

# Grand Isle Supervisory Union

## CIUUSD Regular Meeting

School Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

### Minutes

To view recording, please [click here](#).

**Board Present:** Michael Inners, Nathan Robinson, Chet Bromley, Brad Blanchette, and Amy Thompson

**Admin Present:** Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Lauren Thomas, Amanda Ellison

**Public Present:** Buddy Meilluer, Fred Duplessis (Sullivan & Powers)

#### Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Michael Inners called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
2. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - none
3. Adjust the agenda - none
4. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approve the minutes from 10/6/2020 - Chet Bromley motions to approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, motion passes.
5. Reports
  - a. Superintendent's - Michael Clark shared his written report from the packet that included community letters since the last board meeting. Michael highlighted the adherence to the safety practices and procedures and is happy to report there has not been a case in GISU. There are 30 cases within other school districts, but safety practices have prevented transmission within the schools in these cases. Michael also outlined travel guidance as given by the VT department of health and insists families plan to quarantine appropriately. GISU is working on a PSA encouraging families not to travel over the holiday break. We have posted the Department of Health travel toolkit on our website. Sports guidance was released today and the team is working on reviewing. There is not an athletic director that can focus solely on this and clarify the guidance. Anticipate there will be more to come. Not many surrounding districts are limiting their participation in athletics for grades k-6. Michael shared he is starting the conversation with administration regarding turning snow days into remote days. Any snow day we would have based on the school calendar would have to be made up at this point.
  - b. Principal - Amanda Ellison shared the written principal report provided in the packet. This highlighted positive student feedback from the French program, as well as expectations for end of trimester reporting and parent-teacher conferences. Lauren Thomas reviewed the reports and use of the Alma system. Lauren and Amanda reviewed the building plans to bring more students back to in-person learning based on class sizes.

#### Board Business.

6. Audit Presentation - Michael Clark shared that the board is reviewing the FY19 audit. In FY19, the organization was 3 different entities. FY20 will be the first audit for CIUUSD. Fred Duplessis from Sullivan and Powers shared an overview of the process for the Grand Isle, Isle La Motte, and North Hero school districts. The merger was completed on 7/1/2019. Fred indicated that he would not delve into the numbers because of the age of the audit. Michael Inners asked about the cut off date and inclusion of payables within the 60 day window. Fred indicated this was the case. Will look at the tracking within the next audit, which is already under way. Michael Clark highlighted appreciation of the process that FY18 and FY19 findings were similar, but letters indicate improvement in all the areas and shows that the team is headed in the right direction. Michael Inners acknowledged the improvements within the central office

and turnover of annual audits. Rob Gess updated the board on the process to meet the March deadline for the FY20 audit. Chet Bromley motioned that the board received and reviewed the FY19 audit, all in favor, motion passes.

- c. Financial report - Rob Gess shared the budget to actuals provided in the packet and the updated budget to actuals emails. No exposures at this time and some re-coding has been done based on incorrect account entries. Rob updated the board about COVID expenditures, still waiting for the AOE to release the process for corona relief funds. Have gone through 5 separate processes at this point. Rob Gess indicated that the summer food service program has been extended through the end of the school year. We will still need the free and reduced meal applications to be turned in. These applications affect grant amounts CIUUSD and GISU are eligible for.

7. Budget Conversation - Rob Gess shared the timeline for the FY22 budget. Will be using the same template from last year. Have provided wages, benefits, and high school tuition to principals to review. There is still some uncertainty around the FY22 health rate increase - could be an average of a 10% increase and using that as a baseline. Michael Inners asked about the ADM. Michael Clark reminded the board that last year, we had to use an estimated ADM as the state had not released the information yet.

8. Approval of bills for payment - Michael Inners review batch 2071 for \$113,935.47. Nathan Robinson moves to approve the batch 2071 and authorize Michael Inners to sign, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes. Michael Inners reviewed batch 2091 for \$2,563.02. Nathan Robinson moves to approve the batch 2091 and authorize Michael Inners to sign, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.

9. Plan for more in-person learning opportunities - Amanda Ellison shared her letter regarding obstacles for in-person learning opportunities within the North Hero campus. The team has looked at various avenues to get around the obstacles including looking at using the gym. This has had its own set of various obstacles. The team has also explored using the Isle La Motte campus for the multiage class. This would require additional staffing for the building and presents its own set of challenges. Parents have expressed interest in bringing before the board bringing in an additional teacher and use the Isle La Motte building. Amanda is working on contacting families to solicit if families are willing to take their student to Isle La Motte - this is split 50/50 amongst the families that took the time to take the survey. Amanda share feedback that parents have given to help problem solve as well. Another thought that was proposed was transferring students to Grand Isle using the CIUUSD school choice process - when working with Lauren, there is room for 1 student in grades 3-6. This is not a huge number, but we did explore that option. Some parents have made the comment they are unwilling to have their student attend any other campus. Board discussed the options and encouraged administration to look at other creative options for the North Hero space.

10. Isle La Motte & North Hero buildings Updates - Michael Inners shared the updates regarding the North Hero space. Brad and Michael have met with the North Hero Select board and they are receptive to moving the town offices. There are some practical difficulties in that the town requires a vault. There is currently a multi-year lease in place currently. They are aware of the issues and are willing to work with the board. Realistically, the earliest the school could have the space available is September. Michael Inners shared the plan for distribution of assets within the Isle La Motte building that has been outlined in previous meetings. Nathan Robinson suggested having historical societies within the town have first access to assets. Michael Clark will work to write up the distribution plan and bring to the next meeting.

11. Policy Review Plan - Michael Inners reviewed the policy review plan outlined in the packet by Michael Clark. Nathan Robinson expressed interest in only reviewing the mandatory policies and push off reviewing the recommended policies until the COVID crisis is resolved. Michael Clark shared that these are the VSBA recommended policies and take them as written so they do not have to take a lot of time reviewing. Nathan indicated that VSBA promotes policy governance and CIUUSD had agreed not to follow policy governance. Michael Clark reviewed the process that has been outlined at the GISU and indicated that if the policy is not adopted by CIUUSD, he could adopt them as procedures for CIUUSD so

processes would remain consistent. Michael Inners motioned to take up F24-Prevention of Conflict of Interest as a first reading this evening to ensure there are no issues with the food service reimbursements, all in favor, motion passes. Michal Clark clarified that required policies will be reviewed and not others at this time.

12. Personnel Update - Michael Inners motions to enter executive session, all in favor, motion passes. Board entered executive session at 8:57 p.m. Board exited executive session at 9:08 p.m.

13. Other

### **Closure**

14. Setting the next agenda - Required policies, final approval of Isle La Motte asset distribution procedure, North Hero space update, In-person learning updates, budget.

15. Adjourn - Nathan Robinson motioned to adjourn, all in favor, board adjourns at 9:08 p.m.