

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, January 11, 2010
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

Margaret Henthorne
David Kleine
Shannon Maynard
Sue Schinck
Kim Wright

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

Certified Correct

John Paterra, Secretary

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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 Hart, supported by Member Ryan, to approve the agenda, with the addition of action item A, approve leave of absence for Tiffany Finch. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

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

4. Presentation of Bills for Payment

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Herendeen, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$541,409.23. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Hearing of Citizens

David Kleine reported that a group of parents have met and come up with 20 or 30 ideas for the board. He asked to meet in a less formal setting with some board members, teachers and administrators. President Waskiewicz suggested a meeting with him and Superintendent Hamilton first and then they would decide how to proceed.

Mr. Kleine asked some questions. 1) Will the district use fund equity this year? Mr. Hamilton replied that, yes, the district would most likely have to use some of the fund equity to balance the budget. The board had agreed to not change any programming or make program cuts during the year, although they had cut spending. 2) Did the board have any idea how much fund equity would be used and would they use all of it? President Waskiewicz replied that the board received regular updates on the budget from Mr. Hamilton and they had given him direction on

how much fund equity they thought should be spent. Mr. Hamilton added that the board made a good decision to keep programs and not make cuts. They would not know how much fund equity they would need to use until the end of the fiscal year. 3) Mr. Kleine had information on a website with a 16 minute flash video on what went wrong with Proposal A. He said it was a good explanation and easy to understand. Mr. Hamilton added that the video was put out by Washtenaw County to try to get their enhancement millage to pass.

7. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. QSCB Update

Mr. Waskiewicz passed out a handout to the board members. Mr. Hamilton reported that there would be a meeting a week from today to finalize some of the designs and cost projections. The multi-purpose room was not ready to finalize yet. The committee was working hard on the process of getting the word out. They planned to hold town hall meetings in February and put display boards up around town. They would also be speaking with the local ministerial association and putting postings in the churches. Mr. Hamilton added that they needed people to understand that this would add value to the district without taxes increasing. Also, this was even a better deal than the bond extension for the elementary and middle school improvements.

Mr. Thompson reported that the committee has met four or five times. