

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

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

Board Present: Chet Bromley, Amy Thompson, Whitney Maxham, Erin Morse, Mason Maltais

Admin Present: Michael Clark, Rob Gess

Public Present: Michael Wright, Megan DeVinny

Call to Order

1. Call to Order Mason Maltais calls meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.
2. Adjust the Agenda - none
3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - none
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the minutes from 4/28/2020 - Chet Bromley motions to approve the minutes, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes 5-0.
 - b. Resignations - Michael Clark shared the resignations for the 2020-2021 school year.
Alisha Adams
Carol Egan
 - c. New Hires - Michael Clark shared that the positions are hard positions to fill and we are pleased to have these individuals join our team. Chet Bromley motions to approve the recommended hires, Whitney Maxham asked for clarification on where these folks would work. All in favor, motion passes 5-0.
Chantelle Bombardier - Speech Language Pathologist
Christina Allard - Physical Therapist

Reports

5. Superintendent's Report - Updates of Continuity of Learning Plan and COVID 19 operations - Michael Clark shared that he has supplied a comprehensive written report. In the letter that went out today to families and communities, highlighted that this is the start of winding down this year and gearing up for next year. Think about the perspective of the child and what kind of stories they will tell about this pandemic years from now and the feelings they had. Wrap up the year by holding conferences with parents about progress towards learning goals. Very proud of everyone and their hard work.
- 5a. Financial Report - Rob Gess shared the updated budget to actuals that were supplied in the board packet. General office expenses will be slightly over budget due to unanticipated moving expenses and the approval of the implementation of Frontline after approval of budget. COVID expenses have been tracked and latest guidance is that CARES Act reimbursements will not come until next fiscal year. Thursday was the official kick off meeting for the implementation of eFinancePlus. This is a 14 month project and will be a huge undertaking throughout the GISU and its member districts. We are doing this with 8 other SUs that are within "round 6." Frontline absence management and time and attendance will have a trial starting in June, and will be prepared for the other districts to implement for the new school year. Had a call regarding fiscal monitoring with the AOE, they were very positive. Starting in FY21, we will only need to report on a quarterly basis rather than a monthly basis around grant expenditures. Updates on audits, there have not been much change since accounting firms are classified as a non-essential business. Limited communication at this time, but have been working with them to complete

by the end of the week; but we have until the end of June to complete. Celebrate that districts across the SU have delivered over 8,000 meals since school dismissal through the food programs.

Board Business.

6. Update on audits - This was given in the Financial update and report.

7. Update on Medicaid billing - Michael Clark shared updates around the progress of the medicaid billing. On May 12, "halftime" (.5 FTE) hours were reached for medicaid billing. Checked in with the clerk and she has billed over \$112,000. For every dollar we are paying her, GISU generates \$2.36. Have authorized her to continue billing, if the board is agreeable. Mason Maltais motions to authorize the Superintendent to direct the time management of this position as needed while maintaining efficacy. All in favor, motion passes 5-0.

8. E-Finance Plus staffing - Last year in budget development, consideration was taken regarding the implementation of eFinancePlus. Had over \$25,000 in overtime budgeted for this. Board has also authorized a .5 FTE of support for the central office to allow for additional needed support for the Director of Student Support Services and IT. Suggest supplementing a .3 FTE to be added to this .5 FTE and would be funded through the overtime line. This will help take pressure off the current staff to focus on the eFinancePlus implementation and decrease the anticipated overtime hours for current staff. This is a non-licensed position, but would require some numbers and data skills. Mason Maltais motions to authorize the Superintendent to hire an additional .3 FTE within the current budget structure, Erin Morse second. No further discussion, all in favor, motion passes 5-0.

9. Update on the Last day of school - June 11 will be the last day for students and support staff. Plans for teacher makeup were presented within individual meetings and approved.

10. Update on planning for opening in the fall and summer - Michael Clark sent a letter to boards last week outlining that based on current guidance from agencies, we do not have the capacity to plan for a safe summer programming opening due to our small size and limited resources. This has been announced to the community today in the community letter. We are focusing our energy on what it will take to open buildings in the fall. Leadership team is reviewing a document for best practices for the exposure plan when we return. Anticipate soliciting teachers and support staff feedback. We are generally trying to keep the buildings closed to the public due to the required sanitation and the limited cleaning supplies.

11. Update re: Management Decision Letter Appeal - Michael Clark shared that the brief was shared with the board and encouraged the board to review the brief. The process and timelines of the appeal were reiterated. AOE had until today to file a brief countering the brief submitted by GISU attorneys; our attorney has indicated that the AOE does not intend to submit a brief. The majority of the documentation was provided by the GISU for consideration in the appeal. Chet Bromley asked about the cost of attorney fees. Michael Clark shared that it is likely less than 1% at the moment. Mason Maltais agreed that this risk is worth the gain.

Closure

12. Setting the next agenda - Actual breakdown of legal costs associated with Appeal, Audit updates, as well as the regular agenda items

13. Adjourn - Chet Bromley motions to adjourn, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes. Meeting adjourns at 7:22 p.m.