

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, April 18, 2011

7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary

Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Burnett

Florine Herendeen

John Paterra

Loretta Ryan

Kimberly Seaburg

Tim Waskiewicz

David Wright

ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton

Michelle Clark

Eric McCalla

Doug Moeckel

Andi Overmyer

Brian Thompson

GUESTS

Dan Dancer

Lori Dotts

Jason Embury

Tricia Embury

Stephanie Frye

Carrie Good

Darrell Hart

Patricia Hart

Margaret Henthorne

Karen Jenks

Rick Keith

Shannon Maynard

Carol McCown

Jacob McLaughlin

Kathy Mietelka

Lisa Million

Wendy Murdock

Megan Noland

Carlene Pindzia

Warren Schmidt

Pam Schultz

Molly Scott

Mike Shirkey

Jenny Shoemaker

Jennifer Taylor

Sandra Tietsema

Kim Wright

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

Certified Correct

Loretta Ryan, Secretary

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, April 18, 2011
7:00 p.m.

George Long Elementary
Library/Media Center

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

3. Approval of Minutes

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

4. Presentation of Bills for Payment

A. Board Bills for March 2011

Moved by Member Herendeen, supported by Member Burnett, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$595,938.33. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

5. Correspondence

A. School Lunch Recognition

Mr. Hamilton called attention to a letter from the Director of Grants Coordination and School Support at the Michigan Department of Education, in which the director commended the district and the food service department for the results of their recent Coordinated Review Effort.

6. Hearing of Citizens

President Waskiewicz welcomed those in attendance.

Parents and community members in attendance read statements, asked questions and made comments, including Rick Keith, Lisa Million and Warren Schmidt.

Meg Nolan and Jacob McLaughlin, from Senator Randy Richardville's office, responded to some of the questions. Ms. Nolan reported that Senator Richardville was very aware of the concerns of teachers and parents, especially since his wife was a public school teacher. Ms. Nolan advised those in attendance to continue with the calls, e-mails and letters because it was getting the attention of the legislators.

Mr. Hamilton added some comments to the discussion. He explained that Proposal A had been approved because it eliminated schools having to get funding millages. In exchange, the state had promised to fund public schools. Mr. Hamilton added that he felt it was not the intent at that time for money for money intended for K-12 public education to instead be given to higher education. In normal times, if the state's General Fund was in good shape, school districts would be getting an increase in funding, instead of cuts.

Representative Mike Shirkey responded to the comments and questions. He explained that the legislators felt that the state constitution didn't give them the tools to fund schools differently based on performance. He also said that he didn't think that the quality of school districts had to suffer, even if funding was cut. He thinks that the cuts will be presented as a percentage and not a dollar amount. He also thinks that the cuts will be around 3.9%, which would be \$385 per student for Grass Lake.

Board Member Seaburg commented to Rep. Shirkey that the people speaking were not just speaking for Grass Lake students; they were speaking for all students in the state. She added that she felt that legislators did have the tools to make changes.

Member Burnett asked if there was a push for reforms in the funding process at the state level. Mr. Hamilton said that he had received a letter from the state suggesting that incentives would be tied to best practices in education. He wondered who was going to be the judge of, "best practices."

Following more comments from Rep. Shirkey and Mr. Hamilton, President Waskiewicz thanked those in attendance for the comments and questions.

7. Presentation from Elementary Staff

Due to technical problems, the presentation was postponed until the next board meeting.

8. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Future Committee Meetings

Mr. Hamilton explained that the Athletic Committee needed to meet to discuss cost savings, specifically about transportation and pay-to-play. He also reminded the board that they were hosting the next monthly county school board meeting, scheduled for May 7, the first Saturday in May. Breakfast will be served and the board will have the opportunity to show off the new science wing at the high school.

B. Budget Progress

Mr. Hamilton stated that he knows that parents and community members will want to know what the district is doing or going to do. He explained that he was waiting for kindergarten round up to see enrollment numbers, and waiting to hear from the state with the amount of funding cuts. He added that \$200-\$300,000 in cuts and/or additional funding for next year has been identified. They will probably take some out of fund equity as well. He added that the board would try to balance the budget without making any cuts at all.

Mr. Hamilton was projecting a small increase in enrollment. The preschool and latchkey programs had their highest enrollment so far, which has probably saved about three teacher's jobs.

Mr. Waskiewicz reported that in the meeting of the Ad Hoc Budget Committee the previous week, they had looked at options. He added that the Board will do what's fiscally responsible and put together the best program possible.

C. Strategic Goals Update

Mr. Hamilton explained that, with the budget issues, he has not had much time to work on goals. He did attend a school foundation conference, which addressed goal #5. People from a number of states were there and those states were suffering just as much as Michigan. Mr. Hamilton hoped that the information from the conference will help him to make the foundation more viable. He planned to involve alumni more in the foundation, too.

D. Kindergarten Round Up

Mrs. Clark reported that 90 students were registered for round up so far.

E. Administrative Reports

Mr. Hamilton thanked Mr. Thompson and Mr. Moeckel for making the school facilities available for overflow from a tournament at the RAC in Jackson. The district made

\$1100, plus the Warrior Club made money on the concessions. Mr. Thompson added that there were many positive comments on the facilities.

8. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approve Resolution for Jackson County Boards of Education

Mr. Hamilton read the resolution.

Moved by Member Seaburg, supported by Member Paterra, to approve the Resolution for Jackson County Boards of Education. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

9. Unfinished Business

There was a question from Mike Shirkey about the number of Schools of Choice students in the district. Mr. Waskiewicz responded that there were many more Choice students who came in the district than left the district.

10. Executive Session – Teacher Negotiations

Moved by Member Ryan, supported by Member Seaburg, to move into Executive Session. The Members voted by Roll Call Vote: Member Seaburg – yes, Member Wright – yes, Member Burnett – yes, Member Ryan – yes, Member Herendeen – yes, Member Paterra, Member Waskiewicz – yes. Motion Carried.

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

11. Adjournment

Moved by Member Ryan, supported by Member Herendeen, to adjourn the meeting. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.