

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 June 30, 2014

7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary

Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Waskiewicz

Kristi Shoemaker

Janey Bisard

Darrell Hart

Kimberly Seaburg

Mark Burnett

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Rich Holcomb

ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton

Jeanene Satterthwaite

Doug Moeckel

Michelle Clark

Brian Thompson

GUESTS

Debbie Brady

Linda Zenz

Suzy Sczykutowicz

Jena Tengman

Tim Heim

Heather Brown

Shawn Brown

Brad Coffey

Carlene Pindzia

Jennifer Marshall

Jay Marshall

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

Certified Correct

Kristi Shoemaker, 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. Administer Oath of Office – Janey Bisard

Superintendent Hamilton administered the oath of office to Janey Bisard. All welcomed her to the board.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of items 3A and 3B. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

A. Appoint Board Secretary

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Seaburg, to appoint Kristi Shoemaker as Board Secretary. The members voted by roll call: Member Burnett – yes, Member Hart – yes, Member Bisard – yes, Member Shoemaker – yes, Member Seaburg – yes, Member Waskiewicz – yes. Motion Carried.

B. Presentation of Bills for Payment

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Burnett, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$617,304.48. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

6. Correspondence

Mr. Hamilton read a letter from MIAAA, Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, congratulating Eric McCalla for 5 years of service as Athletic Director.

7. Hearing of Citizens

None

8. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. July Meeting Dates/Organizational Meeting Date

Mr. Hamilton reminded the members of the usual practice of holding one meeting in July which could be on any date the members decided. This meeting will begin with an Organizational meeting to handle fiscal items. Member Hart stated that in the past, a second meeting could be held if necessary. Everyone agreed to hold one meeting on July 1st, with the option of a second meeting if deemed necessary at that time.

B. Administrative Reports

Mr. Hamilton commended the administrators for doing a nice job of recapping highlights from the 2013-2014 school year and also giving a nice preview for the upcoming year in their reports. The members then asked questions and made positive comments regarding the reports.

C. Support Services Committee

Mr. Hamilton gave a recap of the Support Services Committee Meeting that dealt with buying vs. leasing buses. He stated this was a good discussion of the advantages and disadvantages for both options. One advantage to owning our own buses is the flexibility; we have the choice each year, based on the budget, of purchasing new buses, but a disadvantage to this is that once the cycle of purchasing one per year is broken, we have a fleet of old buses with high mileage and which constantly need repair. We are currently about two years behind in our cycle of replacing old buses. Another long term disadvantage with leasing is that it would be difficult and very costly to repurchase our own fleet in the future without a bond issue.

Member Shoemaker said one option the committee discussed was to lease two or three buses with the option of purchasing after the two year lease. This would give the district the chance to try leasing while still keeping options open.

Mr. Moeckel referred to the leasing proposals from Hoekstra and Midwest and explained the pros and cons of each company. He stated our fleet currently has buses ranging from the oldest at a 1997 model to our newest from 2012. There are currently two buses in need of extensive repairs but he has asked the mechanic to wait until decisions are finalized before purchasing parts. He also talked about the better fuel economy with Cummins engines (7.5-9 mpg) offered through Hoekstra and Midwest and the resulting huge savings in fuel costs over a 10 year span. Midwest Transit Equipment offers the 2015 model International buses ready to be delivered, but with the lower fuel efficient International DT466 engines (6 mpg). The Internationals are available with the Cummins engine, but the Cummins-equipped International buses would not be delivered until 120 days from when the order is placed. If we decided to move on the available International buses through Midwest with the DT466 engines, we would be locked into the lower fuel economy in the event that we would decide to purchase the buses after the two year lease expires and run them for 10 more years, or more.

The members asked if other districts that have been leasing buses are satisfied with this option. Mr. Moeckel stated the districts he had talked to have no regrets and the superintendents in those districts appreciate having a “set” amount for their budget every year. He also stated the fleet would be in good shape if the board decided to lease only two buses at this time.

9. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approve 2014-2015 Preliminary Budgets

Mr. Hamilton briefly explained the process that went into this preliminary budget but stated there will be a revision in October when all factors are known.

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Hart, to approve the 2014-2015 Preliminary Budget. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

B. Approve Final 2013-2014 Budget Revisions

Mr. Hamilton pointed to the amount needed to fund the Cafeteria Fund. He wanted the members to realize that if not for this amount taken from the General Fund, the end balance would have been positive.

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Burnett, to approve the 2013-2014 Budget Revisions. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

C. Approve Superintendent, Supervisor and Central Office Contracts

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Hart, to approve the Superintendent, Supervisor and Central Office Contracts. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

D. Approve Grass Lake ESP (Support Staff) Contract Ratification

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Seaburg, to move into Executive Session to discuss the Support Staff contract ratification. The members voted by roll call: Member Burnett – yes, Member Hart – yes, Member Bisard – yes, Member Shoemaker – yes, Member Seaburg – yes, Member Waskiewicz – yes. Motion Carried.

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

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Burnett, to approve the Grass Lake ESP (Support Staff) Contract Ratification. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Hamilton wanted to thank Tim Heim, Uni-Serve Director and Jena Tengman, who were in attendance, as well as others who served on the negotiation committee, for the effort and work put into these negotiations. He felt their efforts contributed to the smoothness of the process. Mr. Heim also thanked Mr. Hamilton for his professionalism in this process.

E. Approve Resignation for Jenny Shoemaker – Middle School Cook

Moved by Member Shoemaker, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve the resignation for Jenny Shoemaker, Middle School Cook. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

F. Approve Resignation for Joseph Walsh – Elementary Teacher

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Bisard, to approve the resignation for Joseph Walsh, Elementary Teacher. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

G. Approve Resignation for Lynn Szeles – Bus Driver

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve the resignation for Lynn Szeles, Bus Driver. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

H. Approve Orthopaedic Rehab Specialist Contract for 2014-2015

Member Burnett asked for observations from Brian Thompson as to how the Trainer was working out. Mr. Thompson stated that he was doing a good job.

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve the Orthopaedic Rehab Specialist Contract for 2014-2015. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

I. Approve NEOLA Updates

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Shoemaker, to approve the NEOLA Updates as presented. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

10. Unfinished Business

Mr. Hamilton referred to the Partnership Meetings held the previous week on two nights. He said that both nights went well. He then invited the members to attend the next meeting scheduled on August 13th @ 6 p.m. He stated that good ideas were being generated. Member Waskiewicz commented that Tovah Sheldon did a good job of keeping everyone on task and allowing them to discuss options. They worked on identifying items to concentrate on. Approximately ten items have been identified to move Grass Lake forward. Mr. Hamilton thinks this is a very powerful committee and feels Ms. Sheldon will be challenged to let everyone know they are all valued in their different roles. Member Waskiewicz thinks it is positive to get everyone working together and that it looks like it will be a good group.

Member Hart inquired when the board committees will be reorganized to fill the current empty positions. Mr. Hamilton stated this will be handled at the July Organizational Meeting.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Shoemaker, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.