

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 13, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Grass Lake High School
Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Burnett
Darrell Hart
Florine Herendeen
John Pattera
Loretta Ryan
Tim Waskiewicz
David Wright

ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton
Michelle Clark
Eric McCalla
Doug Moeckel
Brian Thompson

GUESTS

Jane Anderson
Bracey Bechtel
Angela Berent
Terri Burg
Roger Cook
Jessica Crandell
Evie Erickson
Tiffany Finch
Lindsay Gaddy

Carrie Good
Darrell Hart
Patricia Hart
Margaret Henthorne
Karen Jenks
Rich Keith
Denise Lotz
Shannon Maynard
Rhonda Mosher

Barb Palmer
Carlene Pindzia
Fritz Schinck
Sue Schinck
Suzy Sczykutowicz
Jennifer Sullivan
Jennifer Taylor
Jena Tengman

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

Certified Correct

Loretta Ryan, Secretary

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1. Call to Order

President Waskiewicz called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Herendeen, to approve the minutes as presented. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

4. Presentation of Bills for Payment

Moved by Member Herendeen, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$580,039.20. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

5. Correspondence

Mr. Hamilton informed the board that Suzy Sczykutowicz would be retiring sometime this summer. She has agreed to come back and work for the district after the end of the separation period. Mr. Hamilton thanked Suzy and her staff for all they do. They have had to do more with less staff and they do a good job.

6. Hearing of Citizens

None

7. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Final 2010-2011 Budget Revision Process

Mr. Hamilton asked the board to wait to approve the final revised 2010-2011 budget until the second meeting in June. The preliminary audit was being done this Wednesday. This would give him a better idea of the final budget numbers. He was hoping that the amount needed to be taken out of fund equity would be lower than expected.

8. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. MHSAA Membership for 2011-2012

Mr. Hamilton reminded the board that this was the annual membership renewal so teams could compete.

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Ryan, to approve the renewal of the MHSAA Membership Resolution. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

B. Approval of 2011-2012 Tax Rates and Budget from Budget Hearing

Moved by Member Wright, supported by Member Wright, to approve the non-homestead millage rates, the debt rates and the 2011-2012 preliminary budget, as presented in the budget hearing. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

C. Grass Lake Food Service – Board Action Packet

Mrs. Pindzia informed the board that the new Reauthorization Act requires all school boards to set a standard price for full paid lunches. According to the calculations from the Act, the district should be charging \$2.46 for lunch. The Act does stipulate that increases should be gradual. Mrs. Pindzia recommended a \$.5 per lunch increase for all buildings for the 2011-2012 school year. There will have to be increases every year until the standard is met.

Mrs. Pindzia added that she was not proposing to raise breakfast prices at this time, because the district was already at the standard breakfast price.

Moved by Member Ryan, supported by Member Herendeen, to approve a \$.5 per lunch increase in all three buildings for the 2011-2012 school year. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Mrs. Pindzia next informed the board that, also because of the new Reauthorization Act, snack and A la Cart changes had to be made. She asked for approval of the new standards being included in the food service handbook. She recommended keeping Gatorade because it was a big seller and a big money-maker.

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Wright, to approve the new standards being included in the food service handbook. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

D. Layoff Resolution – Probationary Teachers

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Ryan, to approve the Layoff Resolution for Probationary Teachers to lay off Jeff Panches and Beth Boldt. Six members voted Aye. Member Seaburg voted opposed. Motion Carried.

E. Layoff Resolution – Tenured Teachers

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Herendeen, to approve the Layoff Resolution for Tenured Teachers to lay off Julie Alexander and Angela Berent. Five board members voted Aye. Two members, Members Paterra and Seaburg were opposed. Motion carried.

Mr. Hamilton added that he could recommend additional layoffs at the next meeting, depending on budget information received.

Dawn Grimm left the district and was not replaced. Bracey Bechtel's position was being reduced to half time for next year. Three of the four teachers being laid off were part time.

