

Alburgh School Board
Alburgh Community Education Center
June 22, 2020
To view the recording, please [click here](#).

Present: Board Chair Michael Savage, Board Vice Chair Trevor Creller, Board Members Stacey Gould, Whitney Maxham, and Mallory Ovitt, Principal Beth Hemingway, GISU Superintendent Michael Clark, Members of the Public Martin Giuffre, Alton Bruso, John Goodrich, Terry Tatro, Cheryl Moomey, Donna Bohannon, and Lee Kimball

Google Meet: GISU Business Manager Rob Gess, Member of the public George Boutah

Meeting called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Mike Savage

Presentation:

- Mike Savage read the budget warning.
- Mike Savage shared a budget presentation which will be shared on the website.

Citizens/Staff to be Heard:

- Martin Giuffre asked about the increase in elementary students
 - Beth Hemingway: Alburgh has seen an increase of approximately 50 students, many with significant needs (plus an increase in high school students).
- Martin Giuffre asked about where the decreases in the budget are from
 - Mike Savage: A reduction in the school counselor position, plant improvements, legal fees, club stipends, special education subs, computer equipment and software, field trips
- Martin Giuffre asked what happens if this budget is not passed
 - Mike Savage: The school can borrow up to 80% of the prior year's budget to operate until a budget is passed. It would be difficult to make any more significant cuts.
- Martin Giuffre asked about the shortfall in the state education fund and how that could impact the school
 - Michael Clark: It's unknown at this time but it will depend on what happens with CARES reimbursements and the legislature setting the yield, etc. In the meantime, we will be watching and being as frugal as possible.
- Lee Kimball asked how much of the school budget is discretionary
 - Mike Savage: Less than 10%
- John Goodrich asked if Alburgh was part of the CIUUSD, what would the numbers look like? When will the AOE be able to tell Vermonters if we are saving money from Act 46 mergers?
 - Michael Clark- It is hard to say without looking more closely at it. Alburgh would be looking at paying tuition for middle schoolers in that scenario. CIUUSD is paying less to educate students, however, Alburgh has an exploding student population, whereas theirs is declining.
- George Boutah asked if Alburgh pays for high school busing
 - Mike Savage only for NCCS (which has a significantly lower tuition). For the other schools, the high school sends the buses, Alburgh does not pay for those.
- George Boutah asked if equalized pupil cost covers all students or just elementary

- Michael Clark- All students are included
- George Boutah asked about Pre-K enrollment in the islands
 - Michael Clark: Alburgh and North Hero provide Pre-K (only two in GI county).
- George Boutah asked about deferred maintenance as a result of budget cuts
 - Michael Savage we don't know what the cut to that line might affect yet, as it will depend on anything that may pop up throughout the year (for example, this year needed to remove the fuel tank and discovered a leak).
- Terry Tatro asked about how the CIUUSD budget works, as a merged district.
 - Michael Clark- There is one combined budget for the three schools, with a base tax rate that is the same for all three towns. The common level of appraisal is applied to that tax rate for each town.

Board Action:

- Terry Tatro moved to adjourn at 6:28 P.M. (2nd Lee Kimball) Unan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Gould

Whitney Maxham

Mallory Ovitt

Trevor Creller, Vice Chair

Michael Savage, Chair