

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

School Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Minutes

To view the recording, please click here.

Board Present: Bentley Vaughan, Amy thompson, Tim Maxham, Chet Bromley, Brad Blanchette,

Admin Present: Michael Clark, Rob Gess

Public Present: Buddy Meilleur LCATV

Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Michael Clark called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.
2. Board reorganization
 - Chair - Tim Maxham nominates Bentley Vaughan, Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
 - Vice Chair - Tim Maxham nominates Bradley Blanchette, Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
 - Clerk - Tim Maxham nominates Amy Thompson , Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
 - Regular meeting schedule - Tim Maxham motions to hold the GISU regular meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
 - Designated posting sites - Tim Maxham motions to post at the town clerk offices and schools of the three districts, except in Isle La Motte where it would be the town clerk office and post office, Chet Bromley second, all in favor, motion passes.
 - Robert's Rules - Tim Maxham motions to use Roberts Rules for small boards as long as the second is kept, Bentley Vaughan seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
 - Code of Ethics - Discussed at local boards.
 - Newspaper - Tim Maxham motions to use the Islander for publications, Amy Thompson seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
 - Commission Voting Delegate - Tim Maxham motions to nominate Michael Inners as the voting rep, Amy Thompson seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
3. Adjust the agenda - Michael Clark needs to add a resignation letter not originally sent in packet.
4. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - none
5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the Minutes from 2/23/2021 - Tim Maxham motions to approve the minutes as printed, Amy Thompson seconds, roll vote: Bentley Vaughan - yes, Tim Maxham - yes, Amy Thompson - yes, Chet Bromley - yes, Brad Blanchette - abstains, motion passes.
 - b. New hire - Morgan Powers (Administrative Assistant to Director of Student Support Services)
 - c. Resignation - Carol Egan (.2 FTE Special Educator), Heather Gadway (Special Educator)

Reports

6. Superintendent's Report - Michael Clark shared that there is a lengthy report provided in the packet. This has been reviewed at local board meetings. Michael shared updates about vaccines and surveillance testing. Inservice focused on equity and was well-received. Tomorrow's community meeting will be the fourth meeting reviewing and soliciting input on returning to in-person learning. Have seen a drop off in attendance at community meetings. Michael also shared work that is ongoing within the central office. Michael also shared the trouble with finding substitutes. He thanked the learning community including teachers, staff, and board members.

Financial Report - Rob Gess shared the budget to actuals in the packet. Rob reviewed the COVID relief fund process and the status of the reimbursement. Rob also reviewed the ESSER funding coming through. Rob reviewed the status of the eFinancePlus implementation. At this time, the GISU has requested a pause in implementation based on availability of resources to implement and some of the shortcomings of the system. We are not the only SU or SD to request a pause that is within the round for implementation. Rob reviewed the status of the single audit - deadline has been extended for this year to June 30, but confident in making the original March 31 deadline. Rob and Michael reviewed the impact of s100 if it should pass and the effects on the ed fund and local budgets. This is a commendable program, but the funding mechanism needs to be reviewed. Tim Maxham motions that the board has received and reviewed the budget to actuals for fiscal year 2021 dated March 18, 2021, second by Bentley Vaughan, all in favor, motion passes.

Board Business.

7. ESSER Position - Michael Clark shared a proposal to add support to the Central Office using the ESSER funds. With the increase in excess federal funding, there will be an increased amount of necessary documentation to access the funds. There is concern about having the resources to process procurement in order to spend all available funds; a second concern is that there is not enough resources to process perfectly and the GISU ends up in a management decision letter situation again. Annually, there is one million dollars of federal funds handled, ESSER provides more than a 100% increase. Michael shared the proposal to reallocate jobs to create a manageable work load. Michael shared examples of some of the additional work that will need to be completed. Michael presented that he is looking for board approval for an increased 1.0 FTE funded through 2024 through ESSER funds (less than 5% of the ESSER allocations) to address the increased responsibility associated with managing the increased funding. Depending on the passing of s100, we may need to come back for additional FTEs to fund the food program due to the capacity that would be necessary. It is also possible that we will need to contract out some of the IT services based on the increased tech purchases with ESSER funds. Brad Balnchette motions that the board supports the proposal, Amy Thompson seconded, all in favor, motion passes.

8. (C28) Transgender & Gender Nonconforming Students(first reading) - Bentley Vaughan shared policy has been shared at the local boards. This is a first reading and so not action this evening, just an opportunity for questions.

9. (B22) Public Complaints about Personnel & Instructional Materials (first reading) - Bentley Vaughan shared policy has been shared at the local boards. This is a first reading and so not action this evening, just an opportunity for questions.

10. (A20) Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution (first reading) - Bentley Vaughan shared policy has been shared at the local boards. This is a first reading and so not action this evening, just an opportunity for questions. Chet Bromley expressed concern about this policy and asked clarifying questions.

11. Management Decision Letter Update (M. Clark)(Discussion) - Michael Clark shared the background of the management decision letter. For FY18, documentation was unable to be produced for the audit. The board decided to appeal the decision and Michael has had a meeting with the AOE to negotiate a settlement. They are unable to negotiate and they are still working out the mechanism for paying the funds back. Michael reviewed the recommendation of legal council to not pursue a court case. The budget set aside half the value of payback and the single audit will show carry forward to cover the other half. Tim Maxham motioned to pay the principle amount with no interest, Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

12. Other

Closure

13. Setting the next agenda - policy work continued, hiring update of ESSER position, potential update about management decision letter, Recovery Team work, GISU school calendar

14. Adjourn - Brad Blanchette motions to adjourn, Bentley Vaughan seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
Meeting adjourns at 8:09 p.m.