F. Athletic Cost Savings

Mr. McCalla reviewed his proposed Athletic Budget savings. He proposed line item cuts for equipment, eliminating two middle school basketball coaching positions and changing sideline cheer to a club sport. He added that making sideline cheer a club sport would eliminate paying a coach's salary.

Next, Mr. McCalla reviewed the proposal for one-way transportation for teams to athletic events, which would save about \$5,600.00. Coaches would have to work with parents to make sure students had a ride home.

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Ryan, to approve the line item cuts proposed by Mr. McCalla. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Moved by Member Ryan, supported by Member Herendeen, to approve eliminating two middle school basketball coaching positions and making sideline cheer a club sport. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

There were questions and discussion about the one-way transportation proposal. Mr. Moeckel reported that 90% of the athletes ride the bus home from events. There was also discussion of liability. Mr. Hamilton recommended that the proposal not be approved because of the high usage rate.

Moved by Member Ryan, supported by Member Paterra, to approve transporting athletic teams only to events and not home, except for football because of all the equipment. All present voted opposed. Motion did not pass.

There was a question about the proposal for Pay to Participate, which the Athletic committee had discussed and presented at recent board meetings. Mr. McCalla said he would not recommend this.

President Waskiewicz expressed his opinions and concerns. He said he had always been opposed to this but, with the financial climate, he thinks it could be tailored to work within the district. He preferred the idea of a one-time fee, no matter how many sports in which a student participated, as well as free admittance into all home athletic events. He would be in favor of some sort of pay to play if it meant saving teaching positions.

He suggested a proposal being prepared and presented to the board for a vote at a future meeting.

Rick Keith asked a question about loss of gate revenue if student athletes were admitted into events at no charge. Mr. Waskiewicz felt it was more beneficial to encourage athletes to attend other sporting events.

There was a question about how often students would pay the fee. The response was once for the year, regardless of how many sports were played. Rhonda Mosher asked how this would affect the cost and sale of family season passes. Mr. Waskiewicz responded that this would be part of the fact finding that needs to be done before a decision was made.

Mr. Waskiewicz recommended that this issue should go back to the Athletic Committee to prepare a formal proposal to present to the board. Mr. McCalla will contact committee members to schedule a meeting.

G. Approve Request for Reduction from Full Time to Half Time for Tiffany Finch

Moved by Member Ryan, supported by Member Seaburg, to approve the request for reduction from full time to half time for Tiffany Finch. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

9. Unfinished Business

Member Paterra suggested making the elementary playground better for students because right now it was dirt and mud. Suzy Sczykutowicz suggested putting down wood chips as opposed to planting grass. Member Wright asked about pot holes being repaired.

There was a question about the continuing traffic problems at the east end elementary parking lot. Mr. Hamilton reminded the board that there was an advertisement for about a month for a

paid position to monitor the parking lot and no one applied. Many things have been tried, but he often sees empty parking spots and people are still parked in the drop off lane.

Mr. Waskiewicz complimented Mr. Thompson on all the events at the high school recently, including award nights, performances and graduation. He appreciated all the work and all the teacher participation.

Mrs. Satterthwaite offered congratulations on Project Safe Graduation and a Thank You to Tiffany Finch for all her work on the project.

Mr. Hamilton informed the board that the GLEF was going to try a new venture. October 8th will be a Gala of Auctions. Groups can purchase a table and have a silent auction. They hope to have 120 to 150 tables. They plan to have raffles and live auctions as well. He added that they would need lots of help and participation. The GLEF hopes to make a lot of money to help with grants to teachers.

Mr. Hamilton added that the GLEF was also exploring a scrap metal drive in conjunction with the Warrior Club. He had learned that Stockbridge made between \$30,000 and \$40,000 on their recent drive and there was a lot of potential for both organizations to make a lot of money.

10. Executive Session

A. Contract Negotiations

Moved by Member Ryan, supported by Member Paterra, to move into Executive Session. Member Seaburg – yes, Wright – yes, Member Ryan – yes, Herendeen – yes, Member Burnett, Paterra – yes, Waskiewicz – yes. Motion Carried.

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

11. Adjournment

Moved by Member Ryan, supported by Member Wright, to adjourn the meeting. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.