

GRAND ISLE SCHOOL BOARD
Meeting and PUBLIC FORUM on ACT 46
Monday, May 9, 2016
At Grand Isle School

Attendance:

Gary Marckres, *Chair*
Mike Talbot
Teri Geney
Don Bartlett
Carol Miller

Eric Arnzen, *Principal*
Beth Hemmingway, *Director of Student Services*
Barbara Burrington, *Superintendent*
Members of the Public

Act 46 Committee Members present:

Teri Geney
Charlotte Kennedy
Don Bartlett
Mike Talbot
Carol Miller

Andy Julow
Kris Bowser
Tim Maxham

Gary Marckres the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M. Introductions were made. Teri Geney presented the three merger options the Committee is considering.

Timeline: There needs to be an affirmative vote by June of 2017. Implementation would be a year for the new board to form that would run the supervisory union/district by July 1, 2019.

There are various incentives for merging. If we chose a plan which is within the preferred structures as you will see tonight. The incentives are for the next 4 years by reducing the base tax rate by .08 the first year, .06, the second year, .04, the third year and .02 the fourth year. Transitional grants have been offered to make the merger happen.

Penalties. If any district doesn't have the affirmative vote by end of June of 2017, is subject to involuntary realignment. We would lose our choice at this point. Tax rate penalties. If cost per student is increasing at too large of a rate, there would be penalties.

Education Quality Standards: GISU has identified several priorities we need to address to meet the standards. There are several areas where we need to put resources regardless of whatever option we choose, we will need to invest resources in the following areas:

World Language
Tired System of Supports
Transferrable skills
Technology Integration
STEM (Science, technology, engineering and math)

The Act 46 Committee consists of 18 members from the five towns. The Committee has come up with three options. Each of town's school board has been and is meeting with their towns people and asking for feedback. More information can be accessed at www.islandschools.org

Mike Talbot gave a brief history of the process and outlined the options:

Option 1: SIDE BY SIDE MERGER WITH S. BURLINGTON WITH GRAND ISLE K-8:

- Current South Burlington structure has a single School Board serving three K-5 schools, Tuttle Middle School (Gr.6-8) and South Burlington High School.
- Proposed Side by Side Merger would have a single SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD with two District School Boards, one Board for island schools offering K-8 (Alburgh, South Hero & Grand Isle) and one Board for South Burlington elementary, middle & high schools and island schools offering PK-5 (North Hero and Isle La Motte).
- Grand Isle School (and ALB & SH) would provide K-8 education and offer School Choice (tuitioned) for grades 9-12. We would need to augment existing programs to meet education quality standards. Tax rate would be based on this group's budget, including Supervisory Union assessment.
- The island towns in the PK-5 group would provide K-5 education, send Gr.6-8 students to Tuttle Middle School (no tuition fee) and Gr.9-12 students to South Burlington High School (no tuition fee). Few changes would be required to meet education quality standards. Note that in this scenario, island students lose school choice. Tax rate would be based on the District Board's budget, including the Supervisory Union assessment.

Option 2: SIDE BY SIDE MERGER WITH S. BURLINGTON WITH GRAND ISLE K-5:

- This Side by Side Merger with South Burlington would have a single Supervisory Union Board with two District School Boards: one Board for island schools providing Gr. K-8 (Alburgh & Folsom) and one Board for South Burlington elementary, middle & high schools and island schools providing Gr. K-5 (Grand Isle, North Hero and Isle La Motte).
- Grand Isle School (and NH & ILM) would provide Gr. K-5 education, send Gr.6-8 students to Tuttle Middle School (no tuition fee) and Gr.9-12 students to South Burlington High School (no tuition fee). Few changes would be required to meet education quality standards. Note that in this scenario, island students lose school choice. Tax rate would be based on this District Board's budget, including the Supervisory Union assessment.

South Burlington is interested in this merger, but has not committed. The Committee has talked with South Burlington's leadership, but they have to vote on it as well. Their Board is still talking about it.

Option 3: K-6 REGIONAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (RED)

- Grand Isle, Isle La Motte, North Hero, and South Hero would form single Supervisory District with single budget.
- The 4-school RED would provide K-6 education and provide School Choice (tuitioned) to Gr.7-8 and Gr.9-12 students.
- Because Middle School students would be tuitioned to other schools, fewer changes (\$) would be needed to meet education quality standards.
- Tax rate would be based on the RED's budget.
- Alburgh would need to merge with another district outside Grand Isle County

Question: Why would South Burlington be interested? They are suffering from a decline in population. They are talking about merging some of their elementary schools. 20% of South Burlington's population are from outside the district. South Burlington will also benefit from the tax incentives.

Question: Have all three options been presented to the State Board?

Question: Do you expect that the Act 46 Board will be unanimous?

Question: Why was South Burlington picked?

Question: On Town Meeting Day, do all five towns vote on the budget and does it have to be unanimous, or is it tied with South Burlington. If the one town votes no, is the budget voted down?

Question: Does South Burlington vote on the budget?

Question: Why do we have to offer K-6?

Question: When will the educational quality standards be implemented?

Question: Why would South Burlington go for this?

Question: Did you have any other schools show interest? Why was Colchester ruled out?

Question: If South Burlington does not go with Option 3, does it fail?

Question: What is the anticipated tax rate?

Question: Is there a markup in tuition? Will we save money on bussing?

Question: Why K-5 on Option 3?

- End of Public Forum -

Gary Marckres called the GISB **Meeting to Order at 8:45 P.M.**

Adjustment to Agenda

The following Agenda items have been tabled until the May 23rd board meeting:

VMI Presentation

Enrollment update

SWIFT-FIT Assessment

SBAC Results

Carol Miller moved to approve the minutes of April 25, 2016. Approved 4-0.

Members of the Public—For Items Not on the Agenda

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Barbara Burrington submitted her report via e-mail to Board Members.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Summer Maintenance:

- a. Lacey's Carpet is scheduled for July 5th.
- b. Replaced floor machine.
- c. Resurface Gym floor. Scheduled week of June 27th.
- d. Toilet partitions.
- e. Phase 1 of replacing flooring.
- f. Paving and patching.

June 13th and 14th will be in-service days for faculty.

Gary Marckres moved to keep June 10th as the last day of school. Approved 5-0.

Approval of Bills for Payment

Don Bartlett moved to approved bills in the amount of \$48,978.01. Approved 5-0.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE/SHARING: None

AGENDA BUILDING

Act 46 Update
VMI Presentation
SWIFT-FIT assessment
SBAC Results
Contract Ratification
Staffing Configurations

EXECUTIVE SESSION.


Carol Miller moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

Don Bartlett moved to end Executive Session at 10:10 p.m.

ADJOURN

MINUTES CERTIFICATION:

Proposed Minutes respectfully submitted by Pam Leonard. Approved by the Board of Directors on: May 23, 2016



Gary Marckres, Chair



Carol Miller



Teri Geney



Don Bartlett

Mike Talbot