

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
CIUUSD Carousel Meeting
School Board Regular Meeting

Minutes

Board Present: Jane Zera, Don Bartlett, Mason Maltais, Gary Markcres (by phone, arrived at 6:57 pm)

Administration Present: Michael Clark, Rob Gess, Joe Resteghini, Lauren Thomas

Public Present: Joyce Tuck, Michael Inners, Bridget Brisson, Tim Maxham, Angela Ross

Call to Order

1. Call to Order- Mason Maltais called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm
2. Adjust the Agenda - Michael Clark recommended adding an executive session to discuss administrator contracts after item 10 on agenda.
3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard - none
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the minutes from 11/13/2018 - Jane Zera motioned, Mason seconded, no further discussion, Don Bartlett- yes, Mason Maltais- yes, Jand Zera- yes Gary Marckres- yes. Motion passes, 4-0.

Board Business.

5. Second Draft of Budget - Michael Clark explained that we have been through tuition numbers, short of having a new residency verification process, numbers are accurate. Currently invoiced for 135 students, next FY, with the addition of GI 7-8 grade being tuitioned, number jumps to 174. Tuitioned numbers were going to increase for each individual district prior to the merger. Rob Gess presented the budget explaining that it is still a fully-loaded budget and takes into account the current staffing levels within each building. Gained insight from principals recommending activities for next year. With the new tuition numbers, there is a 4.85% increase in the budget. This is the same trending as last year. 73-74% of total budget is wages, benefits, and tuition. GISU will be negotiating a new transportation contract that has been taken into account. General assessment has increased to take into consideration budget deficits. Michael Clark shared that next Tuesday is an all day event with the DMG group, looking at budgeting to come up with ideas to revive budget. Presented budget is looking at only expenditure side, and yield has been projected and is not set until May-June by legislature. Need to look at equalized pupils to help define tax rates. Rob Gess should be able to get updates at his VASBO meeting on when the equalized pupil count will be released from the state. Next meeting should have a more solid CIUUSD budget. Mason Maltais questioned if needs of individual schools is accounted for as well? Michael Clark shared that the work has carried on and that it requires the administration from individual buildings' input; and he is looking forward to see how the DMG meeting can help to further the work required. Mason Maltais asked that board members review budget and direct questions to Michael, Rob, and himself.

6. Space Update - Michael Clark shared that he met with the firm Exterus- specializing in modular office space. This would leave walls in tact and work to create a space with non-permanent walls. In initial

discussion with them, it seems the cost could be substantially lower. Michael Clark will continue to look at options and should be able to share more next time.

7. Recommendations for Transition Grant utilization - Michael Clark shared his drafted proposal.

Reviewed purpose of transition grant money: it is designed to establish a solid foundation and encourage equity throughout. Michael shared ideas to:

- Set up new chart of accounts- could benefit to contract this chart of accounts work to ensure compliance.
- Working more with CIUUSD administrators and board members to attend DMG meetings. Due to high turnover, it would be worth investing more time in working individually with the DMG group.
- Working with a communications/marketing firm to rebrand new district.
- May be additional policy work with Vermont School Board Association that is needed.
- Unify the staff handbook/ HR handbook. This is used as an important tool and the HR audit in FY18 identified deficiencies.
- A unified handbook that creates expectations to students and families.
- Explore resource equalization- amount of materials available in each building.
- Infrastructure needs within each building as well.
- Data research in study committee- the way it uses, views, and shares data with tuitioning students.
- Look at a choice handbook- drafting something to present to students and families to help them understand their options for tuition.
- Based on findings of FY17 audit, look at the cost of contracting payroll to free up valuable time of staff members.
- Negotiations committee meeting, depending on the involvement, it may require outside support and legal advice. Can only negotiate a one year contract at this time under state statute.

Gary Marckres asked if there is a contractor available for the crosswalk transition for the new chart of accounts. Michael Clark feels he could find someone. Gary feels that the handbooks and policy work would be a good path to follow. Contracting payroll may not be the best use of funds. Want to see analysis of costs and other ideas for infrastructure. Gary thinks the needs of the infrastructure study combines with the needs of future education should be looked into- mechanical and configuration for learning. Mason Maltais would be interested to see more direction in the data item on list. Communication between facilities to needs to be top notch to make sure they are functioning cohesively. Gary would like to see past cost of negotiations. Mason would like to see cost of handbooks. Gary asks that by meeting on January 8 that there is dollar values presented in relation to transition grant and CIUUSD budget.

8. Policy Review based on VSBA information - Michael Clark shared that he has been in touch with Sue C. She has started policy review and should complete next week and she should be able to come to next meeting.

9. Administrator collaborative approach to resourcing - Gary Marckres is looking for progress on supporting new student counts. Joe Resteghini shared that they have been setting a plan and tasks to create one community out of three. Conversations about maintaining quality employees and do it in a way that is financially efficient. Goal is to retain best quality employees and retain employees based on professional learning opportunities. Gary is looking for recommendations for how CIUUSD will be structured. Michael Clark shared that it is coming and that budget is soft and they have had conversations and a finalized budget will have finalized staffing levels. Michael is looking forward to DMG meeting to help them determine budgets to make decisions.

10. Mason Maltais motions to enter executive session, Jane second, all in favor, enter executive session at 7:37 pm.

Board exited executive session at 8:08 pm. No action to be taken.

Closure

11. Setting the next agenda: Draft Budget (including staffing levels), Space update, transition grant with numbers, DMG overview, VSBA policy review

12. Adjourn- Mason Motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm. All in favor.