

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 23, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Grass Lake Middle School

Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Burnett

Florine Herendeen

Loretta Ryan

Tim Waskiewicz

Kimberly Seaburg

David Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Paterra

ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton

Michelle Clark

Doug Moeckel

Brian Thompson

Andi Overmyer

Jeanene Satterthwaite

GUESTS

Ben Dandrow

Margaret Henthorne

Gail Kuhl

Shannon Maynard

Carlene Pindzia

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

Certified Correct

Loretta Ryan, Secretary

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7:00 p.m.

Grass Lake High School

Library/Media Center

1. Call to Order

President Waskiewicz called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Correspondence

None

4. Hearing of Citizens

None

5. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Preliminary Enrollment Numbers/Staffing

Superintendent Hamilton reported that, with still a few weeks before school started, the Elementary enrollment was down a little, but they were starting to add students. The Middle School was about the same as the previous year and the High School's enrollment was up a little. Mr. Hamilton wanted to wait until closer to the start of school to look at adding staff.

He was also waiting for finalization of the federal jobs bill and determination of the funding option that Michigan's governor chose to use. He reviewed the amount of funding that Grass Lake would get under the different options. The early indications were that the governor would opt for the Title I allocation, which would mean that the district would get about \$50,000, instead of around \$250,000.

Mr. Hamilton was concerned about unanswered questions with the funding. With a deficit budget, he was concerned about having to hire new staff and putting the budget any more in the deficit for next year. He was wondering if the additional funding could be used to fill the gap of money being taken out of fund equity. If it was allocated as Title I money, it would probably have to be used for Title I purposes. If not, Mr. Hamilton suggested restoring the library aides, part-time custodian and part-time maintenance person. He also suggested looking at bringing in an additional 6th-grade teacher. Mr. Hamilton added that he was going to wait until the Governor made a decision to determine how to use the money.

Mr. Hamilton reported that the Preschool enrollment was high. There were 73 3 and 4-year olds, 15 toddlers and 75 students signed up for Kids Club, which included Wednesday mornings.

B. Future Strategic Planning

Mr. Hamilton asked the board to consider dates for the strategic planning committee to meet and update the strategic plan. He added that the updating process wouldn't take as long as initially creating the plan. Mr. Hamilton said he would contact the original members and try to add people to fill the gaps from people who had left the district. He suggested scheduling meetings at the end of October.

C. Administrative Reports

Mr. Thompson reported that there were two meetings over the summer about the two high school students who were returning in wheelchairs, and they were working together to make their transition as smooth as possible.

Mr. Thompson responded to a question about the Ignition Program by saying that it was an excellent program and working well at the High School.

6. Round Table Discussion

A. Indicators of Success

Mr. Hamilton called attention to the copies of the Indicators of Success, which he had passed around the table. He added that they were continuing to collect data so the trends could be reviewed.

He asked the board to look at whether the Indicators were still pertinent and whether they had suggestions for changes, additions, or deletions.

- I. Mrs. Overmyer commented about grade level assessments and how they were progressing. She said that the district had met or exceeded AYP with MEAP scores.

The goal for Standardized Assessment should be changed because all high school students were required to take the ACT. As far as striving to have students become National Merit Qualifiers, Mr. Hamilton that the district still needed to work toward that.

AP and enrichment courses at the high school were closely aligned with the strategic goals. AP classes and additional options had been added at the high school. Mr. Hamilton

suggested looking at the wording of this goal to make sure that they really were Indicators of Success.

The Portfolio process at the high school was good, but it was not so good at the middle school and elementary level. They weren't yet doing exit interviews at the elementary and middle school, but Mr. Hamilton wondered how important that was and if it should continue to be pursued.

The district was working on being more authentic on assessments. This was important, but there were still so many requirements to meet, such as AYP. The high school was tracking applications and institutions selected for post-secondary studies, but they weren't yet tracking completed degrees.

- II. Expand participation . . . This was basically collecting data. It was interesting to compare year to year, but maybe percentage of students and not number of students needed to be compared. There was also a question of how the information from Community Services should be utilized.

Mr. Hamilton reported that the district was on target with many things but there were some that still needed to be discussed. Member Seaburg suggested looking at retention and attrition rates as an Indicator, as well as enrollment across the board and dropout rates.

The purpose of the Wall of Fame was discussed and using it to highlight students who went on to have successful careers and give something back to the community, in addition to recognizing the achievements of current students. There was much discussion of how, where and what to recognize.

Mr. Hamilton stated the Indicators would be updated for the second meeting in September so they could be reviewed again with further discussion. Mr. Waskiewicz suggested splitting the Indicators into two parts for discussion at two meetings.

Mrs. Overmyer updated the board on Data Director and the capabilities it had to see student achievement data. When teachers logged in, they were connected to all students that they had taught. Mrs. Overmyer demonstrated how to create a report, how to look at the data and how the data could be used. She then responded to a question of how the data could be used in evaluating teachers.

Mr. Hamilton called attention to a handout called "The Widget Affect," which explained that data alone was not effective in evaluating teachers. He said that the Jackson County ISD would be asking the Jackson County Education Association to form a committee with district superintendents to define how much of teacher evaluations would be based on student assessment. Mr. Hamilton explained that a new law required that all teachers and administrators had to be evaluated each year.

B. Continuous Improvement

Mr. Hamilton asked for direction from the board on continuous improvement. He felt that this gave the district a competitive edge by using it. He planned to send the principals to a professional development opportunity on continuous improvement. Mr. Waskiewicz commented that it was important that the board continued to be included in the process.

7. Unfinished Business

Member Burnett asked about the information put out by the Jackson Citizen Patriot on consolidation of services in county schools. Mr. Hamilton explained that, although they talked about saving money, they didn't talk about quality of services. He thought there would probably be some research done that would show that, although it might be politically correct, there wouldn't be a great deal of cost savings.

Mr. Hamilton reminded the board of the Back to School Breakfast for the staff on Monday, August 30, at 7:30 a.m., and Back to School Night on Tuesday, August 31, from 5-7 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Moved by Member Ryan, supported by Member Seaburg, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.