

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 August 11, 2014

7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary

Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Darrell Hart

Janey Bisard

Rich Holcomb

Tim Waskiewicz

Kristi Shoemaker

Mark Burnett

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Kimberly Seaburg

ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton

Brian Thompson

Jeanene Satterthwaite

Michelle Clark

Eric McCalla

Doug Moeckel

GUESTS

Debbie Brady

Brad Coffey

Heather Brown

Shawn Brown

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Timothy 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 Hart, supported by Member Bisard, to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member Holcomb, supported by Member Hart, to approve the minutes of the Organization Meeting and the Regular Meeting of July 14, 2014 as presented. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

4. Presentation of Bills for Payment

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Burnett, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$858,899.24. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

5. Correspondence

Mr. Hamilton referred to an e-mail that Kelli Lambrix had sent regarding the postponing the refunding which will be discussed later in the meeting. He also mentioned a study from Tovah Sheldon and stated there will be further discussion at a future meeting and that she may be invited to discuss this with the members.

6. Hearing of Citizens

None

7. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Back to School Night

Mr. Hamilton gave all a reminder that the district's Back to School Night will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 26th at 5-7 p.m.

B. Staffing Issues

Mr. Hamilton stated that he and the administrators took a look at many issues. Current enrollment numbers were discussed. The members were informed that a general elementary teaching position(s) had been posted to keep options open. A couple of scenarios were also explained that could be pursued at the middle and high school buildings involving half-time positions.

Mr. Hamilton then reminded the members that he had budgeted using 1250 students. The change made in transportation with leasing two buses allows for the hiring of one half-time teacher. He explained that should enrollment increase by twenty students this would allow for additional staffing while keeping the budget at status quo. Mr. Waskiewicz agreed that posting the positions allowed the district to keep options open.

Mr. Hamilton explained the need to determine the value of adding staff; possibly for more AP classes, STEM classes, etc. It would also need to be determined whether the enrollment numbers could sustain this. He asked the members to consider these factors with the value of marketing the district. Member Holcomb inquired as to the benchmark standard as far as classroom size. Mr. Hamilton referred to the research done on this subject which found that in the third grade and above student achievement wasn't affected by classroom size as much as classroom management, but stated he prefers to strive for 20-22 students per classroom. Member Hart asked to be reminded about the number of vacated positions. Mr. Hamilton said that there had been three teachers positions vacated at the end of 13/14 school year; two due to retirements and one due to a resignation. They are currently looking at moving the staff around to fill the vacated positions, possibly with a specials classroom teacher moving into a regular classroom.

Mr. Hamilton explained further of some of the discussions with administrators about moving teachers between the buildings. He again stated that it all comes down to making sure the district stays marketable. He also stated that the administrators' knowledge should be trusted on the matter and their recommendation should be considered. Member Holcomb stated that hiring is always a risk but need to make the best educated decisions and consider what is best for the students.

Member Hart mentioned that in the past the board had left decision making in this regard to Mr. Hamilton. The other members agreed.

C. Refunding Update

Mr. Hamilton read an e-mail to the members received from Kelli Lambrix regarding the refunding bond issue approved at the July 14th meeting. After further consideration, PFM suggests postponing the refunding until the 2015 taxable values are available. This is based on new information from legislators.

8. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approve Student Handbook Changes

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Shoemaker, to approve the changes for the Student Handbooks for the Elementary, Middle and High Schools and the Athletic Code of Conduct. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

B. Approve the Hiring of Stephanie Faethe - Transportation

Moved by Member Holcomb, supported by Member Bisard, to approve the hiring of Stephanie Faethe as bus driver. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

C. Approve the Hiring of Victoria Wubben – Half-Time Middle School Art Teacher

Moved by Member Shoemaker, supported by Member Holcomb, to approve the hiring of Victoria Wubben as Half-Time Middle School Art Teacher. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

D. Approve the Hiring of Kristen Kimble – Middle School/High School Special Education Teacher

Moved by Member Shoemaker, supported by Member Bisard, to approve the hiring of Kristen Kimble as Middle School/High School Special Education Teacher. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

E. Approve the Hiring of Steven O’Hotzke – JV Football Coach

Moved by Member Holcomb, supported by Member Hart, to approve the hiring of Steven O’Hotzke as JV Football Coach. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

F. Approve the Hiring of John Lesinski – JV Football Coach

Moved by Member Bisard, supported by Member Holcomb, to approve the hiring of John Lesinski as JV Football Coach. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

G. Approve the Hiring of Fred O’Hotzke – JV Football Coach

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Shoemaker, to approve the hiring of Fred O’Hotzke as JV Football Coach. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

9. Unfinished Business

Member Shoemaker asked if the new buses had arrived yet. Mr. Moeckel said they would arrive tomorrow.

10. Executive Session

A. Support and Teacher Contract Negotiations

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

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

11. Adjournment

Moved by Member Bisard, supported by Member Holcomb. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.