

Grass Lake Community Schools

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Grass Lake Community Schools Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, February 8
7:00 p.m.

Grass Lake Middle School
Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Paterra

ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton
Michelle Clark
Doug Moeckel
Andi Overmyer
Brian Thompson

GUESTS

Andrea Clark
Shannon Degan
Margaret Henthorne
Martha Marcero
Alex Maxson
Matt Maynard

Shannon Maynard
Penny Murray
Joelle Peterson
Deanna Rouster
Sue Schinck
Jennifer Taylor

Ben Warbritton
Janet Welch
Michael Willis
Zachary Willis

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

Certified Correct

John Paterra, Secretary

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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 Ryan, to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

III. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member Hart supported by Member Wright, to approve the minutes as presented. All present voted Aye.

IV. Presentation of Bills for Payment

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Herendeen, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$743,235.49. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

V. Correspondence

Superintendent Hamilton distributed copies of a Lunch Price Proposal Package from Food Service Director Carlene Pindzia. He asked board members to review the information so it could be discussed at a future meeting.

VI. Hearing of Citizens

None

VII. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Forensics Demonstration – Andrea Clark

Ms. Clark introduced four students: Alex Maxson, Zach Willis, Ben Warbritton and Joelle Peterson, who were members of her first semester Forensic Science class. The students presented a Power Point demonstration explaining what they learned in their class. Ms. Clark added that a photograph and article about the class appeared in a recent issue of the Jackson Citizen Patriot.

Board members asked some questions about the presentation and the class. Mr. Hamilton thanked the students and Mrs. Clark.

B. County Wide Technology Plan

Shannon Degan, Jackson County ISD Technology Director, gave a Power Point presentation on a proposal for consolidation of technology services through the JCSN (Jackson County Services Network). The proposal would shift the way money was spent on technology to focus more on instruction, reduce costs on typical purchases, eliminate redundancies, standardize applications, be more cost efficient and have more money to spend on classrooms. As of the time of the meeting, nine districts had signed on. Northwest and Western districts had opted to work together on their own.

Mr. Degan reviewed the proposed organizational structure, which would include a governing body (superintendents), chief technology officer and infrastructure technology/local technology support/instructional technology. He had prepared a contract listing the services that would be provided.

Mr. Degan reported that a study had found that most money was spent on infrastructure and salaries, and hardly any was being spent on instructional technology. They needed to reduce costs on one side to have more money for the instructional side.

The proposed fee for participating in the network was \$78 per student in the district, of which \$58 would be for salaries and contracted services and \$20 for operations. Grass Lake was currently spending \$202 per student on technology.

Mr. Degan responded to questions from board members. He explained that the district would always have an onsite technician, but would also have access to the ISD help desk. A regional manager would look at purchasing, etc., and would encourage districts to talk together and work with the same vendors.

When asked about funding, Mr. Degan explained that the ISD would match costs at 50% and the JCISD superintendent had made a commitment to not make any cuts to technology funding.

Mr. Waskiewicz wondered if state funding would affect this. Mr. Hamilton questioned if this would stretch the ISD too far so they couldn't support the programs they already had in place, such as Data Director.

Mr. Hamilton asked if the district would still be able to get the same help that it did now, such as with phones, security system, etc. Mr. Degan replied that the district would also have access to the whole team. Brad asked when the ISD needed to have a decision. Mr. Degan replied that, for planning and budgeting, they would like an answer ASAP.

Mr. Hamilton said that the board would have to decide if it wanted to go that route. On the other hand, he asked, "How long can we be on that island by ourselves? Can we maintain that?" He added that, if the board did decide to join the network, he would propose signing only a one-year contract.

VIII. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approval of Resolution Calling for the May Election

Moved by Member Herendeen, supported by Member Burnett to approve the Resolution Calling for the May Election. All presented voted Aye. Motion Carried.

IX. Principal Week – February 15th – 19th

Mr. Hamilton read a resolution from Governor Jennifer Granholm recognizing Michigan School Principal Week and thanked the principals for all they did for the district.

X. Unfinished Business

Mike Willis cautioned to look at losing control of the district's technology, as well as looking at the benefits. He suggested talking to districts currently with the program, to find out what they might have lost.

XI. Executive Session

A. Teacher and Support Staff Negotiations

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

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

XII. Adjournment

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Herendeen, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.