

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, June 9, 2014

7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary

Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Burnett

Kristi Shoemaker

Darrell Hart

John Pattera

Kimberly Seaburg

Tim Waskiewicz

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Brad Hamilton

Michelle Clark

Jeanene Satterthwaite

Eric McCalla

Doug Moeckel

Brian Thompson

Alaina Ellison

GUESTS

Debbie Brady

Jennifer Marshall

Rich Holcomb

Mark Rankin

Janey Bisard

Gerry Steinhauer

Marilyn O'Leary

Shawn Brown

Heather Brown

Jay Marshall

Kelly Bolton

Carlene Pindzia

Matt Maynard

Kristen Brundage

Jena Tengman

Emily Tengman

Pam Conway

Maygon Malinowski

Giovanni Pattera

Marco Pattera

Linda Zenz

Brad Coffey

Jenny Shoemaker

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

Certified Correct

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member Shoemaker, supported by Member Hart, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2014 as presented. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

4. Presentation of Bills for Payment

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Burnett, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$745,327.73. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Hearing of Citizens

Heather Brown reminded everyone of her presence at the last meeting requesting the board members to reconsider her firing. She expressed concern that the new JV Girls' Basketball coach being hired at this meeting has only two years of experience. She stated that the current varsity coach knew of others with more coaching experience that had showed interest but were not considered. She stated that she has already received calls from parents that are also showing concern. She wanted to ask the members to be more involved in the Athletic program.

Sean Brown stated that he wonders if the health of the kids is a priority with the Board Members and the Superintendent. He stated there is "crud" in the boys shower in the boys' locker room. He

wonders why the area is not being cleaned. Member Waskiewicz stated that they will look into it. Mr. Brown also wondered about the cafeteria being bid out. He asked if the cafeteria staff had been asked for ideas on how to keep it the Cafeteria Dept. running. The members stated they been looking into the options for several months.

Mr. Brown went on to ask about the discussions regarding obtaining a new bus barn. Mr. Hamilton restated the issues that were covered at the last board meeting such as exploring an infant program for Little Warriors and also extending the parking into that area. He explained some of the issues that have been discussed for the long term. Member Waskiewicz stated there have been several five year planning meetings looking into the long term/short term ideas but appreciates Mr. Brown's concern. Member Burnett commented that no one can attend only one meeting and request answers based on that one meeting. Mr. Brown said he was just expressing concerns and hadn't expected answers.

7. Interview Process for Filling Vacant Seats

President Waskiewicz explained how the process would work. He stated the Board has 30 days to fill openings. Two appointees will be chosen at this meeting; one being sworn in tonight and the second to be sworn in at the June 30th meeting. He read the 6 names of the citizens that had written letters expressing an interest; Rich Holcomb, Heather Brown, Sean Brown, Mark Rankin, Gerry Steinhauer and Janey Bisard. He stated that in the interest of fairness, they would ask all six of the candidates to wait in the hallway while asking questions to one candidate at a time. He feels confident this process would give each candidate a fair chance. He then asked if any of the candidates had any questions. There were none.

He asked each candidate in their turn to make an opening statement including a brief overview of their background and qualifications. This was followed by questions from the board members. They ended by asking each candidate if they had any questions.

A. Approve Selection

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Hart, to nominate Rich Holcomb for the first vacant board seat. The board voted by roll call: Member Burnett – Yes, Member Hart – Yes, Member Shoemaker – Yes, Member Paterra – Yes, Member Seaburg– Yes, Member Waskiewicz – Yes. The motion passed.

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Seaburg, to nominate Janey Bisard for the second board seat, to be sworn in at the Special Meeting on June 30th. The board voted by roll call: Member Burnett – Yes, Member Hart – Yes, Member Shoemaker – Yes, Member Paterra – Yes, Member Seaburg– Yes, Member Waskiewicz – Yes. The motion passed.

B. Administer Oath of Office

Superintendent Hamilton swore in new board member Rich Holcomb.

President Waskiewicz welcomed Member Holcomb to the board.

C. Election of Board Treasurer

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Seaburg, to nominate Darrell Hart for the position of Treasurer. The board voted by roll call: Member Burnett – Yes, Member Hart – Yes, Member Shoemaker – Yes, Member Holcomb – yes, Member Paterra – Yes, Member Seaburg– Yes, Member Waskiewicz – Yes. The motion passed.

8. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Reminder of Date for Second Board Meeting in June

Mr. Hamilton reminded everyone that the second meeting in June is scheduled for Monday, June 30th at 7:00 p.m. to allow the most accurate information of how the current fiscal year ended.

B. Final 2013-2014 Budget Revision and Preliminary 2014-2015 Budget Process

Mr. Hamilton hopes to have the preliminary audit done and will have more precise figures at the June 30th meeting.

C. Update on Cafeteria Bid Process

Mr. Hamilton stated 3 good bids had been received. These have been sent to the state for final approval. The process takes time as all criteria and requirements from the State must be met. No response had been received as yet. In the meantime other options are being looked at. Member Burnett made the comment that no one wants to go this route but that we have to keep open mind and crunch numbers.

