

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 28, 2013
7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary
Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Burnett
Darrell Hart
Kristi Shoemaker
John Paterra
Kimberly Seaburg
Tim Waskiewicz
David Wright

ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton
Brian Thompson
Michelle Clark
Jeanene Satterthwaite
Doug Moeckel

GUESTS

Suzy Sczykutowicz
Shannon Maynard
Sarah Bunde
Cameron Reichow

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

Certified Correct

Mark Burnett, Secretary

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 28, 2013
7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary
Library/Media Center

1. Call to Order

President Waskiewicz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Paterra, to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

3. Correspondence

None

4. Hearing of Citizens

None

5. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Administrative Reports

Member Burnett asked Ms. Satterthwaite about the counselor groups mentioned in her report. Ms. Satterthwaite responded that counselor Sarah Pennewill was working with students on social skills, grade and school transition, and other issues. Some of the groups have run previously, but they were being updated and new students are being brought in to participate.

Member Waskiewicz asked Mr. Thompson about numbers of students at GLHS doing virtual education and Brian responded that approximately 70 students have gone through, or are currently involved in online classes during both semesters this year, which was reported to be about the same as last year. Brian commented that one of the biggest uses for the online classes was for juniors and seniors to fill their class schedules. When asked, Mr. Thompson also reported that 33 students had attended the ACT work session on January 24th.

B. C2C Handouts

Mr. Hamilton spoke about the “Cradle to Career” (C2C) initiative now occurring in Jackson County’s public education system and supported by Jackson 20/20. Board members received a brochure explaining the concept. It was reported that the provided website in the brochure was not yet not up and running. Brad reported that Jackson 20/20 will be meeting in large meeting the following week. C2C is the educational component of the overall effort to improve Jackson County. This brochure had also been handed out to the entire staff. Some staff members have expressed interest in being on the committees.

6. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approve the Hiring of Sarah Bunde – High School Math Teacher

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Paterra, to approve hiring Sarah Bunde as High School Math Teacher. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

7. Round Table Discussion

A. Elementary Staff Presentations

Due the snow day for Grass Lake Community Schools, the presentation will be rescheduled for a later date.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Highly Qualified Audit

Mr. Hamilton reported that the school district had recently undergone a state audit to check accreditations to ensure that all teaching staff members were highly qualified. The auditors’ firm sent a letter to Mr. Hamilton thanking our staff of Andi Overmyer, Linda Zenz, and Deb Brady for being so hospitable and accommodating. They made mention of Ms. Overmyer’s organizational skills. There were very few items to handle. Everything went well and there were high marks from the auditor. It is possible that our District could get audited again next year.

B. Non-Homestead Renewal Ballot Language

For this election we will be going for a full renewal of 18 mills, rather than just the normal Headlee Override to recover Headlee rollbacks. Language needs to be submitted by February for a May election. Brad gave the board two ballot proposal options to look at:

Option #1 – This option includes simpler language – All levy of 18 mills. Shall be increased to 18.4419. More because of past rollbacks. Hedging that it won’t be reduced in the next 20 years. Good chance for restoration millages.

Option #2 – This is the option that Thrun recommends – 18.4419 mills. This would ask voters for .5 more for a 20 year term. If there is a reduction 18.9419. This is a buffer in case of rollbacks (Headlee). Offers a cushion.

Today 18 mills are worth \$969,000 annually to the school budget. There have been discussions about changing the status of the Non-Homestead 18 mills to a permanent levy that would not require future votings to replace Headlee roll-backs.

Members discussed concerns and questions.

Moved by Member Wright, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve presenting Option #1. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

C. JCC Charter School Vote

Member Burnett commented on the Tuesday night 4-3 vote at JCC to move ahead with their charter school. Mr. Hamilton mentioned an article, in which he represented the Superintendent's Association, regarding the vote that would be published in the Brooklyn Exponent. From the beginning with JCEG conversations have been good. Many superintendents thought it was a good discussion to prompt some positive moves.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the C2C program is on the move. There are some innovative things happening. Public schools as a group need to react positively toward how we move ahead. He discussed unbundled high school for the future and the need to keep dollars in our school districts. Gov. Snyder has expressed the desire for students to have a varied education with the money following the students. Grass Lake needs to have its schedules coordinated with other high schools and colleges. Kevin Oxley has been brainstorming ideas with the Superintendent Association.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Wright, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.