

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 August 25, 2014
7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary
Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Waskiewicz
Rich Holcomb
Kristi Shoemaker
Janey Bisard
Darrell Hart
Kimberly Seaburg

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mark Burnett

ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton
Jeanene Satterthwaite
Doug Moeckel
Michelle Clark
Brian Thompson

GUESTS

Debbie Brady
Heidi Cobb
Brad Coffey
Theresa Boyers
Shelly Creger
Linda Zenz

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 7:01 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 with the addition of items 6E. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

3. Correspondence

None

4. Hearing of Citizens

None

5. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Administrative Reports

Member Waskiewicz commented on the attachment to Mr. Thompson's report regarding the Advanced Placement classes and Jackson College classes. He was very impressed by the offerings of our district for students compared with other districts in the area. Mr. Thompson stated that adjustments had been made to offer classes later in evening. Despite this, the Sociology class has been dropped due to low numbers. Commendation was also given to the Middle School for the STEM classes scheduled to be taught by George Gogol this upcoming school year. Ms. Satterthwaite stated that Mr. Gogol is very excited about the class.

Mr. Moeckel was asked if the new buses had arrived. He stated that they had.

B. Preliminary Enrollment Projections

Mr. Thompson stated that the high school numbers are still fluctuating. The high school numbers historically continue to change until the first week of school. Michelle Clark commented that her enrollment is currently up 27 students from the end of 13/14 school year. She currently has 123 kindergarteners enrolled. This puts her enrollment to 600 students. Member Hart asked if the elementary had ever reached 600 students before. Mrs. Clark stated that it had a couple of years ago.

C. Staffing

Mr. Hamilton referred to comments made in the administrator's reports. He talked about adding a STEM portion at the high school level, but stated that to accomplish this planning would need to begin earlier next year. Mr. Waskiewicz asked Mrs. Clark about the class sizes, specifically second grade, and wondered if she thought there would be the need for another teacher. Mrs. Clark explained that they had added a 1st/2nd grade split class to level the numbers. She gave commendation to her staff for their flexibility in the last minute changes to their rooms/grade assignments.

6. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approve the Hiring of Heidi Cobb as an Elementary Teacher for 2014-2015

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Bisard, to approve the hiring of Heidi Cobb as an elementary teacher for 2014-2015. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

B. Approve the Hiring of Michelle Creger as an Elementary Teacher for 2014-2015

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Holcomb, to approve the hiring of Michelle Creger as an elementary teacher for 2014-2015. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

C. Approve the Hiring of Theresa Boyers as an Elementary Teacher for 2014-2015

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Bisard, to approve the hiring of Theresa Boyers as an elementary teacher for 2014-2015. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

D. Approve the Hiring of John Lesinski as Half Time Middle School Physical Education Teacher

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Holcomb, to approve the hiring of John Lesinski as a Half Time Middle School Physical Education Teacher. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

E. Approve the Hiring of Brian Thompson and Joel Cook as Middle School Football Coaches

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Holcomb, to approve the hiring of Brian Thompson and Joel Cook as Middle School Football Coaches for 2014-2015. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

7. Round Table Discussion

A. Start of the School Year Stuff

A reminder was given the Back to School Night would be held the next night, Tuesday, from 5-7 p.m. Mr. Thompson stated the ignition mentors are scheduled to come in the following day for training. Mr. McCalla and Mrs. King (Sitarz) would be training them at the High School. Normally there are about 20 mentors, but he wasn't sure about the exact number this year.

Mr. Hamilton commented on the Leader in Me training being held. The members mentioned how nice the decorations looked at the elementary in readiness for Back to School Night. Mrs. Clark stated that this year's theme is Super Heroes.

B. Infant Program

Mr. Hamilton discussed the projections from Christie Orban-Simpkins to staff an infant care program. He said that based on the numbers, this would result in approximately \$1500 profit each week. He had also reached out to Comerica Bank and will also be calling Farmers State Bank about estimates of what loan payments would be. He would like to see if the profits could sustain the payments. He then talked about the benefits of the program beyond funding issues, specifically the current need for an infant care program in the community. There was also discussion of the long term benefits to the district.

C. Bus Barn

Mr. Hamilton stated that the pursuit of an infant care facility and a new bus barn are connected. If the idea of moving the bus barn is pursued, the infant program could be situated in the area behind the existing bus barn. This would have the added benefit of additional room to the existing parking lot at the east end of the elementary. He is putting together two or three scenarios for changing the congestion in the lot.

He then discussed the Adams Poured Wall building. Since the building is a prefab building, he asked Todd Dailey to give an estimate of the cost of a comparable building so that comparisons could be made. To build a new structure would be \$450,000 or \$500,000. Cost of Adams Poured Walls is currently \$190,000. He feels it would be reasonable to continue to discuss buying this existing facility as opposed to building on existing land. He also stated the need to look at the number of years it would take to get a return on the investment of an infant care facility.

Member Hart referred to a comment made by Mr. Hamilton in the previous section and wanted to know how he is sure there is a need in the community for an infant care program. Mr. Hamilton said that Ms. Orban-Simpkins has had several conversations with parents and has a good idea of the needs of the community in this regard. Also, we know of several of the daycares in area that have closed. There was discussion about all the advantages of providing an infant program. One of the advantages mentioned was the marketing potential to district. Mr. Hamilton asked the Building and Grounds Committee to meet to discuss this further. A date would be determined at a later date.

Other business was also discussed. Mr. Hamilton notified the members that Fitbit bracelets had been ordered for the district from a contact at University of Michigan.

He then referred to the situation created by East Jackson's decision to disband their varsity football team. He said that decisions were being discussed and made on how to handle the situation. This especially affected our game on September 26th as it coincided with the Relay for Life event. They are contacting other schools to get a replacement team. Also, the league is creating parameters should this situation ever happens again in the future.

8. Executive Session

A. Support and Teacher Contract Negotiations

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

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

9. Adjournment

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Bisard, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.