

# Grass Lake Community Schools

899 South Union Street • Grass Lake, Michigan 49240

(517) 522-5540 • Fax (517) 522-8195

## Grass Lake Community Schools Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday April 14, 2014

7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary

Library/Media Center

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tim Waskiewicz

Kristi Shoemaker

David Wright

Darrell Hart

Kimberly Seaburg

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

John Paterra

Mark Burnett

### **ADMINISTRATORS**

Mr. Hamilton

Doug Moeckel

Brian Thompson

Michelle Clark

### **GUESTS**

Kim Brown

Jim Howe

Rich Holcomb

Carlene Pindzia

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

Certified Correct

John Paterra, Secretary

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2014 and the Board Work Session of March 24, 2014 as presented. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

4. Presentation of Bills for Payment

Moved by Member Wright, supported by Member Shoemaker, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$679,450.21. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Hearing of Citizens

None

7. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Future Athletic/Support Services Committee Meetings

The Support Services Board Sub-Committee will meet at 7:00 PM on Monday, April 21 while the Athletics Board Sub-Committee will meet at 8:00 PM on Monday, April 21. Both meetings will be held in the Elementary Library/Media Center.

B. Budget Process

Mr. Hamilton reported that the budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, at 6:30 PM. He asked Board members if there was anything specific they want to have available at the meeting from the administrators. No response was given.

C. Kindergarten Round-Up

Mr. Hamilton reported that as of Friday, April 11, ninety-one students had been registered for Kindergarten Round-up, and reminded the Board that Kindergarten Round-up was being held Wednesday, April 23, and Thursday, April 24.

When asked by the members Mr. Thompson responded that, at this time, there will be ninety-three graduating seniors. Mr. Hamilton mentioned that the fall count needs to be looked at to have a realistic view of gains or losses in overall student counts.

D. Summer 2014 Roofing Project

Board members now have the bids for roofing segments D and E, which would complete the middle school roof renovations. McDonald Roofing had the low bid of \$76,865. Mr. Hamilton mentioned that McDonald has been the low bidder for several years. He offered that the Board could approve this work during the action portion of this meeting, or they could approve it at the next Board meeting. Member Hart asked if the work covered under the bid would take care of the most crucial areas. Mr. Hamilton said yes. He stated that there are definitely areas at the elementary that need attention, but that the middle school is the most critical right now. He is currently working with Tremco to evaluate roof issues at the elementary building and stated that an issue on the multi-purpose room presented itself because of the snow fall. The seal between the metal roof of the space and the east wall of the gym needs attention. Member Hart stated that prevention is better than repair.

E. RFP for Cafeteria Services

Mr. Hamilton informed the members that the pre-bid meeting for this bidding process will be held Friday, April 18, at 3:00 PM. He stated that all potential bidders had been invited and also that it was important to go through this process to look at other ways to do business. He said we cannot continue to exist by subsidizing the food program. The cost of labor in our district is over 52% of the total budget, while nationally it is 40%. No questions were offered by the Board.

8. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approve 2014 Roofing Project Bids

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve the bid from McDonald Roofing for the base bid of \$76,865. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

B. Adopt 2014 Best Practice Resolution

Mr. Hamilton is planning to submit the 2014 Best Practice resolution to the State which states that we have met all 8 of the 8 best practices prescribed by the State. He said that the State is thinking of changing 4 of the 8 as they move ahead in future years. A comprehensive guidance system may be proposed, but Mr. Hamilton mentioned that issues with this type of guidance system are problematic as they can be expensive. The House and Executive Branches want the changes, the Senate does not. The State will review Grass Lake's resolution along with the provided paperwork. The State will then post on MEGS. Everyone in the county is doing similar things. Funding will be dropped into the general fund, if accepted, in the amount of \$52 per student, or \$65,000.

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Wright, to approve the 2014 Best Practice Resolution. The members voted by roll call: Member Hart – Yes, Member Shoemaker – Yes, Member Wright – Yes, Member Seaburg – Yes, Member Waskiewicz – Yes. Motion Carried.

9. Unfinished Business

Member Wright told us that the next Countywide Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 10 at Vandercook Lake.

Member Waskiewicz mentioned that the Warrior Invitational track meet was a success. He stated that 14 schools had been represented and praised the look and condition of the new track. He noted that there were many spectators present and Member Wright made the comment that it was similar to a Football Friday. Member Waskiewicz also mentioned the high number of helpers that made themselves available to make the meet work smoothly.

Mr. Hamilton explained a letter that was given to Member Waskiewicz regarding the process by which the Grass Lake DDA captures funding from our school district. Not only are there funds from the general fund being captured, a loss for which the District is held "harmless" as the State makes up for it, but they also capture from our bond debt, which is not held harmless. The DDA was first created as a tool to capture funding from various entities to pay for sanitary sewer upgrades in the area. But Mr. Hamilton discovered that, in the final year of the sewer payment process, the DDA is also capturing funding from our bond debt. On behalf of the school district, Mr. Hamilton, along with Thrun Law, asked for confirmation of this process. He explained that in the 1970's the Supreme Court created local financing organizations, including the Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA), the Local Development Financing Act (LDFA), and the Downtown Development Association (DDA). The courts established that the TIFA and LDFA could capture funding from debt, but were silent on the DDAs. Then in 2014 the Department of Treasury stated that it was legal to capture funds on debt. The feeling is that the bond loan funds should only be used to pay for school debt, instead of portions of the money going to local development. He also is concerned as to why we are paying so much more this year. The proportions have changed so there is more in debt

than the “hold harmless” general funds. While he is still looking into the matter, he has authorized Linda Zenz, district bookkeeper, to make our payments to pay the DDA captured money. Mr. Hamilton clarified that the DDA are not “bad guys”; they are only doing what they legally can do. Mr. Hamilton mentioned that the school attorney will be calling Tom Nolte at the DDA for more discussion of this.

8. Executive Session

A. Contract Negotiations – Support Staff, Teaching Staff

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

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Wright, to move out of Executive Session. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Shoemaker, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.