

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 May 12, 2014
7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary
Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton
Michelle Clark
Eric McCalla
Brian Thompson
Jeanene Satterthwaite
Doug Moeckel
Alaina Ellison

GUESTS

Debbie Brady	Julie Turner	Suzy Sczykutowicz	Ryan Watkins
Linda Zenz	Colten Brown	Janey Bisard	Emily Tengman
Larry Hook	Lauren Neibauer	Korri Kempker	John Bohn
Giovanni Paterra	Kyleigh Lessard	Jenny Shoemaker	Mike Herendeen
Gerry Steinhauer	Emma Neibauer	Chris Powell	Melissa Waidley
Kim Wright	Madi Sabo	McKenna Lynch	Debbie Razelun
Tony & Kelly Horner	Kylie Wirpio	Tina Bednarski Lynch	John Razelun
Natalie Peterson	Kellie Wirpio	Larry Shaltis	Florine Herendeen
Theresa Cass Valliere	Shawn Brown	Hope Waidley	Guy Watkins
Rachel Cass	Heather Brown	Clara Waidley	Bob R.
Madelyn Turner	Margaret Garner	Vernon Bradley	
Kellyn Herendeen	Jena Tengman	Hannah Bradley	
Sydney Cook	Keith Neibauer	Cheyenne Boyd	
Sydney Rubingh	Cody Brown	Phyllis Parks	
Juliana Paterra	KJ Neibauer	AJ Konopka	

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 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Paterra, to approve the agenda as presented with the presentation of the cast of *Seussical the Musical* becoming item 6A and other hearing of citizens being labeled as item 6B and the deletion of item 8B. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 14, 2014 and the Special Meeting of April 28, 2014 as presented. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

4. Presentation of Bills for Payment

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$673,448.36. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Hearing of Citizens

A. The senior cast and advisors were honored for their contributions on the production of *Seussical the Musical*. He introduced each of them and presented them with a certificate. The senior students were John Bohn, Hannah Bradley, Dylan Ehlert, Gallery Privatte, Anna Smith, Carly Scarbrough, Evan West and Alice Markle. The adult staff and volunteers were: Lisa Malmo, Larry Shaltis, Colleen Flynn, Jaime Bohn, Nancy Rigg, Chelsea Stech, Korrie Kempker, Darin Good and Barb Palmer.

- B. Heather Brown read a prepared statement asking the board to reconsider her firing as JV Girls Basketball Coach for not reporting a situation of student drinking. The incident happened while she was on vacation in Florida with other families during spring break. She explained that on the first day of vacation she had been notified her father was in the hospital and then passed away early the next morning. She further explained the week was a blur and she was not aware of the drinking situation involving her son and other students and that her friends had not let her know of the situation to avoid adding further stress. She stated that she did not know anything regarding the situation until Monday, April 21 when the school called her to inform her of the discipline being given to her son. She listed the events of the trip as she remembered them. She then went on to explain her upset over the way the situation was handled by the administrators and Mr. Hamilton. She felt that she should have been contacted earlier in the process. She also stated her upset on learning about the rumors of mishandling funds from the Youth League. She gave the board members a letter from Tony Vigo of the Youth League stating there were no allegations being brought against Mrs. Brown by the Youth League.

Kim Wright also read a brief note in support of Heather Brown. She stated that she thought that the policy needs to be revised that would allow a coach of 10 years to be fired without being contacted. She said that Ms. Brown has been a huge asset to the basketball program, and is supported by the students. She feels that an at-will employee deserves the same respect that is afforded to other employees.

Emma Neibauer, Mrs. Brown's mom, wanted to reiterate that Heather did not know about the drinking incident. She emphasized that Mrs. Brown's friends in Florida kept things regarding the incident from her to protect her. She said that her daughter is committed to the team and always referred to them as "her girls". She also stated that she is a proud mom and grandma who would like to ask the board to rethink the firing.

Margaret Garner wanted to know how the schools think they have the right to govern the private lives of the students and parents. She called it abuse and bullying. She feels there is more to the firing than the drinking issue.

Theresa Valliere said that she had known Heather Brown for several years. She wondered where the accountability is for the other parents. She feels Mrs. Brown is being singled out.

Keith Neibauer, brother of Mrs. Brown, stated that he was a (volunteer) coach for several years. He feels there are a lot of things that were covered up and asks that the board take a closer look at the situation.

Hope Waidley, who, while in school, had been coached by Mrs. Brown stated that Coach Brown is dedicated and would not do anything to mess up her coaching.

Another student stated that Coach Brown never gave up on them and she didn't want the district to give up on her.

Carna Ropp, assistant coach to Mrs. Brown, stated how amazing Heather is and how much she loves the girls. She thinks there are political things pushing Mrs. Brown out of the program. She thinks it would hurt the community to lose her as a coach.

Gerry Steinhauer stated he was on the board of the Youth League. He wanted to squelch the rumors that anything had happened on the Youth League.

Kellyn Herendeen, wanted to say that Mrs. Brown had taught her more than basketball. She had also learned life skills from Coach Brown that she now uses at college.

Colten Brown, son of Mrs. Brown, wanted to know how anyone could investigate whether a person knows something or not.

7. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Budget Update

Mr. Hamilton explained there are many differences between the House, Senate and Governor's office. At the MSBO conference that he recently attended, Tim Scubik, hosted a conversation with some politicians which was very interesting. He said that he is watching the process unfold and will wait to see how the debates between house and governor work out. Currently, it looks like, at most, we may be able to pencil in \$112 as an increase but he is hoping that as it is an election year they will do better than that. One issue is a proposed 10% increase for community colleges. Mr. Hamilton stated that Proposal A was never intended for higher education, but the law makers argue that it is legal. There is still a lot of work to be done.

B. Partnership Committee Update

Mr. Hamilton stated that five organizations had returned to the second meeting. He also informed everyone that the Chamber of Commerce had voted in favor of using a facilitator. Tovah Sheldon was chosen to facilitate the process. She has already planned out five agendas.

8. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approve Resolution to Approve JCISD Budget for 2014-2015

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Paterra, to approve the "Resolution in Approval of the JCISD Budget for 2013-2014." All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

B. Approve Probationary Status

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Burnett, to approve a 3rd year of probation for Kari Allen. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Burnett, to approve a 3rd year of probation for Abby Briggs. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Paterra, to approve a 3rd year of probation for Megan Videto. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve a 4th year of probation for Becky McEldery. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Shoemaker, to approve a 3rd year of probation for Jessica Amburgey to be effective 1/10/15. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Paterra, to approve a 3rd year of probation for Kristi Stevens to be effective 1/24/15. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve a 2nd year of probation for Sarah Reichow to be effective 1/29/14. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

C. Approve Teachers for Tenure Status

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Shoemaker, to approve tenure for Crystal Claus. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Paterra, to approve tenure for Rachel Wilson. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Burnett, to approve tenure for Amy Janz to be effective 1/24/14. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Paterra, to approve tenure for Kim Sitarz to be effective 10/23/14. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

D. Approve Resignation of Board Member David Wright

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Hart, to approve the resignation of board member David Wright. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

9. Unfinished Business

A reminder was given that there will not be a second board meeting in May due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Ms. Satterthwaite informed the members the Middle School was notified they had received the Leader in Me grant.

Member Burnett gave "a shout out" to the Robotics Team.

8. Executive Session

A. Contract Negotiations

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

9. Adjournment

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Seaburg, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.