

GRAND ISLE SCHOOL BOARD
Meeting Monday, December 11, 2017
At Grand Isle School

Present:

Gary Marckres, Chair
Carol Miller
Mike Talbot
Don Bartlett
Nathan Robinson

Don Van Nostrand, Superintendent
Rob Gess, Business Manager
Beth Hemingway, Director of Student Services

Members of the Public:

Patty Lavigne (The Islander)
Lisa Cassidy
Stephen Joachim
Mary Hill
Kimberly Cohen
Christine Shepard
Lori Terry
Scott Elkins

Nicole Gardiner
Catherine Joachim
Apryl Cunningham
Jeremy Hill
Andy Julow
John Gavin
Julie Elkins
Melissa Roberts

Meeting Brought to Order: Gary Marckres brought the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Adjustment of Agenda:

Gary Marckres stated there would be an Executive Session immediately following the public discussion to discuss two personnel matters.

Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2017. Mike Talbot made a motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2017. Approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2017. Carol Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of December 4, 2017. Approved 5-0.

Members of the Public – For Items not on the Agenda.

Christine Shepard brought up the issue of bullying. Nicole Gardiner stated her son is bullied. She asked the board for help in dealing with the bullying. Gary Marckres and the board take bullying very seriously. The policies and processes are in place. Gary asked Don to follow up with Mr. Clancy the Home/School – PBIS Coordinator and Coori Sellers, Guidance Counselor. Ms. Shepard suggested involving parents and staff. Nathan Robinson urged parents to contact any board member with any issue any time.

Kimberly Cohen asked the status of the Grades 6-8 change. Mr. Marckres stated it was on the agenda. Mr. Van Nostrand will be meeting with the 6-8 team.

Lori Terry asked the board when Mr. Arnzen would be returning. The board will work with the administration to help families through this. That is going to be a part of the process that we work through beginning tonight with the Superintendent's guidance. By Statute, the Superintendent has done what is required to do to place Mr. Arnzen on

administrative leave. We fully acknowledge that people make mistakes. We just have to follow the process through to determine what is best for the school. Mr. Marckres stated he did not know what the future holds surrounding this. It's new territory for everyone on the board and the superintendent as well. We have a lot of thoughtful work we need to do. First and foremost to insure the wellbeing of the students and staff here and also support Mr. Arnzen through this no matter what the outcome is.

Ms. Shepard asked if there was a timeline as to when decisions will be made. Is it standard procedure for an administrator to go on administrative leave? Mr. Marckres stated it is standard procedure. Mr. Marckres stated the Board would work as quickly as possible and follow the statute. The superintendent is filling in on a regular basis to support staff and students.

Executive Session.

Carol Miller made a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:05 to discuss personnel matters regarding Eric Arnzen and Colleen O'Connor. The Board ended Executive Session at 7:54 p.m.

Nathan Robinson moved to approve Colleen O'Connor's leave of absence. Approved 5-0.

The other topic during Executive Session was surrounding the situation of our Principal, Eric Arnzen. The Board and the Superintendent learned Friday evening via a police report of an incident that happened. As a board and administration, our thoughts are with Eric Arnzen and his family. The board thanked faculty and staff for supporting students during this time.

The board authorized Don Van Nostrand to begin the search for an interim principal while the investigation takes place and disposition is made. At that time, we will reconvene to discuss the continued service of Mr. Arnzen.

Board Discussion & Action.

Budget to Actuals. Robert Gess stated there were no significant changes since the last board meeting. High School tuition numbers are coming in and will have them for the next board meeting on January 8, 2018.

Review outcome of Grades 6-8 Change. This presents some unique challenges based on the current situation with our administration. Moving forward, we have a couple of options. Middle School team that was working with Mr. Arnzen to present options for increasing support to our Middle School students.

There have been some minor changes to supports. 7th grade is getting additional resources and some individualized splitting of that class which has been positive. Additional support may be provided with the addition of a .4 full time equivalency with Ms. Gove who is a licensed teacher to split that class Mondays and Fridays to provide additional supports and to purchase an adaptive learning program in math to inject into the Middle School cohort.

Don Bartlett moved to have Gary Marckres and Mike Talbot to work with the Middle School Team during this process. Approved 3-0 (2 abstentions)

Mike Talbot stated that Erin Oliver has been working with students Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Ms. Oliver will pull 6-8 students to work with for one hour each day. He will confer with Mrs. Sacca to get an update.

FY19 Budget Work Session. Rob Gess and the Board reviewed changes in budget discussed at the last board meeting and continued reviewing budget. Mr. Marckres stated it has been a long time since the board has been able to reduce the budget.

Approval of Bills for Payment. Gary Marckres moved to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$356,149.96. Approved 5-0.

Agenda Building:

Outcome of 6-8 Change

Finalize Budget

Approve Warning for the Budget

Executive Session – Personnel Matter

Minutes Certification:

Proposed Minutes respectfully submitted by Pamela Leonard. Approved by the Board of Directors on: January 8, 2017.

Gary Marckres, Chair

Carol Miller

Don Bartlett

Mike Talbot

Nathan Robinson

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