

**Grand Isle Supervisory Union**  
**CIUUSD Special Meeting**  
**School Board Special Meeting**  
**Minutes**

Board Present: Nathan Robinson, Don Bartlett, Mason Maltais, Gary Marckres (via phone, arrived at 7:35 pm), Jane Zera (arrived at 7:20pm)

Administration Present: Rob Gess, Michael Clark

Public Present: Tim Maxham, Jessica Ochs, Coori Sellers, Bridget Brisson

**Call to Order**

1. Call to Order- Gary Marckres called to order at 7:13 pm via phone, Mason Maltais will take over running the meeting

2. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard -

- Jessica Ochs (Grand Isle teacher) wanted to express her desire and Grand Isle staff's desire for a two year contract with a consistent administrator. She is aware that Lauren Thomas' request for a two year contract was denied and thinks it would be beneficial to have sustainable leadership for two more years would benefit all members of staff.
- Jessica Ochs also expressed concern for the guidance counselor position. Grand Isle school needs a full time guidance counselor. That position is based off establishing relationships with kids and it cannot be accomplished in one day a week. Role of the counselor is vital to help kids by keeping mental health and counselors up in our building.
- Coori Sellers (Grand Isle guidance counselor) shared that Grand Isle is her community and gave statistics about what she does within the day- saw 43 kids today, 250 students this week. Many lives she has impacted very day. Increased need for mental health counseling services. Spoke with DCF twice this week, this was not the case five years ago. Shared information on socio-emotional learning and her roles within the building, taking all this into account, there is a need for more mental health services in the Grand Isle community. Coori feels that a clinician's role would be very different from the guidance counselor role. She sees that her role will be to refer to a clinician and that does not remove any from her workload. She has been an advocate for a school clinician, but not at the expense of her role and position.

Adjustments to agenda-

- Move items 3-4, to 5-6 and 5-6 will move to 3-4.
- Nathan Robinson expressed interest in seeing a clinician job description. Michael Clark shared there was no advance notice and it is not available at this meeting

**Board Business.**

5. CIUUSD District Clerk Resignation - Michael Clark had conversation with Ellen Norris last week, when Michael Clark let her know roles and responsibilities as the CIUUSD clerk. Michael Clark read her resignation from being district clerk. A new clerk will need to be appointed. Melissa Boutin is willing to be CIUUSD clerk.

- Don Bartlett moved to accept resignation, Jane Zera second, roll call: Mason Maltais-yes, Don Bartlett- yes, Nathan Robinson- yes, Jane Zera- yes, Gary Marckres- yes. All in favor, motion passes 5-0.

6. Appoint CIUUSD District Clerk- Mason Maltais reiterated that Melissa Boutin has expressed willingness to be clerk.

- Nathan Robinson makes motion to appoint Melissa Boutin CIUUSD clerk, Don Bartlett second.  
Roll call vote: Gary Marckres-yes, Mason Maltais- yes, Don Bartlett- yes, Nathan Robinson- yes, Jane Zera- yes. Motion passes 5-0.

Short recess taken at 7:31 pm. Meeting resumed at 7:36 pm.

### 3. Approve final budget

- Mason Maltais shared that community members shared their concern about position levels at the last meeting.
- Michael Clark shared updates from last budget review:
  - Revenue increased by adding in small schools grants
  - Equalized pupil count has been disaster. We have been researching the longitudinal data from state and calculated equalized pupil count using the state's formula.
  - Added in world language teacher as a 1.0 FTE
  - Added in a half-time math teacher
  - Clarity on guidance position is reflected as 1.0 FTE guidance counselor and added in a 1.0 FTE clinician, we are offering a .6 FTE more mental health services than is currently within the three buildings. Building part of PE into health classes to utilize counselor resources better.
- Don Bartlett asked if verified High school list, Michael Clark and Rob Gess confirmed
- Mason Maltais asked about plant maintenance and is found that line was added in for North Hero maintenance.
- Put \$50,000 into budget for after-school programs
- Gary Marckres explained that Isle La Motte and Grand Isle ended up with tax rate less than 5% during mergers. This explains the cushion added into budget.
- Nathan Robinson asked about the after school program in North Hero School. Mason Maltais shared that the after school program offered within the North Hero school is a separate program paid for by parents.
- Gary Marckres asked that administration look at what the money could be used for and how much parents may have to contribute to after school programs
- Isle La Motte and Grand Isle have a 5% decrease and North Hero has a 1% reduction in taxes.
- Gary Marckres shared that at the last meeting citizens expressed desire for increased programming as result of merger and a decrease in two out of three towns presents a chance to accomplish this. Important to assign value when presenting to taxpayers the benefit of not having to create these programs.
- Nathan Robinson shared that citizens also did not want to lose guidance counselor and yet that was not taken into account. Mason Maltais shared that they are not losing a guidance counselor, they are sharing with the other school buildings.
- Mason Maltais reiterated that there will be 30% less students
- Nathan Robinson shared that point of consolidation is to expand and bring opportunities to all schools and he is seeing reduction. Socio-emotional resources are important to students.
  - Michael Clark responded that if the board would like to add positions, he is more that happy, but we are adding a significant amount of mental health positions to the budget. From administration, they believe this is a responsible proposal that meets needs of students while remaining fiscally responsible. Michael Clark shared the proposed addition

of weekly health classes and scheduling in order to create more opportunities for students.

- Mason Maltais shared the benefits to the smaller school buildings by adding a 1.0 FTE clinician and asking for flexibility of schedules.
- Gary Marckres shared that they have a dual responsibility. They have increased the mental health capacity and reduced standard of caseload to  $\frac{2}{3}$  of standard. Don't think it is responsible to raise tax payers taxes when we have more than met standard and added a full time clinician.
- Nathan Robinson asked question about travel funds not being budgeted.
  - Michael Clark shared they they would be in one place per day. Michael Clark shared there are other resources to address the crisis.
  - Jane Zera shared that there should be one full day to help develop those relationships.
- Michael Clark shared that once concept of FTE is approved, resources can then be allocated as necessary.
- Nathan Robinson asked what the role of a clinician is.
  - Michael Clark responded that a clinician would meet the needs of the high-needs students that are now being referred to outside agencies. A clinician can work with behavioral issues that can alleviate the time of the guidance counselor.
  - Jane Zera shared that many times, these kids cannot get to an outside clinician and that it would be more beneficial to students to have the clinician in-house.
  - Mason Maltais shared the benefits for the other schools
  - Gary Marckres shared the resources available to mental health services: increasing resources for fewer students is hard to get past.
  - Mason Maltais reminded that is a one year budget; board see where this budget gets us and adjust in the next years.
  - Jane Zera does not think overkill from the start is a good idea either.
  - Mason Maltais sees that having a one year increase in mental health services will act as a benchmark.
  - Michael Clark shared that we are increasing the capacity to meet the needs of the students and increasing overall offerings.
- Mason Maltais reiterated that we are increasing overall offerings and adding a purposeful health program, after school programs, world languages, mental health department has been increased, and nothing has been cut, it has remained level. We have reduced administration by going from three to two principals
- Don Bartlett asked question about line 10, the retirement incentive.
  - Michael Clark shared that this was offset in the savings.
- Gary Marckres moves to approve budget, Mason Maltais second. All in favor, motion passes 5-0.

4. Approve warning - Michael Clark shared that by statute there must be an informational meeting within 10 days of vote. Articles of CIUUSD say Saturday before town meeting day, which is March 2. Must have one meeting that is warned as official meeting on a Saturday before town meeting. Need to have a quorum because it is a meeting. Will be at 7 pm the Saturday, March 2, in The North Hero School. Gary Marckres proposed they develop a common presentation to share at regular town meeting as a presentation. Tim Maxham suggested publishing something in the Islander sooner rather than later. Mason Maltais indicated that the next meeting will set up the structure of informational meeting to each town. Gary Marckres shared that at the regular CIUUSD meeting, there will be discussion about the transition grant and funding this may be a good use of funds.

- Mason Maltais motions to approve warning, adjusting the time noted in preamble to: meeting to be held at 7 pm. Gary Marckres seconds. No discussion. All in favor, motion passes 5-0.

### **Closure**

#### **7. Adjourn-**

- Don Bartlett motions to adjourn, Mason Maltais second. All in favor, adjourn at 8:41 pm.