

Grass Lake Community Schools

899 South Union Street • Grass Lake, Michigan 49240

(517) 522-8491 • Fax (517) 522-8195

Grass Lake Community Schools Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, August 10, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Grass Lake Middle School
Library/Media Center

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Brad Hamilton
Brian Thompson
Doug Moeckel
Andi Overmyer
Jeanene Satterthwaite

GUESTS:

Margaret Henthorne
Shannon Maynard
Jennifer Taylor

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

CERTIFIED CORRECT

John Paterra
Secretary, Board of Education

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I. 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.

II. Approval of Agenda

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member Ryan, supported by Member Herendeen, to approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting and Regular Meeting of July 13, 2009. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

IV. Presentation of Bills for Payment

A. Board Bills for July 2009

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Ryan, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$991,275.32. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

V. Correspondence

None

VI. Hearing of Citizens

None

VII. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Back to School Night

Superintendent Hamilton reminded board members that the Back to School Breakfast was Tuesday, September 1, at 7:30 a.m. Back to School Night was also on September 1, from 5-7 p.m.

B. August 17th Special Board Workshop

Superintendent Hamilton asked for any ideas that people might have for topics that should be covered at the Special Board Workshop on August 17th. He suggested board procedure, board protocol and strategic goals. President Waskiewicz asked Member Burnett to find materials from the Board Member 101 class that he had attended, which could be shared with everyone. Other suggestions were to discuss Indicators of Success and to help new board members feel welcome.

C. Qualified School Construction Bonds

Mr. Hamilton handed out some information about the grant bonds that were available through the stimulus package of ARRA. There was a very small or zero percent interest. Even though the district was approved for funds, we don't have to use them. Grass Lake was actually the first school in the state to be approved. If the district did use the funds, Mr. Hamilton felt the need was adding additional rooms on the high school and middle school. He didn't apply for more than we thought we could repay. He added that this was a one-time opportunity and a great deal. Using these funds would extend the current bond, not add a new one.

Kelli Lambrich and Carrie Blanchett were scheduled to be at the board meeting on August 24th with more information about the bonds. We had a good start because we already had plans drawn up for building additions. There would probably have to be a February vote if we wanted to start next summer. This project fit with strategic goal number 1, high school of the future, and goals number 2 and 3. We would need to convince the community that this was the right thing to do and the right time to do it.

Because of the amount of debt the district already had, we couldn't do limited tax bonds or resolution bonds. There was a campaign to get legislators to change the rules for districts like Grass Lake.

President Waskiewicz said Superintendent Hamilton did a good job of seeing the opportunity and going for it.

D. Special Education Interviews

Superintendent Hamilton said they were conducting interviews for the middle school/high school special education teacher. Two candidates were coming back on Thursday and Friday for final interviews.

VIII. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approve Leave of Absence for Jennifer Sikora

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Herendeen, to approve a leave of absence for Jennifer Sikora. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

B. Approve Hiring of Tony Horner for Middle School Football

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Ryan, to approve hiring Tony Horner for Middle School Football coach. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

IX. Unfinished Business

Mr. Hamilton informed the board that, at the last administrator's meeting, he had asked each administrator for their major concern before school started. They all had some legitimate issues to consider. One issue was enrollment at the elementary. Mrs. Clark felt they needed to add another kindergarten class. What was unknown at this point was how many students had moved or withdrawn since the end of last year. Mr. Hamilton added that he would provide all the information before making the request for adding a teacher.

Mr. Hamilton also felt that they were getting close to needing another staff member at the high school. They could make it through this year, but would probably need to hire another teacher next year. Non-traditional options, such as Michigan Virtual High School and University, as well as the career center, were helping in keeping class sizes down.

Member Paterra asked some questions and there was discussion of when they would know about hiring another elementary teacher. Mr. Hamilton explained that, because of the economic conditions, he was going to be even more conservative about making the decision.

Mr. Hamilton explained that there was a different alignment for the custodial staff. He was replacing Joel Holmes with two or three part-time custodians, rather than a full time person. This would probably gain coverage, with the same or lower cost.

There was a question about the bleachers in middle school gym. Mr. Hamilton explained that the new bleachers probably wouldn't be in until November. In the meantime, they planned to use sections of the old bleachers and try to minimize wear on the redone gym floor. They might keep one side of the bleachers closed and never use it; just use part of the other side.

X. Adjournment

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Wright, to adjourn the meeting. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.