

**Grand Isle Supervisory Union**  
**CIUUSD Regular Meeting**  
**School Board Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 4, 2022**

**Minutes**

**Board Present:** Michael Inners, Brad Blanchette, Nathan Robinson, Chet Bromley

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

**Public Present:** Sylvia Jensen

**Call to Order**

1. Call to Order - Michael Inners called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - Sylvia Jensen shared updates regarding work being done on use of the Isle La Motte kitchen.
3. Adjust the agenda - Nathan Robinson asked to add the Colchester bus route to the agenda - this will be added after the budget discussion. Michael Clark asked to add the principal update to executive session.
4. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approve the minutes from 12/7/2021 - Chet Bromley motions to approve, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.
5. Reports
  - a. Superintendent's - Michael Clark shared updates from his written report provided in the packet and highlighted changes in guidance issued by the AOE and VDH related to covid. Discussion took place around the challenges of staffing and student absentee numbers. Michael Clark gave a shout out to all the hard work of staff and administrators within the buildings that have gone above and beyond to be able to sub for each other as needed.
  - b. Principal - Lauren Thomas shared the written report provided in the packet and highlighted that ESSER funds will be used to fund a premier bus for the ski program. Discussion took place around covid restrictions on the ski program. Amanda Ellison shared info on the ski program as well. Amanda also updated the board on facilities issues within the North Hero campus. Discussion took place regarding potential cost effects of worst-case scenarios with facilities issues. Discussion took place regarding capital improvement budgeting.
  - c. Financial - Rob Gess shared updates on the budget, food service RFP, and other projects the business office is completing.

**Board Business.**

6. Approval of bills for payment - Brad Blanchette motions to approve and authorize Michael Inners to sign the warrant on behalf of the board in the amount of \$1,505,830.27, Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
7. FY23 Budget and Warning - Michael Clark walked the board through tax rate calculations for each town based on the proposed budget. Michael Clark also explained the potential impacts of Act 173 on the budgets for local education spending. Discussion took place regarding Act 173 and estimated tax rates and the pros and cons of warning approving the warning this evening. Nathan Robinson motions to adopt the budget of \$8,729,460, Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, motion passes. The board reviewed the budget warning and made suggestions to administration for drafting the warning. Nathan Robinson motions to approve the warning and to remove Article 5 as presented in the board packet and replace it with the suggested language by Michael Clark about capital improvement funds. Michael Inners made some suggestions about numbering on the ballot. All in favor, motion passes.
8. Principal resignation & request - Michael Clark shared that he is excited that Lauren Thomas has accepted an Executive Director role at the VPA. This is an exciting opportunity for Lauren. There is a written request from Lauren regarding a buyout of some of the accrued paid leave that she has remaining.
9. Principal Search Proposed Process - Nathan Robinson motioned to approve the request of Lauren Thomas to buyout 53 of her remaining sick days and 20 personal days at \$95/day, all in favor, motion passes. Michael Clark suggested using a similar process to that which was used during the North Hero principal hiring. A posting will go out

and Michael will solicit CIUUSD faculty and staff, community, and board to be members of the hiring advisory committee. Michael will then bring a recommendation to the board. Michael outlined the timeline for interviews and site visit. Discussion took place around the idea of hiring a single principal. Some of the pros and cons were discussed including the need for an assistant principal if this was the route taken and the potential for unification of the district. Discussion took place around the benefits of co-principals given the geographic challenges of multiple locations and the culture within the communities. Brad Blanchette indicated he was interested in being on the advisory committee.

10. Retirement Incentive update - Michael Inners shared that there is a letter from Dorothy Sacca indicating she will be retiring after 34 years on June 30, 2022. Michael Inners and the board thanked Dorothy for all her years of service and her family.

11. F20 - Fiscal Management & General Financial Accountability - Michael inners shared that this is a first reading of this policy. It has been adopted by the GISU. Nathan Robinson asked about the dollar amounts reflected in the policy. Michael Clark indicated this is based on the update to the state statute. Discussion took place around policy and expectations. Michael Clark reviewed that a procedure manual is something that needs to follow the policies that would outline the procedural expectations.

12. Negotiations updates - Michael Inners shared that the Teacher Negotiating Committee has met. Michael Inners reviewed who is on the committee and the scheduled meeting times. Michael Clark reviewed the historical process of reviewing and renewing the principal contract. Michael Clark suggested that a negotiating committee being formed to negotiate directly with the principal for the next contract. Nathan Robinson motions to enter executive session to evaluate personnel, Michael Inners seconds, all in favor, board exits executive session at 9:15 p.m. Board exited the executive session at 10:00 p.m. no action was taken.

13. Other - Bus issue - M. Clark shared that Sheriff Allen called about safety issues around busing and pick up at Kim's. Kim's has changed hands and the parking lot is not plowed. Mountain Transit has moved to pick students up at the school instead of at the Kim's parking lot. This is the Colchester bus and so the board does not have much authority. Discussion took place around safety and potential other problem solving.

#### **Closure**

14. Setting the next agenda - policy F20 action, negotiations update, principal negotiations, budget communication plan including annual meeting plan, update on Act 173

15. Adjourn - Nathan Robinson Motions to adjourn, all in favor, motion passes. Board adjourns at 10:18 p.m.