vaughan second, all in favor, motion passes.

Board Business.

6. Appeal update - Michael Clark shared that the Dept of Ed has responded to the appeal. Michael has reached out to Pietro to ask what the next steps are. Based on the audits that have just been completed, the GISU has enough carry forward funds to cover the funds, so it would not have an impact on the budget to be discussed this evening. Anticipate having more info at the December meeting since the team just received the info last night.
7. Budget - Michael Clark shared that Rob and he have sat to balance the needs of the district that is fiscally responsible for the district without creating a "yo-yo" effect annually. Looking to set it up so that when working on an FY23 budgets. Rob Gess reviewed the cover letter that highlighted what is in the budget. Rob reviewed the trends that can be controlled and the trends that cannot. Highlights included:

statewide healthcare negotiations and its effects on the district, IT needs and infrastructure necessary, service plan from special education, grant fund allocation updates, and general expenses. Tried to maintain flat operation costs for general expenses. Overall a 2.4% increase in the budget and a 14% reduction in special education costs, so an overall 8.13% decrease in assessment when compared to this year. Tim Maxham motions to approve the budget as presented for FY22 of \$5,978,321.26. Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

8. Policy F24 - Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Procurement (second reading) - Michael Inners motions to approve, Bentley Vaughan seconds. Chet Bromley expressed concern regarding the \$25 gratuity limit on the policy, board discussed the practicality of this. Roll vote: Bentley Vaughan - yes, Michael Inners - yes, Amy Thompson - yes, Erin Morse - yes, Tim Maxham - yes, Chet Bromley abstains, motion passes.

9. Board-Superintendent Relations Policy - Michael Clark shared that this is the model policy from the VSBA, this is a first reading.

10. Prevention of Sexual Harassment As Prohibited by Title IX Policy - Michael Clark shared that this is the first read, it has been changed based on changes at the federal level, this is the model policy from the VSBA. There is a lot of training occurring for school administrators. Michael Inners expressed concern over the policy.

11. Community Use of School Facilities Policy - Bentley Vaughan shared this is the first reading of this policy. Michael indicated that this has been reviewed at local meetings. It indicates Superintendent, but Michael Clark would be designating principals.

12. Superintendent review process - Michael Clark shared that the questions asked in previous years was included in the packet. Michael indicated that Megan can work to alter the survey and send out in working with Bentley. In the past this was sent out to board members. Michael shared that he recently has an LPI survey completed through the Snelling program that went out to board chairs, and various members of staff. Bentley shared that he was good with the survey provided and would like it to be sent to board members. Michael Inners suggested trying to find the goals for this year and comparing where we are now. Tim Maxham suggested sending the survey to Principals and people that work within the GISU central office as they have more interaction with the Superintendent. A suggested deadline to complete is December 18 - this will give board members plenty of time and allow Bentley to review.

13. Other - none

Closure

14. Setting the next agenda - policies, executive session for superintendent eval survey results

15 . Adjourn - Chet Bromley motions to adjourn, Tim Maxham seconds, all in favor, motion passes, board adjourns at 7:53 p.m.