

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
Grand Isle School District
School Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Minutes

Board Present: Gary Marckres, Don Bartlett, Michael Inners

Administration Present: Lauren Thomas, Rob Gess, Michael Clark

Public Present: Angie Ross, Kim Cohen, Apryl Cunningham, Catherine Joachim, Mr. Joachim, Amy Thompson, Tim Maxham

1. Call to Order - Gary Marckres called to order at 8:12 pm
2. Adjust the Agenda - Add executive session on topic of incentivized retirement at the end of meeting. Add board terms and elections in March and an update for fifth board member after item 10.
3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard- Grand Isle School PTA representative Amy would like to discuss letter sent to board. Michael Clark shared he has a meeting scheduled on Thursday. This is the next step in the process. If PTA is unhappy with the outcome after this meeting, then it would be presented to the board. Gary Marckres explained the process of written complaints and why the process is in place. This is outlined in the district's complaint process. Michael Clark recognizes that he has a meeting with Amy and other members of the PTA on Thursday. Michael Clark and Michael Inners confirmed that the submission of the letter has not contaminated the process as the board has not had discussions and have allowed administrators to handle appropriately. It is in the best interest to not hear this at this time to allow the process to continue.
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the minutes from 11/13/2018- Michael Inners moves to approve, Don Bartlett second, all in favor to approve agenda

Adjustments:

Add board terms and elections in March

Add an update on the fifth member of the board

Add an executive session to discuss incentivized retirement

5. Reports

- a. Principal's - Lauren Thomas shared her principal's report with the board. There is a reminder that Thursday at 5:30 is the music and art show at the school. Students and staff have had events to promote leadership. Testing scores have increased in all subjects. With the help of RISE VT, they were able to create healthy snacks and try new foods. Full swing of basketball season. Gary Marckres asked if progress was made in food service director. Lauren Thomas shared she is not in charge of hiring that position, it is an Abbey Group position.
 - i. Kim Cohen shared her thoughts that electives are not fulfilling student needs and unhappy with the way school year is going. Issues with science teacher not challenging her child. Feels there are no consequences given by teachers for not doing homework. Feeling like staff are acting as babysitters and not teaching. Lauren Thomas shared that she has responded to elective process individually. PLP is state initiative to pursue what

students are passionate about and offer support for students. The science and English teacher concerns will be brought up individually. Gary Marckres ended conversation and encourages parent to go to administrator one-on-one and not have conversation in a public setting. Michael Clark recommended Kim have continual conversation with Lauren Thomas to address. It is recommended that complaint be reduced to a written complaint that can be followed up on and process that was explained previously can be followed to allow administrators to follow up. If there are still concerns, it may be brought before the board and discussed by the board within executive session.

- b. Financial- Michael Clark shared that we are on track and we are starting to release tuition money as we have verified residency. Rob Gess shared update on training in Killington to establish new accounts. Complexity in mapping existing accounts to new accounts. GISU will map existing accounts, but not carry historical data to new data. Historical data will be saved on server, but will not be able to map to new system. Michelle Hetling and Rob Gess are currently mapping new accounts.

Board Business.

6. Approval of invoices were tabled to the end of discussion when Rob Gess was able to join meeting.

7. Follow up on correspondence from 11/13/2018 meeting - Michael Clark summed up the correspondence from the 11/13/2018 meeting. VSBA commended board on recognizing a potential conflict of interest. VSBA recommends that if members of the board feel it is a conflict, they should recuse themselves. Attorney advised that it was not a great idea to reimburse money to directly to families, but instead should authorize sending money to school entity, but board is not obligated to do so. Matter becomes a board decision, but needs to have a quorum of the board. Gary Marckres is not comfortable discussing without Nathan Robinson's involvement in decision. This will be added to next agenda to discuss request.

8. Tuition number update for FY 19 budget - Michael Clark shared the process of getting actual tuition number. This has been a process of establishing: who is going where and do they live in Grand Isle? Shared the process that was previously used to identify tuitioned students. As of today, confirmed total of 91 students, there are some students that have had tuition paid before and are not showing up on this year's invoices. GISU has contacted schools to verify if they are still attending and if they have moved. Grand Isle budgeted for 89 students.

9. Residency verification process - Michael Clark shared the proposed process and forms that would be associated with the new tuition process. Michael Clark recommend to follow the process on a semi-annual basis, sending out forms in January and June. This process is to ensure residency and correct tuition payments. First time process, GISU would send out forms in December with a due date at the end of January 2019. Gary Marckres moves to approve, Don Bartlett second. Michael Inners asked for clarification on the new process if someone moves. Michael Clark shared this is why forms would be sent out twice per year. It would ensure we are catching mid-year moves. All in favor, motion passes.

10. Approval of audit engagement letter - Rob Gess shared the audit engagement letter from Sullivan & Powers. It is the same language as the FY17 audit engagement letter. Michael Inners moves to approve and allow Gary to sign. Don Bartlett second, all in favor. Motion passes.

11. Board terms - Michael Inners identified that he needs to run. Don Bartlett will also need to run. All terms will end December 2019. Michael Clark will verify with town clerk and add addendum to minutes.

12. Fifth Board member- Michael Clark and Gary want to make sure to advertise that they are still looking for a fifth board member.

13. Approval of bills for payment- Rob Gess did not get copy of file sent and will coordinate after meeting to have this done to have board members sign off.

Closure

11. Setting the next agenda- similar to this one down to item #5, item #6 will also stay. Michael Clark shared that he will reach out for other items when compiling the January Agenda

12. Gary made a motion to enter executive session, Don Bartlett second. Rob Gess and Lauren Thomas invited to join executive session. All in favor. Board entered executive session at 9:13 pm.

13. Board exited executive session at 9:33 p.m. Don Bartlett made a motion to authorize a one-time retirement incentive, in the amount of \$15,000, to be paid at the end of FY19 pending legal counsel. Michael Inners seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passes.

12. Adjourn- Don Bartlett made a motion to adjourn at 9:34 p.m.. Michael Inners Seconded. Vote 3-0