

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

CIUUSD Regular Meeting

School Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Minutes

Board Present: Michael Inners, Brad Blanchette, Nathan Robinson, Chet Bromely, Amy Thompson

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

Public Present: Buddy Meilleur LCATV , Sylvia Jensen, Barbara Callahan Megan Walker, Veronica Bernicke, Jeri Frank, Teri Sibenaller, Shannon Kadish, Kille Kolk

Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Michael Inners called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.
2. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - Chet Bromley would like to add the Isle La Motte septic issues to the agenda. Michael Inners indicated that this would be included in the updates from the Superintendent and Principal Ellison. Sylvia Jensen indicated that Isle La Motte is in the process of completing elections and some of her concerns about some of the apportion amounts on the ballot. Michael Inners explained the historical processing of the apportion amounts. This is similar to the North Hero arrangement that CIUUSD inherited from the merged districts. Discussion took place around the fee for community use of school facilities.
3. Adjust the agenda - Michael Clark would like to add the GISU calendar to the agenda - this will be added prior to the PreK discussion.
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the minutes from 3/9/2021 - Chet Bromley motioned to approve as presented, no discussion, all in favor, motion passes.
 - b. Resignation - Sara Zuanich (paraprofessional) - Michael Clark informed the board and thanked Sara for her service.
 - c. Resignation - Alaria Doane (.4 FTE music) - Michael Clark informed the board and thanked Alaria for her service.
5. Reports
 - a. Superintendent's - Michael Clark shared there is a lengthy report provided in the packet. He shared highlights from the report. Michael Inners asked about if there was anticipation of extension requests on teacher contracts. Michael Clark clarified the process.
 - b. Principal - Amanda Ellison welcomed Matt Brouillette as the new Maintenance person. She shared updates on the Isle La Motte septic system that Matt has been working on. Amanda also shared updates on the Opportunity BluePrint - the GISU Recovery Plan. Lauren Thomas shared highlights on the Grand Isle campus, inclusive of some of the concepts for the outdoor classroom. Nathan Robinson asked about progress of the boiler. Lauren indicated that Matt has all the notes and has taken on the project.
 - c. Financial - Rob Gess shared the budget to actuals provided in the packet. Rob indicated that Principals have been smart in their spending. He also highlighted the ESSER funds to be available. Michael Inners asked about the corona relief funds reimbursement. Rob Gess outlined the timeline of submission and that the office is still waiting for feedback from the AOE.

Board Business.

6. Approval of bills for payment - Michael Inner reviewed warrant 2349 in the amount of \$392,057.03. Nathan Robinson motions to approve the warrant 2349 in the amount of \$392,057.03and for Michael

inners to be authorized to sign the warrant on behalf of the board, Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

7. North Hero Gym use - Amanda Ellison reviewed the work with contractors to prepare the gym for use as a classroom. This included reviewing highlights from the written report. Discussion took place around the cost associations as well as the practicality of hosting multiple classes in the gym. Amanda also shared she has had some parents reach out that were unable to attend this evening's meeting. These parents indicated they are concerned about bringing classes back and for the safety of the students. Megan Walker shared that she and Brian as the classroom teachers have discussed bringing students back and the concern about distractions in the classroom and ensuring parents understand the implications of bringing so many students back into the gym. Shannon Kadish expressed that she wished this robust conversation had happened sooner to provide more opportunities for the students. Michael Clark verified that with the HVAC system, the environment is not acceptable as a classroom because of acoustic challenges and the increased distractions. Part of what the teachers and support staff has expressed that they will figure out how to make this work and that is commendable. This solution would be taking advantage of being outside as much as possible, which was not feasible in November through February. These options were thoroughly researched in November, but were not viable options given the inability to access outdoor solutions. Michael reviewed the options that were previously explored included: moving students to Isle La Motte was explored, getting a trailer for a classroom was explored, and the option to use interdistrict choice was also given and is still available. Parents have given feedback in support of options to keep things as is or bring more students back. Teachers and support staff shared their perspective of bringing students back creating changes in routines and learning conditions. They expressed concern about the change increasing disciplinary issues, distractions in the learning environment, and changes at this time will essentially restart the school year for students. There was discussion around if this environment would allow access for Free and Appropriate Public Education due to the challenges that it would present to student's interactions and learning environment quality. Amy Thompson commended the teachers and administration for their amazing work at the drop of a hat to accommodate learning for all students whether it be remote or in-person. Brad Blanchette echoes Amy's words. Amy Thompson motions to recommend to the Superintendent and the board to listen to the teacher feedback and maintain learning as is for the remainder of the 20-21 school year. Roll vote: Brad Blanchette - yes, Amy Thompson - yes, Nathan Robinson - yes, Chet Bromley - yes, Michael Inners - yes. The board thanked Amanda for the extra work put into this. Amanda Ellison thanked her staff for coming out this evening and offering their input.

8. GISU 2021-2022 School Calendar - Michael Inners clarified that the flexibility of the calendar is limited based on needing to align with the CVSA calendar. He also indicated that the GISU board approves the calendar, but it is the historical practice for local boards to review.

9. PreK in the Islands - Michael Clark shared that he had a conversation with Champlain Island Parent Child Center and Turn to JOy - these are the 2 other large prek providers in the Islands. They have the capacity to absorb the prek from the Learning Adventure. By taking on prek students, it helps keep their programs viable and cost effective. They shared it would be in direct competition with them if CIUUSD opened a larger prek program. Both entities suggested that if it was possible to provide transportation, they would be able to provide after school programs. No action at this time - Michael Clark will stay in touch with the CIPPC and Turn to Joy to ensure there is not a capacity issue.

10. Policy Review plan - Michael Inners shared the policy review plan that was reviewed in the fall. The board discussed if there are policies that can be reviewed that are non-confrontational. The board reviewed some of the policies that were previously adopted. Nathan Robinson suggested creating a policy committee to review the policies and set the plan to bring policies before the board meeting to have action taken at the meeting. This committee based on board size would be two people. Michael Inners suggests the board starts working through the policies and if there are issues brought up during the

meeting, it will be tabled. Board agrees to work through the policies and plan to have the policies that may require a longer discussion to be placed on a lighter meeting agenda.

11. Transportation - Nathan Robinson shared the information he has completed for transportation. This is not the decision for this board, but for the GISU board. Nathan suggests recommending that a consultant come in to review the transportation costs and help trim it down. Nathan shared some of the information he collected regarding costs in comparison to other districts. Nathan highlighted potential cost savings and encouraged Amy and Brad to take this up at the GISU board level.

12. Other

Closure

13. Setting the next agenda - How did students do during the Pandemic; presentation of data that informs the GISU Recovery Plan (presented by Megan Grube), policy review for May/June described in the plan,

14. Adjourn - Brad Blanchette motions to adjourn, all in favor, motion passes. Meeting adjourns at 8:53 p.m.