

GRASS LAKE
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Individual excellence inspired by tradition and innovation
899 South Union Street • Grass Lake, Michigan 49240
(517) 522-5540 • Fax (517) 522-8195

**Grass Lake Community Schools
Special Board of Education Meeting**

Monday April 27, 2015
7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary
Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Kimberly Seaburg
Janey Bisard
Tim Waskiewicz
Kristi Shoemaker
Rich Holcomb
Heather Brown

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Darrell Hart

ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton
Michelle Clark
Doug Moeckel
Jeanene Satterthwaite

GUESTS

Mike Stapleton
Wendy Stapleton
Ashley Stapleton
Zoey Bommarito
David Bargesser
Lori Bargesser
JenaTengman
Katy Tengman
Matt Horodeczny
Jessie Horodeczny
Josh Horodeczny
Michelle Cook

Aspen Cook
Bryant Cook
Dawn Eros
Paul Eros
Benjamin Eros
Rose Eros
Robert Anderson
Carrie Good
Louis Good
Crystal Claus
Andria Goebel
Richard Dase

Jacob Dase
Kathy Mietelka
Chloe Mietelka
Madi Holcomb
Charles Simpkins
Christie Simpkins
Kari Allen

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. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Correspondence

None

4. Hearing of Citizens

Prom Committee members Emily Tengman and Zoe Bommarito invited Board members to the prom, which is happening this Saturday, May 2, at the Potter Center at Jackson College.

Also, Zoe shared updated information with the Board about her dating survey that is an effort to achieve Gold Level status with the Girls Scouts. Zoe surveyed Grass Lake High School students about dating impropriety and the dangers of social media. She gave each Board member a copy of the survey, of which 114 surveys were completed with female and males evenly split. Zoe went on to give survey results from three of the 16 questions that were offered.

5. Special Presentation: Middle and Elementary Students

Elementary and Middle School students gave presentations of things they have been doing in school related to the "Leader in Me" program.

Ashley Stapleton, Lexie Bargesser, Chloe Mietelka all talked about "The Leader in Me" program at their school and how Sean Covey's "7 Habits of Effective Teens" support the environment of the school. They also invited Board members to attend Leadership Day at the Elementary and Middle School buildings on Wednesday, June 3 from 8:15 am-2:30 PM.

They ran through the 7 habits and gave examples of each.

- Proactive – Plan ahead
- Begin with the end in mind - Set goals
- Put first things first. Work, then play. Do homework first, then play
- Win-Win – cooperative, not competitive
- Seek first to understand, then be understood - Listen first, then talk
- Synergize – Together is better. Better in groups
- Sharpen the saw – Eating sleeping and exercising right, go to bed early

Middle School students Josh Horodeczny, Louis Good, and Morgan Betterly ran through role plays of some of the habits. They also described activities at the Middle School that support the 7 habits, that include leadership classes, reading breaks to learn more about leadership, hanging relevant posters that advertise the habits and share a positive influence. They explained that they work to set an example of becoming better people and leaders and taking charge of small groups. If they see someone making poor choices, they step in and re-direct. A Leader decides they can help others go in the right direction. MS encourages leaders to be self motivated as the teachers are allowing students to take more initiative.

Presentations of educational efforts were made by several students: Charles Simpkins and Robert Anderson both read their poems for which they won first place and honorable mention, respectively, for their work a competition sponsored by the Jackson District Library, and for which there were hundreds of submissions. Teacher Mike Arbuckle was present to share accolades for the students and told the Board that the students would be receiving awards on May 12 at Parkside.

Mike Arbuckle then introduced members of the Lego League Club that he and Sarah Sherwood ran this winter with 1st and 2nd graders. Mike and Sarah brought in the following students to discuss their experiences. Those students were Ben Eros, Emma Sweat, Bryant Cook, Jacob Dase, Max Goebel, and Robert Anderson. When asked about their favorite parts of the experience, they shared the Lego houses, building military vehicles, working together, and working with a soldier. Jacob's uncle is a Marine. The group accepted the challenge building something that would help the military. The group designed and built a machine to detect roadside bombs with detectors on the front and sides using assistance from Jacob's uncle. Mike Arbuckle said he enjoyed the project over seven weeks, noting that the group was assisted by Robert's and Jacob's dads throughout the project. Mike told us that the students had to learn how to "code" the robot to do what they wanted it to do.

The students asked Jacob's uncle what he liked about being in the military, and he responded that he liked seeing the world and helping our students to build something beneficial. When asked what he didn't like, he reported that he did not like being so far from home and family.

Robert displayed a large airplane he made out of Legos. It is electric powered so parts move throughout the plane. He said it took 2-3 days to build the plane. Mike commented that the kids can build things quicker than Mike and Sarah can think of ideas.

Brad thanked everyone for their great work. This is another example of broadening opportunities for our students and gave praise to everyone making presentations. Brad also commented that it is important to keep art in our programs, but we must be mindful of STEM lessons and move all of them forward. Good job everyone.

