

Grass Lake Community Schools

899 South Union Street • Grass Lake, Michigan 49240

(517) 522-5540 • Fax (517) 522-8195

Grass Lake Community Schools Special Board of Education Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2012

7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary

Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Burnett

Darrell Hart

Florine Herendeen

John Paterra

Kimberly Seaburg

Tim Waskiewicz

David Wright

ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton

Michelle Clark

Eric McCalla

Doug Moeckel

Jeanene Satterthwaite

Brian Thompson

GUESTS

Terri Burg

Margaret Henthorne

Amy Janz

Matthew Janz

Antoinette LaCinski

Danielle Lee

Rita Lee

Jamie Leppala

Denise Lotz

Lisa Malmo

Shannon Maynard

Carol McCown

Aimee McKim

Jean McKim

Kathy Mietelka

Becky Schmidt

Karen Smith

Jennifer Taylor

Sandy Wolfinger

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

Certified Correct

Mark Burnett, Secretary

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1. Call to Order

President Waskiewicz called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Wright, to approve the agenda with the change of moving item V.A. (presentation by Bill Spargur) before the Hearing of Citizens. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

3. Correspondence

None

4. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. On Track 360 Evaluation Process – Bill Spargur, Educational Consultant

After an explanation of his company, Mr. Spargur introduced his colleague, Dr. John Savel, who gave a PowerPoint presentation about the On Track 360 Evaluation Process. The Process looks at six leadership roles and involves feedback from board members, teachers, parents, community members, past board members, etc., depending on which administrator is being evaluated. The process could be used as professional development, an evaluation or part of an employment selection process.

The product was created by educators. The program, because it is web-based, is user friendly and easy to use, confidential and cost effective. The 360 standards are aligned to the MDE Standards for School Principals, MSBE Standards for Central Office Administrators and also the Courageous Journey standards.

There were questions from board members about the cost, how often to use the evaluation tool, etc. Mr. Spargur added that Grass Lake would be among the first districts in the state to use the new product.

B. Hearing of Citizens

Jean McKim addressed the board to express her concern over the process followed to fill the choir director position. She was specifically concerned that a person was being hired as a full time teacher when the position was posted as a long-term substitute position. She said it might not be illegal but she would think it was unethical. President Waskiewicz thanked Mrs. McKim.

Antoinette LaCinski addressed the board. She said she has devoted 8 years to teaching the students of Grass Lake. She explained that she received her Master's Degree from Full Sail University and then found out that they were not an accredited teaching university, so the Michigan Department of Education gave her a two-year extension on her teaching certificate. Ms. LaCinski said she didn't realize she needed a reading class, in addition to the 18 hours, and so she did not have all her credits completed to renew her certificate before it expired in December of 2011. She explained her side of the story and expressed concern about the posting date being changed and not being selected for an interview.

Jamie LaPella, a high school student, addressed the board and explained how helpful Ms. LaCinski was to her. Parent Karen Smith addressed the board, as well as students Aimee McKim and Danielle Lee. Rita Lee spoke to the board also and stated that Ms. LaCinski often paid for things for students out of her own pocket.

Mr. Waskiewicz thanked everyone for their comments and thanked Antoinette for her explanation to the board.

5. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Administrative Reports

There were a few questions and comments from board members about Michigan Virtual High School and the Community Education offerings.

B. Election Date Update

Mr. Hamilton reported that several schools in Lenawee County and several schools in Jackson County were talking about six year elections, although none had committed yet. Most districts didn't want to go with four year terms, which would mean four board seats up for election one year and three board seats two years after that.

C. RTI Program

Mr. Hamilton stated that next month Susan Townsend, John Gehrig, Andi Overmyer and Michelle Clark would give an update to the board on the RTI program.

6. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approve Hiring Kristi Stevens

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Hart, to approve hiring Kristi Stevens as Middle School and High School Choir Director.

Member Seaburg asked Mr. Hamilton to address the issue of why the position was posted as a long-term sub position. Mr. Hamilton explained that this had been done in the past. Mr. Hamilton and Mrs. Satterthwaite explained that originally January 6th was the closing date to accept application, but that was changed to the 13th. First interviews were conducted on January 16th and second interviews on January 18th.

All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

B. Approve Hiring of Amy Janz

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Paterra, to approve hiring Amy Janz as a High School English Teacher. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

7. Round Table Discussion

A. Planning for Upcoming Work Sessions

Mr. Hamilton asked for suggestions for upcoming work sessions. Mr. Hart stated that they always appreciated classroom presentations. Mr. Thompson stated that Chilean exchange students would be at the February 13 board meeting to give a presentation.

8. Executive Session

A. Teacher Contract Negotiations

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Hart, to move into Executive Session. The members voted by roll call voted: Member Hart – yes, Member Seaburg – yes, Member Paterra – yes, Member Wright – yes, Member Burnett – yes, Member Herendeen – yes, Member Waskiewicz – yes. Motion Carried.

Moved by Member Wright, supported by Member Herendeen, to move out of Executive Session.

9. Open Session

A. Vote on Ratification of Teacher Contract

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Seaburg, to ratify the teacher contract. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Herendeen, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.