

Grand Isle Supervisory Union  
**CIUUSD Special Meeting**  
School Board **Special Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

**Minutes**

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

**Board Present:** Amy Thompson, Michael Inners, Chet Bromley, Nathan Robinson

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

**Public Present:** Megan DeVinny, Alyssa Dosztan, Amy Dubois, Barb Larvey, Cathy Larson, Danika Spaulding, Dawn Slayton, Beth Dobson, Jeremy Grenon, Jeri Frank, Kate Young, Julie Elkins, Mary Fitzgerald, Megan Walker, Pam Leonard, Sara Zuanich, Sarah Peacock, Bill Johnson, Emily Dousevicz, Michael Wright, Meaghan Foster, Deb Howard, Dorothy Sacca, Tracy Pearson, Claire Aldrich, Jodi Berg, Teri Sibenaller, Marie Maillet, Dan Foster, Kristal Gomez

**Call to Order**

1. Call to Order - Michael Inners calls to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - none

**Board Business.**

3. Board decision about grade(s) to operate, including not operate any grades within the Isle La Motte Campus - Michael Clark shared with the board that another 3rd grade family is taking advantage of interdistrict choice - this leaves a total of 3 students who have not completed paperwork for intradistrict school choice. Amanda Ellison verified that she has connected with these families to let them know about the meeting this evening. Michael Inners asked that Michael Clark shared the costs associated with the scenarios. One option is to not operate any grades and a second option is the expressed interest of the town leasing the building. There are potential savings with shifting staffing as well; this will require an agreement with the association since it is past the timeline for riff notifications. Chet Bromley clarified the budget has been approved and the tax rate would not be affected. The board clarified this would allow the budget to run at a surplus next school year and may present potential savings in the future; or that if there are reimbursements that do not come through based on COVID expenses and the ed fund deficit. Amy Thompson asks if Isle La Motte has an active bus. Michael Clark clarified yes. Amy Thompson asked about the cost increase that may be associated with the further distance. Michael Clark said it would be minimal. Sarah Peacock said the budget had included the cost of transporting the school choice students and so it would not be an additional cost. Bill Johnson commended the board for presenting the financial position. He asked if the 3 students that would remain would have a full access to education and experiences within the school. The board shared their feelings around providing an equitable education because of the social-emotional integration challenges. Bill Johnson shared that the board should make the best decision for students. Sarah Peacock shared that Bill has brought up a good point. It is sad to see the numbers dwindle. It seems to make sense to close the school at this point because of the amount of kids in the building and making sure they have a robust experience. Meg Walker asked about open positions. Michael Clark clarified, there are open positions that staff from the building would move into. Michael Inners read the supportive comments from the chat. Chet Bromley voiced that he would like to keep the school open. Alyssa Dosztan asked about the 21-22 school year and transferring back. Michael Clark clarified that there is intradistrict choice for students for all operational schools. Jeremy Grenon asked if the primary purpose would be to save money or provide a better education? Nathan Robinson and Amy Thompson both responded both. Jeri Frank shared that she feels it does not make sense to

have one teacher and three students - it doesn't feel right as a teacher. She is a big supporter of the school, but it seems like it would not be a good place. Marie Maillet shared her thoughts around the budget meeting and feeling that was a nail in the coffin. Teri Sibellaner shared that the support staff loves the Isle la Motte students that are in the North Hero building and they are learning the history and traditions of the Isle La Motte community. Nathan Robinson moves to no longer operate regular grades at the Isle La Motte school; Board expressed appreciation to faculty and community members for sharing and that this is sad, but necessary for the best outcomes for students. Roll vote - Michael Inners-yes, Nathan Robinson-yes, Amy Thompson- yes, Chet Bromley-no. Motion passes, 3-1.

#### 4. Staffing

- a. Extension Request - Michael Clark shared that there are two extension requests. Have supported both of these using the process used last year. The process included: signing and returning the contract with a list of where they were an active candidate and if they got the job, they would be released from their contract by June 1. Chet Bromley motions to approve, no further discussion, motion passes.
  - i. Megan Walker
  - ii. Alaria Lanpher
- b. Open positions
  - i. At the last meeting the board had asked about consequences for not filling positions. Talked to the attorney and as suspected, it is not recommended as it would not uphold the current contractual relationship with the Association. If grieved, it would be a violation and would be subject to an unfair labor practice. Have shared the positions that are open. Based on the decision made tonight, Michael Clark recommends to approach the Association with eliminating some positions and with the resignations received. Michael Clark recommends to resume the hiring process and if there is a board member who would like to be on the hiring committee. Amy has expressed interest in the past, but would like to have any member join who is interested. Amy said, yes she is interested. Amy asked about the ramifications or fines that would be associated with the labor charge. Michael said he does not know, we have worked with the Association in the past when we have been unable to hire qualified candidates and they have been great partners with us. Michael Inner said it would be best practice to avoid an unfair labor practice. Michael Clark clarified that Amy is willing to sit in on the hiring committee. Michael Inners expressed interest in participating in the library media position. Nathan Robinson expressed interest in sitting on French teacher hiring committee. Amy will take a seat on the committees for the Art and Elementary positions.
- c. Resignations - Michael Clark shared the resignations that have come in. He has accepted the resignations. It is the practice for the board to acknowledge the resignations. Nathan expressed sadness around Annie Brabazon's resignation and wished her all the best. Michael Clark recognized the service and thanked all teachers and wished them luck on their future endeavors.
  - i. Annie Brabazon
  - ii. Marie Mallait
  - iii. Caryn Zambrano

#### Closure

5. Adjourn - Nathan Robinson moves to adjourn, second by Chet Bromley, all in favor, meeting adjourns at 7:57 p.m.