

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

CIUUSD Special Meeting

School Board Special Meeting

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

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

Agenda

Board Present: Michael Inners, Chet Bromley, Brad Blanchette, Amy Thompson, Nathan Robinson (joined at 6:34 p.m)

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

Public Present: Mike Donahue, LCATV rep, Shannon Kadish, Diedre Young, Elaine Chasse (Learning Adventure), Jeff Parizo (Grand Isle select board)

Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Michael Clark called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. This is the annual reorganization meeting

2. Board reorganization

Officers:

- Chair - Brad Blanchette nominates Michael Inners, Chet Bromley seconds, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes. Meeting is turned over to Michael Inners as board chair.
- Vice Chair - Brad Blanchette nominates Amy Thompson, all in favor, motion passes.
- Clerk - Michael Inners nominates Brad Blanchette, all in favor, motion passes.
- SU Board Reps - CIUUSD has 3 representatives, the practice has been to have one rep from each town. Michael Inners nominates Brad Blanchette and Chet Bromley, and Amy Thompson, Nathan Robinson seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

Operational:

- Regular meeting schedule: Amy Thompson motions to hold the regular meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., all in favor, motion passes.
- Annual Board work session (retreat) - Michael Inners suggested scheduling later as guidance is updated.
- Designated posting places for agendas - Michael Inners indicated that historically the board has designated that historically it has been posted in two places in each town - town office and school for each town. Chet Bromley suggests that in Isle La Motte, the two places be the town office and post office. Board agrees with this practice. Brad Blanchette motions to follow the practice as outlined, Amy Thompson seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
- Robert's Rules - Nathan Robinson motions to use Robert's Rules of Order for small boards, Brad Blanchette seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
- Code of Ethics - Board reviewed the code of ethics outlined by the VSBA. Board agrees to abide by the code of ethics as outlined on record.
- Communication practices - Board agrees to maintain current communication practice.
- Board development opportunities - to be discussed at board retreat.
- Newspaper designation - Chet Bromley motions to designate the Islander, no discussion, all in favor, motion passes.

3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - Shannon Kadish expressed concerns regarding the North Hero school. This included class size of the 3-4 class. Board discussed the class size policy. Shannon Kadish

advocated for extra support to the class. Shannon Kadish also expressed concern about the return to more in person learning for the 3-4 and 5-6 class. Discussion took place around the work the administration and board had completed when making the decision in the fall to not pursue costly work associated with utilizing the gym. Parents present advocated for further investigation into returning these classes to more in-person learning. Board reiterated their reasoning behind not pursuing the option - this included costs, hiring shortfalls, and the viability of education in a setting that would not be conducive to learning. Discussion took place around other possibilities. The board asked that the administration look at gathering more information around using the gym to house the 3-4 and 5-6 classroom (totaling approximately 48 students) and the costs and compliance associated with this option. Michael Clark emphasized that the GISU learning community has done an amazing job of following the guidance; and teachers have done amazing work in coming in during the summer to assist in the reopening plan and prioritizing students learning and safety during a pandemic throughout the school year. Everyone is anxious for students to return to pre-pandemic learning environments, teachers included, and safety has been prioritized during the pandemic.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the Minutes from 2/2/2021 & 3/1/2021 - Chet Bromley motions to approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, motion passes.
- b. Resignation - Jeff Clark - Michael Clark shared this is an information piece, under statute Michael as Superintendent has accepted the resignation. Have been conducting interviews and anticipate having an update on a hire at the next meeting.

5. Reports

- a. Superintendent's - Michael Clark shared the written report. Michael Inners asked about the audit status. Michael Clark shared the info provided in the written report.
- b. Financial - Rob Gess shared the budget to actuals provided in the packet. Rob reviewed the progress of the audit for CIUUSD.
- c. Principal's - Lauren Thomas shared updates on the woodchip boiler including the information and discussion from the meeting with Efficiency Vermont.

Board Business.

6. Approval of bills for payment - Chet Bromley motioned to approve the bills, no further discussion, all in favor Michael Inners clarified the amount is \$1,383,848.52, motion passes. Nathan Robinson motioned to authorize Michael Inners to sign the warrant on behalf of the board, all in favor, motion passes.

7. Learning Adventure Information - Michael Inners shared that Learning Adventure is expected to close at the end of the school year. Michael Clark thanks Elaine for the heads up and plans to work with other private providers to explore their capacity prior to exploring the expansion of the CIUUSD preK program. Board agreed that this is a good plan.

8. Policy Review Process - Michael Inners indicated that the board has completed the review of required policies and the need to review the recommended and suggested policies. Nathan Robinson indicated he feels that the board should continue to place a hold on reviewing the recommended policies. Michael Clark expressed concern around not reviewing the recommended policies and how this is not helpful in setting guidelines for administration. Nathan Robinson expressed concern that by reviewing policies moves the board toward policy governance, which was decided against years ago. Michael Inners indicated that Michael Clark has been following the policies as guidelines for CIUUSD as the rest of the SU and districts pass them. Nathan Robinson motions to table policy discussion until the summer, Amy Thompson seconds. Roll vote - Nathan Robinson - yes, Chet Bromley - pass (unresponsive), Amy Thompson, yes, Brad Blanchette - no, Michael Inners - no, should review the policies and pass the non-controversial policies. Discussion took place around the role of the board and policy. Amy Thompson moves that the board has reviewed the policy as a first read. Nathan Robinson indicated the board is

already over time and will hang up if policies are reviewed at this time. Michael Inners suggested circulating the policies to be reviewed prior to the meeting for discussion at the next meeting. Amy Thompson withdraws her motion. Michael Clark will send the previously proposed policy review schedule for informational purposes so that the board may review the model policies on the VSBA website.

9. (C28) Transgender & Gender Nonconforming Students

10. (B22) Public Complaints about Personnel & Instructional Materials

11. (A20) Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution

Closure

12. Setting the next agenda - gymnasium use in North Hero, PreK conversation, policy conversation as outlined, and regular reports. Nathan Robinson asked about transportation, he indicated that he will lead this discussion as he has done some research (anticipates needing 15 minutes).

13. Adjourn - Nathan Robinson motions to adjourn, all in favor, meeting adjourns at 8:45 p.m.