

# 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 January 13, 2014  
Following Organizational Meeting

George Long Elementary  
Library/Media Center

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

### ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton  
Michelle Clark  
Jeanene Satterthwaite  
Doug Moeckel

### GUESTS

Debbie Brady  
Suzy Sczykutowicz  
Charles Brown  
Jack Zaiantz  
Jean McKim  
Ian McKim

Tiffany Finch  
Deb Gallagher  
Gavin Gallagher  
Chase Scott  
Tracy Scott  
Connor Bagby

Jack Bagby  
Kelly Bagby  
Zack West  
Kriss Giannetti  
Ken Toll  
George Gogol

### 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 7:14 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Wright, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2013 as presented. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

4. Presentation of Bills for Payment

Moved by Member Wright, supported by Member Hart, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$586,235.31. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Hearing of Citizens

None

7. Presentations: Middle School Robotics Club & Energizing Education

**Middle School Robotics Club:** Charles Brown and Jack Zaiantz shared a PowerPoint Presentation that explained the First Tech Challenge (FTC). The program followed was FIRST - **F**or **I**nspiration and **R**ecognition of **S**cience and **T**echnology. FTC is for Middle School students and emphasizes gracious competition. The object of the club was to design, build and program robots based on sound engineering principles. Consumers Energy sent 2 engineers to help out and mentor. Robotics helps teach engineering as well as teamwork, design, programming,

working under pressure and networking. The school benefits are a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) based program. Teachers are excited because this help covers the new state and national standards or NGSS (Next Generations Science Standards) and supports what they are doing in the classroom now and in the future.

The team placed second in their first competition. They also toured American Tooling. The students designed a team t-shirt. Students showed the t-shirt and their robot. Upcoming events are a spring competition in April, a Consumers Energy Robot Exposition, a trip to the Hands on Museum and a Detroit Tigers event. Thanks were given to Ms. Satterthwaite, Mr. Moeckel, Mr. Gogol, the Jackson Area Career Center and the School Board members for their support.

Member Waskiewicz asked that the board be notified of the date of the competition in April so they can show their support. He also asked questions about how often the group meets and where they get the components that are used. The group normally meets on Monday and Wednesday but increases up to 4hrs/day during the week before competition. The components used are from kits, tetrax kits and legos. Some parts have to be designed.

Doug asked if there were connections made at American Tooling. It was stated that it remains to be seen but Mr. Zaiantz stated they will be visiting his company and more connections will be made. He also explained more about the specifics of the programming and how the competitions are judged. Half of the competition is based on the robots' programming to complete tasks and half is on student control of the robot.

Mr. Hamilton referred to the Youth Connect Grant, which the county superintendents have been discussing and lining up funding. He also talked about JAMA (Jackson Area Manufacturing Assoc.) and STEAMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math & Manufacturing) and how they help. He wanted these students to know that they are in the forefront of technology and engineering which is where the jobs are. He thanked Mr. Zaiantz and Mr. Brown again for all they are doing to help the students.

Member Hart asked how the program came to Grass Lake. Charles Brown stated that he had wanted to bring a program to the community for a while. He made a connection with John Riedemann (GL parent and also teacher at JACC) who directed Mr. Brown to FTC.

**Energizing Education:** Ken Toll, United Way President and CEO and Kriss Giannetti, Energizing Education Coordinator spoke on Energizing Education. Mr. Toll said that United Way decided to focus funding to 3 areas, one of which is Education, to support the goal of the Elementary Education Success team of the C2C: to help all students read at or above their grade level by the 4th grade. Energizing Education targets students who do not qualify for Special Ed services, but who are falling significantly behind their peers. The three methods that are used are:

1. Volunteer mentors come into the school once or twice a week
2. Afterschool programming
3. Parental engagement is fostered.

Ms. Gianetti explained that the North West Evaluation Association (NWEA) reading assessment is used. She stated that the program is currently being incorporated at Frost, Arnold and Parnall Elementaries. First Literacy Lounges are created for the students. She went on to describe the friendships that blossom between the students and mentors. It has been found that students need help with reading but they also need support in different ways which is provided by the mentors. Much effort is made on getting and keeping mentors. They approach local businesses for support either monetarily and or with retired professionals who may be approached about mentoring. Emphasis is made on connecting school and home.

The district's contribution is to provide a dedicated classroom and a teacher to oversee and coordinate with the classroom teachers and mentors. It was just found out that they have received a grant from Sigmund Foundation of \$25,000 to help fund Grass Lake. They are in the process of reaching out for help from local businesses and also looking for mentors. Mr. Hamilton informed the board members that Tiffany Finch will be overseeing the program in Grass Lake.

8. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. January 27<sup>th</sup> Chamber Partnership Committee Joint Meeting

Mr. Hamilton is using ideas/components from the Jackson 20/20 to help focus all the organizations in the community to all be working toward the same purposes.

B. Budget Process Update/Set Meeting Date

The District Leadership Team will be meeting on Wednesday. A survey was used to streamline the list of items to discuss. The next step in the process is to meet with a budget committee to move forward in discussions. This process may involve several sessions before it is finalized.

The members who volunteered to form the budget committee are: Darrell Hart, John Pattera and Kimberly Seaburg. It was decided to meet on Monday, January 20th @ 7:30 p.m.

C. Youth Connect Grant

Mr. Hamilton added to the information discussed earlier that this is a federal grant of two to seven 7 million dollars. He is not sure at this time how much Jackson County will receive. The purpose is to train workers to keep jobs in our country instead of hiring foreign workers.

D. MLK Day Professional Development

Mr. Hamilton stated that this is a voluntary professional development day. The topic will be Aligning the Curriculum to Common Core Standards. The teachers can either choose to receive a stipend or count their attendance toward their accumulated profession development hours.

E. Winter Maintenance Issues

Suzy Sczykotowicz handed out a list to the members of building maintenance issues including the roofs and parking lots. These are all items for consideration in future years. Member Waskiewicz wondered if this was a matter for the Buildings and Grounds Committee to meet to discuss. Member Hart inquired as to how the district fared with the bitter cold of the previous week. Ms. Sczykotowicz described one issue with a broken pipe in the MS boys' locker room and how it was handled. She also described a couple of minor issues in other buildings.

F. Update Elementary Staffing

Mr. Hamilton updated the members of one teacher that would be out until February due to an injury. He also mentioned that there is currently a long term sub for Gail Kuhl.

9. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approve the Hiring of Michael VanCleave – Middle School Wrestling Coach

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Wright, to approve hiring Michael VanCleave as the Middle School Wrestling Coach. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

8. Unfinished Business

A. School Board Recognition Month

Mr. Hamilton read the Resolution Honoring Boards of Education from the Jackson County ISD.

An additional item: Mr. Hamilton voiced his appreciation for Andi Overmyer's help with the Title IIA fund updates that are due Wednesday.

9. Executive Session

B. Support Staff Contract Negotiations

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Seaburg, 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 Shoemaker – yes, Member Waskiewicz – yes. Motion Carried.

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

10. Adjournment

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Paterra, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.