Madi Holcomb of the GLHS Student Council was in to report that the council was considering doing something for the teachers for teacher appreciation week. Possible giving them their favorite candy bar and an appreciation note. She also mentioned there were discussions about a possible Cedar Point trip.

6. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Resolution supporting before Labor Day start of school year

Moved by Member Bisard, supported by Member Holcomb, to approve the resolution in favor of Legislation and Approval for Local Learning Year. Motion Carried.

B. Resolution supporting passage of Proposal One

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Bisard, to approve the Resolution Against School Aid Fund Transfer to Higher Education and in Support of Proposal 1. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

7. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Kindergarten Roundup

Michelle reported that there 78 students registered right now, which is lower than last year. She suggested that parents may be procrastinating. Parent meetings are at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. the next day, Tuesday, April 28. Roundup testing in August. The process was changed this year to do screening testing later for accuracy and this will take some testing out of the school year. Rich asked what type of testing was normally done. Michelle replied that they test for letter recognition and sound recognition. They have them draw themselves, do counting exercises and stack blocks.

Pre-school update from Brad – The following graphic shows up to date Little Warriors numbers as of 4.27.15

Year:	Pre-School Enrollments	Kids Club Enrollments	Toddler enrollments	Total enrollment:	Notes:
2007-2008	35	20	No toddler prog.	55	
2009-2010	59	38	6	103	opened toddler program April of 2010
2010-2011	86	47	22	155	opened 2nd toddler room
2011-2012	84	90	23	180	opened 4th Kids Club class
2012-2013	86	107	27	220	
2013-2014	92	122	22	236	
2014-2015	80	118	24	222	
2015-2016	59	129	12	200	as of 4-27-15
Summer enrollment:		Kids Club	Toddler	Total enrollment:	
2010	35	42	4	81	
2011	40	51	19	110	
2012	44	55	24	123	
2013	62	72	22	156	
2014	64	75	17	156	
2015	61	94	20	175	as of 4-27-15

Infant program discussion –

Christie was planning to talk to the Board about infants, but was detained and will discuss it with the Board at a later. Brad said that anecdotal research is there that parents would like have an infant program and told the board that for the District to move ahead that we need to have this program. (Brad mentioned that the inspector who drops in to check out Little Warriors had told Christie that she loves our program and would bring her infant here if the facility was made available.) Brad said that we still have a room available to grow our current program with students ages 12 months and up, but that for an infant program we need another structure, either attached or detached, but it needs to be specifically built for infants and include sleeping quarters, a kitchen, and other facilities. Brad mentioned that other infant programs in the county are closing, but he didn't know the reasons.

Rich offered a colleague at U of M to get empirical evidence of the need for an infant program at Little Warriors.

While discussing facilities, Kimberly mention the old Lions Club building and Heather mentioned the former Imagination Station at the Allegiance Building, both of which could possibly be a place to get into, but Brad mentioned there are many advantages to having the new facilities in one place because it is easier if we have the staff right here, being apart is difficult and parents want one spot to drop off at one place.

Prints are available to add to the east end and classrooms to the 1990 wing. We can't build a courtyard because we need to have fire trucks in to the areas. It was suggested that the bus garage location is the most appropriate place to put a facility

B. Strategic Planning Update

Brad considered these sessions to be the best as the group narrowed down the focus of where we want the District to go and that pertain to the mission of our District. Tovah Sheldon, our facilitator, will be putting together a document that the separate goals groups are compiling that will be submitted to the Board. Brad explained that the presentations given by the students tonight were good examples of following our strategic goals and offering opportunities for our students to excel in STEM classes and leadership. Brad explained that we must not sacrifice art in the line of STEM, but that STEM education needs to come to the level of the arts in our school district. Without this equality, Brad said we will lose students. STEM education needs to be built up by the redeployment of personnel that we already have.

Tim talked about the process of our strategic planning, which included reviewing the previous goals and understanding what they represented and what categories that they fell under. Tim said that Tovah kept the discussion pointed while keeping the groups working together in collaboration. Tim mentioned that the goals and strategies were being documented in a GoogleDoc document to allow for easy access by all committee members. Janey commented how she liked how everyone worked together. Heather asked how people were chosen to be on the committee and Brad responded that an open invitation went out on our website, on our Facebook page and through our building announcements. Tim mentioned that we had a good mix of experienced strategic planners and new people.

The new virtual tour videos were shown to the Board and the audience. The board shared kudos for the films and to Brenda Livesay, William Coale, and Brad for their work in producing

the videos. The videos are now linked to our building pages on the website, and they can be found on YouTube.

8. Round Table Discussion

A. Administrative Reports

There were no comments or questions to the Administrators

B. Other

No other comment were made or discussed

9. Unfinished Business

Additional comments were made by the board.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Member Holcomb, supported by Member Shoemaker, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.