D. Balanced Calendar

Mr. Hamilton shared a brief PowerPoint from JCISD's Kevin Oxley and the County Superintendent Association explaining the balanced calendar concept for Jackson County. This was something that had been sent to every superintendent to share with their school boards. He stated this was not a "year round calendar" but a balanced calendar.

9. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. MHSAA Membership Resolution for 2014-2015

Mr. Hamilton said that this is routinely done every year to allow us to participate in the MHSAA. Member Holcomb asked if there was a fee attached to this. Mr. Hamilton answered that no fee was attached.

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Paterra, to approve MHSAA Membership for 2014-2015. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

B. Approval of 2014-2015 Tax Rates and Preliminary Budget from Budget Hearing

The rates of 7.21 mills and 18 mills discussed at the Budget Hearing and the Preliminary Budget should be adopted but may be revised at the June 30th Board Meeting.

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve the 2014-2015 tax rates and budget from the budget hearing. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

C. Approve Transportation Handbook Changes

Mr. Moeckel would like to more clearly identify specific safety hazards in the Handbook.

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Paterra to approve the requested changes to the Transportation Handbook. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

D. Approve Technology Purchases

Matt Maynard discussed the need to buy 262 computers to refresh the ones that are currently 7 or 8 years old. He explained the opportunity for a grant to purchase computers at a low cost and to take advantage of the state paying a rebate; last year it was \$98 but he thinks it would be optimistic to expect the same. He would also like to expand the wireless infrastructure. They are planning to go to Cisco equipment, which is the standard. Mr. Hamilton wanted to reiterate that this is in next year's budget. He also reminded the members that at one time our district was first in the county in technology, but other districts have recently passed bonds and are now front runners. The amount to approve now is \$118,703.97 plus an additional \$38,852.80 for networking.

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Holcomb, to approve technology purchases and upgrades in the amount of \$157,556.77. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

E. Set Lunch Prices for 2014-2015

Carlene Pindzia addressed the board on the recommended cost increases for the breakfast and lunch programs. She stated they could vote as a package or separately.

1. Breakfast currently loses .17 per breakfast. She recommends an increase to \$1.60.
2. Lunches in September through April lost .47 cents per lunch. We are also selling 45 less lunches/day due to the economy and new nutrition requirements. The state is requiring that we raise the lunch prices by 10 cents. She recommends a raise of .40 across all schools. She stated this may initially cause a decrease in numbers and there are no guarantees the state won't give another increase, but she feels that if we increase .40/lunch for the 2014-2015 school year may only have to increase .05 the following year.
3. Ala Carte –She recommends an increase of .10/carton milk or .65/carton.
4. Adult meals – she stated that adult meals cannot be subsidized by the general fund. Therefore, the price of adult meals must cover their cost. In addition, sales tax must be

collected. Ms. Pindzia is asking to set a base price and then let Meal Magic charge sales tax on top of that. She is proposing Breakfast at \$2.00 + tax and Lunch at \$3.65 + sales tax.

She then gave updates on the Healthy Hunger Free Law that will begin with the next school year. One requirement is that all breads must be whole grain. Breakfast will now require 1 cup fruit on the breakfast plate as opposed to ½ cup this year. There are also new guidelines on snack foods sold during school. She showed a PowerPoint about the Smart Snacks in Schools being sold in the schools. This applies to any snack being sold during school day. There are also tighter requirements on sodium, sugar, fat, calorie limits and beverage standards.

Mr. Hamilton said that Michelle Obama has been getting push-back to give the schools a year to adjust, but that she has proponents who are also a strong voice. He discussed the need for marketing of the cost increase and providing the data that the cost increase would still be less inexpensive than packing a lunch. Ms. Pindzia stated that outsourcing addresses cutting costs, but that we would still have control over the cost of meals, revenue; we need to do both, raise revenue and lower costs. At this time, we have some of the lowest prices in the county.

They commented that good suggestions on marketing had been received from the board during committee meetings and also from the staff and Ms. Pindzia will continue working on this including marketing the menus. Even though the elementary and middle school numbers had bounced back, the high school had not. Mr. Hamilton would like to sit down with a group of students and survey them for input. He feels they need just three items that would appeal to high school students.

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Hart, to approve Ms. Pindzia's recommendations to raise the breakfast, lunch, ala carte and adult meal prices. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

F. Approve Hiring of Cliff Cushard – Varsity Wrestling

Moved by Hart, supported by Member Shoemaker, to approve hiring Cliff Cushard as Varsity Wrestling Coach. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

G. Approve Hiring Andrea Cabana – Girls' JV Basketball Coach

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Hart, to approve hiring Andrea Cabana as JV Girls' Basketball Coach. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

8. Unfinished Business

Member Hart brought up the need for reassigning committee meeting assignments.

A presentation of farewell gifts was given to John Paterra by for his years of service to the district.

A reminder was given of the Partnership meetings on the evenings of June 25th and 26th.

It was mentioned that the Girls' Varsity Softball team played well.

9. Executive Session

A. Support and Teacher Contract Negotiations

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

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

10. Adjournment

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Shoemaker, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.