

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Minutes

To view the recording prior to the executive session, [click here](#). To view the recording after the executive session, [click here](#).

Board Present: Michael Inners, Bentley Vaughan, Tim Maxham, Erin Morse, Amy Thompson, Whitney Maxham (arrived at 6:49 p.m.), Chet Bromley (joined at 7:03 p.m.)

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

Public Present: Megan DeVinny, Buddy Meilleur, Fred Duplessis (from Sullivan & Powers) (joined at 6:49 p.m.)

Call to Order

1. Call to Order - BV calls to order at 6:33 p.m.
2. Adjust the Agenda - none
3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - none
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the minutes from 9/22/2020 - Tim Maxham motions to approve as printed, Amy Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passes.

Reports

5. Superintendent's Report - Michael Clark shared his report in the packet. New guidance from the AOE was released Friday evening and still digesting - increased in length by approximately 25%. A lot of frustration from the music world around the current guidance and will be interesting when sports guidance is released how the two juxtaposed. Winter sport guidance has yet to be released as promised. Michael Clark gave a shout out to the hard work of faculty, staff, and community and the dedication to keeping everyone safe. We do have all of the k-2 students have the option to be back to 4 days in-person as of next week. There is a fully-remote option still available to families. There are some challenges in some grade levels within each individual building and that is being worked on within each building. The new guidance appears to complicate the challenges of bringing these grades back more. Overall doing well - we have a campaign going on with the slogan: "COVID travels, so I won't" as we start to look at the map and guidance around quarantine that affects all the GISU learning community. Happy to have Amy Phippen joining us as the Admin Assistant to the Director of Student Support Services on November 9.

Financial Report - Rob Gess shared the budget to actuals provided in the packet. Doing well managing the workflow and procurement has slowed down for a bit. COVID expense update includes that the financial guidance continues to change. Corona Relief funds must be used by 12/31, but guidance about application for the funds have not been released. Successfully migrated to the state-mandated chart of accounts in the system. Work continues on the eFinance system, this includes migrating over the data and vendors from the current system to the new system. Rob reminded everyone to complete and turn in the free & reduced meal applications. Tim Maxham asked about the special education travel expenses and if there was potential cost saving based on circumstances, Rob Gess said it seems unlikely given that the expectation stands regardless of circumstances. Tim Maxham motions that reviewed and read the budget to actuals dated October 23, Bentley Vaughan second, all in favor, motion passes.

Board Business.

6. Audit Presentation - Draft Audit was provided in packet and the final audit was sent out via email this afternoon to board members. Fred Duplessis reviewed the information included in the audit report. Fred reviewed the process of the audit and materials contained in the audit as well as the recommendations. The board asked about the findings in the audit and Fred clarified that it is repeat findings and Rob clarified that these have been addressed and improved. Fred clarified that the GISU looks as though it has run a deficit, but this is due to when revenues are hitting the accounts. Tim Maxham motions that the board has received and reviewed the final FY19 audit. Bentley Vaughan seconds, all in favor, motion passes. Michael Clark thanks Fred and Sullivan & Powers for all their hard work in completing the audits.

7. GISU Evaluation of 2019-2020 Goals - The GISU administrative team - Michael Clark, Dave Brisson, Rob Gess, and Megan Grube - will be presenting the evaluation of the goals. The presentation from last year was provided in the packet for review as a refresh of the goals established last year. Each administrator has 5 minutes allotted, if the board would like to invite individual administrators back for a longer presentation, we can do that. Presentation included:

- Dave Brisson highlighted the goals achieved and the large projects that were achieved. This included upgrade of network switches, updated battery backups (Smart UPS), parking lot wifi established, Alma SIS implementation, Mosyle implemented - allowing for management of iPads, updating apps management and network upgrades, updated security practices, Google Vault management, Google enterprise upgrades, chat activity monitoring and web filtering (Bark), ZIX implemented (email encryption) for student services department (this will hopefully be able to roll out to the rest of the GISU soon), student data privacy alliance implemented, introduction of interactive whiteboards, internet bandwidth upgrade, SLDS completion as it becomes more complicated, complete hardware inventory, installation of e911 phone systems is ongoing.
- Megan Grube shared the progress around curriculum development and the implementation of the vertically aligned, proficiency-based curriculum. COVID impacted this, but presented an opportunity as well. We learned a lot during this time. Meetings with teachers continue on a biweekly basis and building on the collaborations from the spring. Have built an internal google site to allow for a rich resource for teachers to access and this has increased the alignment. Looking at the assessments and evaluating it as well to determine what is working best and what needs to be built up. Working on creating and implementing a common report card for next school year, which will help to ensure equality across the SU. Programs are being piloted to offer professional development for educators throughout the GISU.
- Rob Gess shared progress towards goals throughout the year at board meetings, but would be happy to answer questions. No questions.
- Michael Clark wrapped up by emphasizing the necessity to implement systems and how each fits together to support each other. Michael celebrated the progress made towards creating a more efficient and effective workflow within the business office. This can be seen in the ability to turn COVID challenges into COVID opportunities. We are in a very different place than when Michael started and that is because of the ability of this administrative team.

8. Budget Process - Rob Gess shared that the budget process starts with the GISU as it affects each individual school districts. The templates are built for each one. Meetings are set with administrators for the needs in the budget for next year. Have the data from the service plan and am waiting for estimates on the health rate increases. Anticipate having the proposed budget to board a week and a half before the board meeting for review to be able to allow for time to review and process with plenty of time prior to the board meeting. The past two years, the board has passed the budget in November. Michael Clark reviewed possibilities of necessity to expand IT resources due to the data reporting requirements to the state, as well as resources to move to the business office to support the large projects needing to be completed. Tim Maxham asked about revenue created by the medicaid clerk. Michael indicated that last year, she was able to bill more than \$2 per dollar we paid her.

9. GISU Central Office Contract Negotiations - Bentley Vaughan motions to enter executive session, Michael Inners seconds, all in favor, motion passes. Board enters the executive session at 8:11 p.m. Board exits executive session at 9:23 p.m.

10. Policy F24 - Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Procurement - first reading - Michael Clark reviewed the policy. This is the VSBA's recommended policy that is presented.

11. Policy Review plan - Michael Clark shared the document/emo prepared for the CIUUSD Board. GISU Board has reviewed the required policies and the document outlines the recommended policies. By doing 4 policies every 2 months, we would review all of them by the end of the year. Board agreed that the plan presented is a good plan and manageable.

12. November & December meeting schedule - Michael Clark shared the November meeting is scheduled for the Tuesday the 24 before Thanksgiving - want to ensure a quorum; December we have school on the 22, but know that is close to the holidays. Board indicated these dates will work and will remain as scheduled.

13. Board reorganization - Bentley Vaughan shared that Michael Inners is joining from the CIUUSD. Bentley Vaughan expressed interest in being chair, as has Michael Inners. Tim Maxham nominates Bentley Vaughan as chair, Amy Thompson seconds, all in favor, motion passes. Board expressed thanks to Bentley Vaughan for his commitment. Bentley Vaughan motions to nominate Michael Inners, Tim Maxham seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

14. Other

Closure

15. Setting the next agenda - policies, budget, develop process for superintendent review (survey from last year).

16 . Adjourn - Michael Inners motions to adjourn, Tim Maxham second, all in favor, meeting adjourns at 9:35 p.m.