

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

School Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Minutes

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

Admin Present: Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Michele Weaver, Dave Brisson, Megan Grube

Public Present:

Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Melanie Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm
2. Adjust the Agenda - none
A moment of silence was taken to remember and honor the Maltais family.
3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - none
4. Consent Agenda
 - Approve the minutes from 9/24/2019 - Tim Maxham motions to accept the minutes of September 24, 2019, second by Nathan Robinson. All in favor, motion passes.

Reports

5.
 - Superintendent's Report - Michael Clark shared the process that was put in place to support students and their families during this time of tragedy. Feedback has been positive in supporting folks. Services will be on October 31st at 2 pm. People are encouraged to dress in superhero attire. Team is working to support staff and students who wish to attend. Mason, in speaking to Michael, indicates that everyone should clean out their dryer vent every three months. Please make sure to check all dryer vents. It has been incredible to feel the support from the community and it is a testament to the small communities and how connected and supportive community can be.
 - Financial Report - Rob Gess shared the budget to actual that was in the packets. At this time there are no changes from last month. Update on the AOE and management decision letter- they are saturating team with documentation requests, and team is working on getting them everything they have requested. Update on Frontline- completed training on absence management and have a conference call with Frontline tomorrow (Wednesday). Will be able to lay out a timeline after this call. Melanie Henderson asked about line 17, tuition, is this excess cost tuition? Rob Gess said, yes, that is excess cost. Michael Clark clarified that all tuition for special ed services are covered under this line currently, this will change next year and will be covered in detail when the FY21 budget is reviewed. Melanie Henderson asked about the transportation lines, line 169 and line 255? Rob Gess shared that line 169 is the general transportation, which would be mountain transit. There are multiple transportation lines serving a specific purpose, like special education student transportation and then mileage reimbursements for staff. Tim Maxham asked about line 1 with leftover from salaries. Rob Gess said yes. Two largest line items are transportation and tuition for special education. Tim Maxham motions that the board has received and reviewed the 10/17/2019 budget to actuals, second by Bentley Vaughan. All in favor, motion passes.

Board Business

6. Budget - Michael Clark acknowledged that the whole central office team is here. The team has worked together to be able to build the budget. General expenditures (what it costs to operate the central office) is increasing 25%, an extra \$320,000 was put in to consider if we were not successful in the appeal, there

is a 9% increase if this is taken out. There is a 13% increase in health insurance costs as indicated by VEHI. There is a 7% decrease in special education, this is due to the extraordinary costs associated with special education schools. The state has ruled that there is no pure special education school, and so there is some of the funding that needs to be allocated to general education. The cost of this will be allocated to the individual school districts. This budget is compliant with what the AOE has indicated to districts. This is the most conservative budget. Block grants will make it look like special education funding has decreased, but the savings are artificial and the costs would be allocated to local districts. Rob Gess shared that the statewide health care has not been settled and the budget takes into consideration the most conservative approach. Wages, benefits, and tuition is approximately 70% of the budget. This must be funded to remain competitive and retain staff. Team has looked at past trends to predict budget and react appropriately for next year. Michael Inners asked if there is any additional staff. Rob Gess shared that it is a .5 medicaid clerk position that was approved last spring and there is another .4 of admin support based on the complexity of Act 173. This would create a 1.0 FTE of special ed support. The .5 FTE medicaid clerk support approved last spring, .4 FTE supporting Director of Curriculum, and .1 FTE supporting IT. This does not increase the head-count, but increases FTE by .5. There is also a change in allocation of Director of Curriculum based on allocation of Title funds. There is also a place holder for overtime due to the implementation of e-finance-plus based on feedback from other district business managers who have completed implementation. Michael Inners asked about the disallowed expenses, does not think it is a good idea to fund in one year. It is still in the appeal process and thinks it would be best to spread it over the years. Michael Clark shared that the SU cannot take loans and the AOE would expect it back in one year. Michael Inners suggests splitting it in half over the two years. Michael Clark shared that if the AOE rejects the appeal, the SU would have to pay it and would have to give a supplemental assessment to the districts and the debt would be incurred at the school level. Michael Inners shared the risks associated with budgets for this. Michael Clark shared that the overall increase is 5.5% as it is laid out right now. Nathan Robinson asked about the increase for special ed travel. Rob Gess shared that the increase is based on trends. Michele Weaver shared that there is limited supply of vendors and team must meet the IEPs of students. Melanie Henderson asked about the block grant funding associated with Act 173. Michele Weaver said she is not sure, team would look at maximizing the expenses based on the grant. Melanie Henderson advised that the board take the next month to explore the budget and email questions to Rob and review at the next meeting. Melanie Henderson thanked Rob Gess and the team for putting this together. Dave Brisson shared updates that are being budgeted for technology. e-Finance will cause the need for a database restructure, the voice-over internet has saved money for the SU offices. Megan Grube shared information on dreambox. This will help to give us data to track progress of students. Dave Brisson shared that we have applied for e-rate rebates this year.

7. Audit updates - Rob Gess shared that we have received the Grand Isle audit for FY18, so we have all audits in draft form. There are some questions about allocation of revenue of food service in the GISU budget. This is being reviewed and will be sent to auditors this week. Reconciliations are being completed and sent to the auditors. Documentation is being pulled by the team to complete the FY19 audits. Seem to be on track with the timeline laid out.

8. Frontline update - Melanie Henderson clarified that Frontline is split into two stages- attendance management and payroll next. Rob Gess said yes, have the phone call tomorrow, but audits are a priority.

9. Negotiations - Michael Clark shared that each board at the local level has indicated the choice of Chris Leopold of McNeil, Leddy and Sheahan. There is an engagement letter prepared that Michael Clark can sign. Will circle back around to discussion.

10. VEHI and VSBIT Proxy Votes - Michael Clark shared there are two votes for VEHI and two votes for VSBIT. These entities will have their annual meeting and GISU can elect to have a proxy. Nathan Robinson motions to make Michael Inners the proxy for the GISU votes for the VEHI board and for the

form to be signed by Melanie Henderson, Tim Maxham second. All in favor, motion passes. Nathan Robinson motions to make Michael Inners the proxy for the GISU votes for the VSBIT board and for the form to be signed by Melanie Henderson, Tim Maxham second. All in favor, motion passes.

9.2. Back to negotiations. Michael Inners shared that there is no "not to exceed clause." Michael Clark shared there will be ground rules associated with time. Michael Inners shared it is an open contract, but it is specific to negotiations. Michael Clark shared the anticipated cost would be \$5,000-\$7,000. Melanie Henderson motions to authorize Michael Clark to sign contract with Chris Leopold with McNeil, Leddy, and Sheahan for upcoming contract teacher negotiations, second Michael Inners. All in favor, motion passes.

10. Other - Michael Inners shared that he has feedback and recommendations for the VSBA meeting. Recommendations of VSBA internal committee are correct and generally agree with them and will vote as recommended. Michael Inners expressed concern with the regional changes. Structure of regional meetings was discussed. The proposal tries to split the regions by student proportionality.

Closure

11. Setting the next agenda - budget, audit, update from VEHI & VSBIT votes, update from VSBA meeting

12 . Adjourn - Nathan Robinson motions to adjourn, second Bentley Vaughan. All in favor, motion passes and meeting is adjourned at 8:50 p.m.