

# Grand Isle Supervisory Union

School Board **Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

## Minutes

**Board Present:** Michael Inners, Tim Maxham, Bentley Vaughan, Melanie Henderson, Nathan Robinson,

**Admin Present:** Michael Clark, Rob Gess

**Public Present:**

### Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Melanie Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
2. Adjust the Agenda-addition of resignation and NEA side letter
3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - none
4. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approve the minutes from 8/27/2019 - Tim Maxham motions to approve the minutes as printed, second Bentley Vaughan. All in favor, motion passes.
  - b. Michael Clark shared Michele LaBerge's resignation that was hired to complete medicaid billing. She is unable to complete the work remotely, we are looking for someone to complete this work onsite.

### Reports

5. Superintendent's Report -
  - Michael Clark shared his written report provided in packet. We are into the new space. We have two UVM outstanding teacher- recognizing Tracy Giroux and Jenny Degree.

#### Financial Report -

- Rob Gess shared the printed report of the budget to actuals. Team is double checking encumbrances for salaries and benefits. Rob Gess shared information on spending within the budget to actual reports and the spending within the line items. A new district-wide reimbursement form has been rolled out to help streamline processes. This has had positive reception from staff members. Rob Gess attended the first VASBO meeting of this year. The roll out of the crosswalk for the new chart of accounts will begin next month for our district to move over to the new finance system. Have identified bugs with the SLDS system and we are now completing data entry to fix the data for the state. The FY21 budget season will also start shortly. This will be complex due to health care increases and the health care state-wide negotiations. Recommendation to come up with two budget scenarios based on the final proposals that are put forth. This will also affect aspects of negotiations. Michael Clark shared estimated timelines for budgets. Tim Maxham motions that the board has received and reviewed budget to actuals printed 9/24. Bentley Vaughan second. All in favor, motion passes.

### Board Business.

6. Update on Appeal - Michael Clark shared that Lynn, Lynn, & Blackman has been engaged to assist in the next steps in the appeal. They have filed the appropriate paperwork with the VT secretary of ed and at the federal level. The GISU has been recognized as a high risk district and all documentation will have to be submitted for grant payments. This should mean no denied funding in the future. The GISU has participated in grants training. Michael Clark also had to sign documentation indicating understanding of the process. Rob Gess shared they have come up with updated checklists and documentation to ensure each piece of documentation is sent for each expenditure. Michael Clark shared the challenges of this appeal and answered board questions about the processes involved in grant training and processes.

7. Update on implementation of time and attendance system - Rob Gess shared that they have completed all data management required. All the substitute teacher info has been updated. Hoping to have implementation call tomorrow with Frontline. We are on track to roll out the introduction to Frontline on October 2 via a web-based training. Michael Clark has sent this out to the admin team and suggested they make arrangements for admin assistants to attend. Going to implement complete use of system in November to give everyone a two-cycle period to adjust to the new system.
8. Update on FY18 audit - Rob Gess shared that the drafts for all school districts but Grand Isle have been received. Goal is to get through all drafts by Friday. This is the number one priority.
9. Timeline for FY19 audit - Michael Clark shared that he has reached out to talk to Rick Brigham from Sullivan & Powers. He is meeting with the team and put together a list and timeline of what will need to get merged schools completed by December and other audits completed by March. This will help to keep everything on track and plan accordingly.
10. Opening Inservice feedback - Michael Clark shared that the opening inservice was very powerful. Institute week was a big hit. New educator orientation was great. The opening inservice had very positive feedback from teachers about having all the principals and educational leaders involved in leading the inservice.
11. Policy update - Michael Clark shared that Sue from Vermont School Board Association is still looking at recommended policies and we are waiting for these to roll out. All required policies are approved and updated on the website.
12. Negotiations Plan - Michael Clark shared that with new structure he can meet with board chairs without having to form a quorum or committee. Michael Clark has met with board chairs. Negotiations will be tricky based on issues highlighted with health care commission. There will be 3 contracts negotiated at the same time. Boards will need to consider how they want to go about negotiations this year. Consider bringing in an outside resource to assist with negotiations. Have reached out for quotes from attorneys, would be charged at hourly rates by both parties that were contracted. Discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of having legal representation assist in negotiations. Nathan Robinson motions to enter executive session to discuss negotiation strategy, Bentley Vaughan second. All in favor, board moves into executive session at 8:10 pm. Board exits executive session at 8:42 pm. No action at this time.
13. E911 - Michael Clark shared that phone systems are approaching 15 years old. None of these systems allow the school to be compliant with the new e911 legislation. The new voiceover internet phone system implemented at the GISU has the capability. Dave Brisson is looking at how to find a solution to be compliant and economically responsible. Much of this can be accomplished using e-rate money.
14. Other - NEA side letter agreement. We are unsuccessful in hiring a second SLP. Last year we were able to take advantage of SLP teleservices. This year, we would be using a contractor and continue looking for a qualified candidate. This side letter details this agreement. Tim Maxham motions accept the side letter and to allow Melanie Henderson to sign side letter, Michael Inners second. All in favor, motion passes.

### **Closure**

15. Setting the next agenda - Negotiations, policy updates, audit updates, frontline update, budget discussions
16. Adjourn - Bentley Vaughan motions to adjourn, Nathan Robinson second. All in favor, meeting adjourns at 8:57 pm.