

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

School Board Special Meeting

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Minutes

Board Present: Bentley Vaughan, Tim Maxham, Chet Bromley, Michael Savage, Brad Blanchette, Trevor Creller, Whitney Maxham

Admin Present: Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Megan Grube

Public Present:

Call to Order

1. Call to Order - Bentley Vaughan called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - none

Reports

3. Financial Report - Rob Gess shared the financial summary report from the board packet. There is limited budget exposure due to limited spending. Rob reviewed reallocation of resources within the business office. This will be reviewed later in the agenda around hiring. Rob also reviewed facilities inventory that is upcoming based on the new legislation. There is a survey coming out for inventory for facilities. There will also be training to attend. Rob also reviewed the information regarding budget and tax rates distribution from the state. Tim Maxham motions that the board has received and reviewed the budget to actuals for the GISU dated November 16, 2021, Bentley Vaughan seconds, all in favor, motions passes.

Superintendent's Report - Michael Clark shared that there are two positive cases being contact traced today. The safety pledge is moving along - there is a 50% pledge rate currently. Anticipate pushing for the pledge when everyone returns from break. If this does not work, will explore going forward with a mandate approach. Michael also reviewed the vaccination clinic that occurred last week. Michael highlighted that lack of guidance this year has made it more challenging this year than last year. Michael gave a shout out to faculty, staff, and community for sticking with the safety practices.

Board Business.

4. New hire - Special Educator/Case Manager - Michael Clark shared the recommended hire of Luis Betancourt. Tim Maxham motions to approve the Superintendent's recommendation, Michael Savage seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
5. New hire - Accounts Payable/Special Projects Position - Michael Clark shared that this is a support staff position and so does not need board approval. The position has been offered and accepted by Ryan Savage. Michael shared the restructuring of the business office and Ryan's credentials including graduating Summa Cum Laude from Norwich University with a business degree.
6. ESSER Funds and the Opportunity Blueprint - Megan Grube shared her presentation regarding the purpose and uses of ESSER funds and the decision making process. [Click here to view Megan's slides](#). Megan elaborated in her presentation the processes of using the funding including procurement, Davis Bacon laws, and other administrative necessities to use the federal funds.
7. GISU Budget - Michael Clark shared the draft budget - there are no substantial changes from the last draft. Michael highlighted the ESSER funding info that Megan Grube shared in her presentation. Michael also highlighted the addition of attempting to fund a school psychologist position and the proposal Nick DeVita has shared in the packet. Michael also shared the thought of a potential for a combined buildings and grounds person at an SU level based on the large-scale project potentials. This would be something that has to go before local boards, but wanted to get a sense from the SU board if this is something that would be supported. Michael also shared the updates to the minimum wage effective January 1, 2022. There has been an assessment done and we do not have an issue with having staff below minimum wage, but it is something to consider when reviewing the budget. Rob and Michael reviewed the carry forward funds and the potential there or putting some of the potential positions in ARP ESSER

funds. By not putting this into the budget, the SU assessments stay a bit lower. Feedback from the board included that these are some good ideas. Discussion took place about questions regarding individual line items. Tim Maxham motions to approve the FY23 budget for \$6,266,259.44, Michael Savage seconds, all in favor, motion passes. Michael and Rob thanked the board.

8. December meeting schedule - Michael Savage motions to cancel the December meeting, Tim Maxham seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

9. Morale - Michael Clark highlighted that the school systems are stretched to its max - with teachers, support staff, and principals covering classes due to sub shortages. The systems are being asked to do more and more and more. There is a pressure people are putting on themselves. He shared that he wanted to highlight this to school board members as the advocates for the districts to the state. He shared that he is grateful for everyone's work and he is proud of everyone's work, but it is at its limit. Bentley Vaughan and the board expressed appreciation for everyone's work and understanding of the strain on the system.

Closure

10. Setting the next agenda -

11. Adjourn - Bentley Vaughan motions to adjourn, Michael Savage and Chet Bromley seconds, all in favor, meeting adjourns at 7:58 p.m.