

# Grass Lake Community Schools

899 South Union Street • Grass Lake, Michigan 49240

(517) 522-5540 • Fax (517) 522-8195

## Grass Lake Community Schools Special School Board Meeting

Monday April 28, 2014  
7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary  
Library/Media Center

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

David Wright

### **ADMINISTRATORS**

Brad Hamilton  
Jeanene Satterthwaite  
Doug Moeckel  
Brian Thompson  
Michelle Clark

### **GUESTS**

Debbie Brady  
Natalia Morris  
Shawn Brown  
John Lesinski  
Jena Tengman  
Jessica Crandell  
Debbie Easterday  
Ella Easterday

Rhonda Mosher  
Cheyenne Mosher  
Tim Lynch  
Tina Bednarski-Lynch  
Rich Holcomb  
McKenna Lynch

### **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 7:01 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve the agenda as presented with changes in item 4; item 4A will now be Elementary poetry students and 4B will now be the presentation by Middle School Art. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

3. Correspondence

None

4. Hearing of Citizens

A. Elementary Poetry Reading

Two students from Mr. Arbuckle's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class recited the poems that were selected in the Young Poets Contest through the Jackson District Library to be published. Ella Easterday came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with her poem, "My Teacher Ate My Homework" and Cheyenne Mosher took 3<sup>rd</sup> place with her poem, "Make Your Mark". The members thanked them for coming to share their poems and the wonderful job they did in their recitations.

B. Special Presentation: Jessica Crandell – Middle School Art Program

Jessica Crandell shared information about the art program at the Middle school. She is hoping to create student & staff "buy-in" with:

- high expectations for behavior and work
- Displays of students' quality work
- Creating an authentic audience ( via the website)
- Giving students a voice and to let them have a say. They are currently painting the doors of the cabinets in the art room with iconic artists such as Picasso and Andy

Warhol. They also have a “graffiti wall” to which the students add personal touches to welcome incoming students in future years/classes.

She then showed some of the highlights of the website on the overhead screen and stated that, so far, there have been 25 to 30 countries have viewed the site.

She wanted to acknowledge the groups that have given grant monies such as the Jackson Community Foundation and the GLEF. She also mentioned the support received from the #TeamJXN SupportTeam. This has allowed advancement of projects in her department such as iPads in the classroom.

In the future, she is working on the addition of technology and evolving projects with the incorporation of core content areas. Some planned activities include: more community action/involvement and school betterment projects such as painting the teacher doors and additional murals.

#### 5. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

##### A. Approve Resignation/Retirement for Nicolas Gadbury

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Hart, to approve the resignation/retirement for Nicolas Gadbury. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

##### B. Approve the Resignation/Retirement for Barb Palmer

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Paterra, to approve the resignation/retirement for Barb Palmer. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

##### C. Soccer and Bowling as School Sponsored Varsity Sports

As was discussed in the Athletic Committee Meeting, Girls Soccer has been a club sport for 8 years and Bowling for 6 years and participation has been strong in both. The feeling was that even though there will be a cost, it is time to recognize both of these sports.

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Hart, to approve Girls Soccer and Bowling as school sponsored varsity sports. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

#### 6. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

##### A. Natalia Morris – Report on the Spring Break Trip to Europe

Makenna Lynch and Mr. Tim Lynch joined Natalia Morris to share a slide presentation of the highlights of the Travel Club’s Spring Break trip to London, Paris, Switzerland and Germany. There were 8 students & 4 adults that traveled with the group. They spent approximately 1 ½ to 2 days in each country. One of the highlights was a Monastery built in 900 C.E. They talked about the different forms of transportation from a 9 hour bus ride between Paris and Lucerne to riding the high speed train. They also referred to the cultural differences they encountered

such as differing attitudes of the people and the food in each country. They stated that it was nice to have the opportunity to sample some of the cultural foods but also mentioned that familiar establishments such as McDonalds and Starbucks were usually available for those that weren't as adventurous.

Ms. Morris reminded everyone of the trips that have been taken in past years through the Travel Club. She then described the plans for next year's trip to Paris and Italy and other future trips that are being planned; Costa Rica in 2016 and London, Paris and Rome in 2017. She invited anyone that would like to join the trips to contact her through the website.

