

Grass Lake Community Schools

899 South Union Street • Grass Lake, Michigan 49240
(517) 522-8491 • Fax (517) 522-8195

Grass Lake Community Schools Special Board of Education Meeting

Monday, August 24, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Grass Lake Middle School
Library/Media Center

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Darrel Hart
Florine Herendeen
John Paterra
Loretta Ryan
Tim Waskiewicz
David Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mark Burnett

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Brad Hamilton
Michelle Clark
Doug Moeckel
Andi Overmyer
Jeanene Satterthwaite
Brian Thompson

GUESTS:

Margaret Henthorne
Shannon Maynard

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

CERTIFIED CORRECT

John Paterra
Secretary, Board of Education

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I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Hart, to approve the agenda, with the addition of Item VII.B., Approve Maternity Leave for Andrea Althoen. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

III. Correspondence

None

IV. Hearing of Citizens

None

Guest Report: Kari Blanchett and Kelli Lambrix from PFM Financial Advisors will be here for the September 14 Board Meeting. They postponed their presentation to wait for more information.

V. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Preliminary Enrollment Numbers

Mr. Hamilton reported that the enrollment numbers changed every day. At the moment, the elementary had 587, the middle school 287, and the high school 389, for a total of 1260.

If another kindergarten section was added, Tiffany Finch would become full time and take that position, and her part time position at the middle school would be subbed out for the year. This would add \$64,597.12 to the budget for salary, benefits and sub pay.

A revised budget today would be \$337,000 in the deficit, without the change in Tiffany's status. We would need a fall count of 1273 to remain at \$337,000 in the deficit with the change in Tiffany's status.

The buildings were continuing to add students, but there would be some students who had moved or changed districts, so the enrollment numbers would still change.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the district might lose some School of Choice students if class sizes got too big and another teacher wasn't added. This had to be taken into consideration because the SOC students were helping to keep revenue up. At the time of the meeting he still felt that there wasn't enough information to make an educated decision. He didn't know how many students we would lose and gain by the time school started.

Financial decisions would be even worse next year without the stimulus money and greatly reduced state aide.

Member Hart asked at what level we needed to add another teacher? Mr. Hamilton responded that it depended on what grade level new students were. If we added a few more kindergartners, we would need to add another kindergarten teacher. Plus, we wanted to keep kindergarten numbers low. Currently, the three multi-age K/1 classrooms were at 22, 23 and 23. The two straight Kindergarten classes were at 25 each. With a kindergarten enrollment of 97, President Waskiewicz didn't think the numbers warranted adding another teacher at this point. If the numbers changed, he felt that Superintendent Hamilton could act on adding teaching staff.

B. Strategic Planning Update

Superintendent Hamilton commented that he had handed out information at the board work session the previous week and could answer any questions.

C. Administrative Reports

No questions

VI. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approve Hiring of Special Education Teacher Jamie Zimmer Cressman

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Hart, to approve hiring Jamie Zimmer Cressman. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

B. Approve Maternity Leave for Andrea Althoen

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Ryan, to approve a maternity leave for Andrea Althoen from September 11, 2009 until January 4, 2010. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

VII. Round Table Discussion

A. Indicators of Success

Ms. Overmyer called attention to a handout with the Indicators of Success. She also handed out a data collection chart with four years of data that aligned with the goals.

The data also fit with Strategic Planning and School Improvement goals. Mr. Hamilton added that, although the data provided a look at trends, it was just part of the picture.

Mr. Waskiewicz commented that some of the dates were old. He suggested setting up a process to review every year and update, taking off outdated goals and updating dates.

B. Systems Check Level III

Systems Check Level II was a handout from the Board workshop on August 17. Mr. Waskiewicz commented on his process of reviewing and answering the questions.

Mr. Hamilton said these questions dealt with just the board. He said there were district, building and classroom sets of questions and he could share these with the board. He suggested the board go through the leadership questions at this meeting and then move onto another set of questions at the next meeting.

Mr. Waskiewicz led the discussion and then asked for other board members to volunteer to lead the discussion at future meetings.

Mr. Hamilton informed the board that the district had been invited to go to Baldrige training in Dallas again, and this time to take board members. He would like to know soon if any board members were interested so the district could get registered. He asked members to let President Waskiewicz know if they were interested.

Members Ryan, Herendeen and Paterra volunteered to help with a board mission statement.

C. QSCB (Qualified School Construction Bonds)

Nothing, since there was no presentation.

VIII. Unfinished Business

Mr. Hamilton reminded the board of the Back to School Breakfast Tuesday, September 1, 7:30 a.m., at Grass Lake High School, and Back to School Night from 5-7 p.m.

Mr. Waskiewicz congratulated Matt Maynard on the new laptop carts, the presentation cart in the auditorium and the new projector in the cafeteria. He suggested to consider adding a monitor in the lobby of the auditorium.

IX. Adjournment

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Paterra to adjourn the meeting. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.