

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
CIUUSD Regular Meeting
School Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 2020
Minutes

Board Present: Michael Inner, Chet Bromley, Amy Thompson

Admin Present: Michael Clark, Lauren Thomas, Amanda Ellison

Public Present: Michael Wright (LCATV), Barb Larvey, Megan DeVinny, Caitlin Morgan, Deborah Bumgardner, Tracy Pearson

Call to Order

1. Call to Order – Michael Inners called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.
2. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard – Chet Bromley indicated that Isle La Motte citizens have expressed concerns about knowing what the opening will be like. Michael Inners indicated that this is item #7
3. Adjust the agenda - none
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the minutes from 7/7/2020 & 7/28/2020 – Chet Bromley motions to approved the minutes from 7/7, will review the 7/28 minutes next month.

5. Reports

Superintendent’s – focus on opening planning; doing a weekly community forum on Wednesdays. This has been well attended with 90+ community members on the call. On these calls, we have focused on the overall plan and delving into the individual sections of the opening plan as well.

Principal – focus on PPE and cleaning supplies.

Financial – board reviewed the budget to actuals in the packet.

Board Business.

6. Approval of bills for payment – 3 sets of invoices, Michael Inners moves to approve batch 1813 \$85,859.04, all in favor, motion passes. Michael Inners motions to approve batch 1819 \$636.36, all in favor, motion passes. Michael Inners motions to approve batch 1819 for \$636.53 all in favor, motion passes. Amy Thompson motions to authorize Michael Inners to sign batches electronically on behalf of the board, all in favor, motion passes.

7. ReOpening Plan Update – Michael Clark shared that June 17 guidance was released by the VT AOE. This focused on opening in “stage 2” safety protocols. This includes maintaining a 6 ft distance between students. This is a large amount of space when reviewing and looking at space within classrooms. Principals throughout the GISU created models to assess and it is not possible. Discussion took place in planning about splitting classes, but this would necessitate hiring more teachers. The hybrid model and creating A & B cohorts made the most sense to get students in the buildings as much as possible. Surrounding districts are looking at similar hybrid models with an ABCAB or AACBB model. We have been communicative with community through weekly google meets, which have been well attended. Have released our plan in 3 parts for feedback. It is important for the community to understand that remote learning will look different this school year vs. when school went remote in the spring. Took into account the feedback from parents when creating the plan for the fall.

GISU Hybrid Instructional Model Policy – presented in the packet, this is the current process, South Hero and Alburgh have already reviewed as a first read and supported. Amy Thompson shared that she has reviewed and supports. Michael Inners expressed apprehension in not having some of the decisions outlined in the policy made by the board. Michael Clark explained that the planning needs to be flexible, based on changes in guidance. If the board wants to make this a board decision, this means every time guidance changes, will need to hold a special board meeting to have the board approve and it would make CIUUSD out of step with the other districts. Michael Inners proposes that the board makes the decision around scheduling and strike the line about the Superintendent makes the decision. Michael Inners votes yes, Amy Thompson votes no, Chet Bromley votes yes. Michael Clark clarified that the board

will need to make a decision tonight then. Chet Bromley clarified that he misheard the vote and changed to voting no for Michael Inners proposal. Michael Inners then moves to approve the policy as presented.

The board asked what happened if someone tests positive for COVID in school. Michael Clark clarified that there is protocols related to checking at the perimeter to mitigate the risk of COVID entering the building. Guidance is pending on procedure if COVID is tested positive in the building. There is guidance related to what is necessary for contact tracing, including assigned seating. Suspect there will be testing, and quarantine practices put into place. If there is a positive case, the department of health comes in and regulates the actions taken.

Possible Childcare Partnership – there is concern about childcare in the area. The CIUUSD board chose not to operate grades in the Isle La Motte building. Talked briefly at the board retreat to partner with a childcare provider to utilize the building. Childcare providers are limited by space and having a space like the Isle La Motte school would allow for more children to be in childcare. Have had informal discussions with 3 well-known childcare providers in the area and a fourth has contacted the central office as well. Sent a survey out to staff asking about the need for childcare for staff, low amounts of staff have indicated that they would need childcare. Folsom has also investigated partnerships as well as they are able to seal off their gym from the rest of the building. This would not be a school program, but the school could provide a space and the provider would set the rates, deal with the licensing, etc. The board asked about prioritizing staff childcare needs. The board said they will support the use of the building in this way and asks that Michael Clark pursue.

Community Meetings Review – Michael Inners commended Michael Clark's running the community meetings. Michael said the community has been great in asking questions and trying to ensure that questions are being answered. Michael Clark shared that the community has expressed appreciation that we have been transparent and able to answer questions. Amy Thompson said this has set a lot of minds at ease and community has expressed appreciation that these are happening. Michael Clark reminded everyone that these community meetings are happening, and everything can be found on the Superintendent COVID Communications page on the website. These meetings are also recorded and posted. They are also being sent out as emails – if a parent is not getting the emails, please contact the school to ensure the address is correct.

Summary of Community Survey at a GISU level – Michael Clark shared that a community survey went out. There were 228 responses. 31% were from Folsom, 20% from Grand Isle 16% from North Hero, and 32% from Alburgh. Even distribution of grades represented. Michael shared the aggregate results of the survey questions and responses.

There is a likelihood we may need to shorten the school day in order to allow teachers to check in on the remote learners specifically.

Questions –

8. Isle La Motte Building Use Possibilities – Michael Clark shared that we reviewed the use of the building for this year based on the COVID needs. There are some thoughts from the director of student support services has suggested using the building for early ed special education services and there is also thoughts on using the building as a satellite location for field trips to the Fiske Quarry and other field trips.

9. North Hero Space Communication with the Town Plan – Michael Clark shared that the board discussed briefly during the board retreat. Suggested that the board form a subcommittee. Anticipate needing to recapture some of that space in the 2021-2022 school year. Michael Inners motions to nominate Michael Inners lead the subcommittee and Mason Maltais be on the subcommittee for this. All in favor, motion passes.

10. Electronic Communication Policy – This is the second reading. Michael Inners suggests postponing approval because of some of the gaps within the policy he sees. The board is in favor of postponing. Michael Inners will circulate his proposal

11. Other

Closure

12. Setting the next agenda – audit presentation, opening plan updates, childcare partnership update, electronic communications policy, updates from the board retreat – program evaluation

13. Adjourn – Chet Bromley motions to adjourn, all in favor. Meeting adjourns at 8:29 p.m.