#### B. Budget Information

Mr. Hamilton said there are still process issues over the school aid between the State House and Senate. Issues still being debated include the Best Practices.

#### C. Bus Garage

Mr. Hamilton talked about the options to the district regarding the antiquated bus barn. He informed the members that he, along with Suzy Sczykutowicz and Doug Moeckel, went to tour the old Adams Poured Walls building that is currently for sale. The current asking price is \$199,000. There are some issues that would need to be looked at further with this property. Todd Daily has also been contacted to investigate the options of building a new bus barn on different sites in the district as well the cost. Mr. Hamilton also talked about other ideas to consider such as the addition of infant care rooms to the Little Warriors Program in the spot of the existing bus barn. He then stated that a bus barn is not an investment, it is a need and that moving the building to a new location would also solve some of the parking lot issues on the east end of the elementary. He stated there is a need to look into the return on the investment. The next step would be discussion with the Building and Grounds Committee.

#### D. Kindergarten Roundup Update

Mrs. Clark mentioned that there were 96 that signed up for roundup and that all went well.

#### E. May 5<sup>th</sup> Partnership Meeting

Mr. Hamilton gave reminder that there will be a brief meeting at 6 p.m. on May 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss some of the results of the Partnership Meeting that was on held on February 24, 2014. Decisions will be made about the next steps and who will facilitate this.

### 7. Round Table Discussion

#### A. Committee Reports - Support Services, Athletic

Some of the discussions in the Athletic Committee Meeting surrounded the issue of whether to make Girls Soccer and Bowling. Also discussed was looking at sanding/refinishing of the high school gym floor. Mr. McCalla is looking into the possibility of selling advertising on the floor to help cover the costs. Mr. Hamilton stated that they have seen examples of this and

assured the members that the appearance is attractive and not gaudy. Mr. McCalla explained that each sand down lasts approximately 10 to 12 years and that the life of a gym floor only allows four “sand downs” before needing to be replaced. Our floor is currently 11 years old.

Highlights of the Support Services Committee Meeting included discussions of ways to make the Food Services Dept. more solvent. Currently the general fund is covering the food services. Factors include the changing of nutritional requirements and the mandatory rises in lunch cost. These two factors create the “perfect storm” of problems in that the students do not necessarily like the lunches that conform to the changes in nutritional requirements plus they are higher in cost. Member Hart stated that they also discussed a rotational two week schedule of the students’ favorite foods instead of the current schedule of four weeks.

#### B. Administrative Reports

Member Seaburg asked Mrs. Clark about the number of families that participated in the Energizing Education family night. Mrs. Clark didn’t have the exact numbers but then stated that all of the kids had a great time. She was hopeful that more parents would attend next time. She also stated the plans to hold one Family Night each month next year.

### 8. Unfinished Business

Member Waskiewicz announced that the prom was very nice and problem free. There were 173 students in attendance. It was held in a gorgeous setting at Sauk Valley with perfect weather. The photo booth was a big hit and 16 pounds of chocolate was consumed via the chocolate fountain. He then said that they had a good crew that came the next morning to help with the clean up.

Member Burnett asked Mr. Thompson and Mr. Moeckel about the meeting that Mr. Thompson, Ms. Sitarz and Mr. Moeckel had with Jackson College regarding dual enrollment. Expanding the offerings was discussed. Member Burnett made the suggestion that the times for classes be changed to 7-9 p.m. to accommodate the athletic students. Mr. Thompson stated they were open to this suggestion.

Mr. Hamilton informed the members that he and Linda Zenz have been investigating moving the payroll from the ISD. He said that Ms. Zenz had called SDS to investigate the web based version of SDS (the previous financial program used). The price is about ¼ of their expectations. Additionally this would include a free 3 days training. Mr. Hamilton will be discussing this further with Roger Auwers and Kevin Oxley from the ISD. He mentioned that this would necessitate the addition of staff to the Central Office but that in the long run, it would be cost saving to the district.

### 8. Executive Session

#### A. Teacher and Support Staff Negotiations

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

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

9. Adjournment

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Shoemaker, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.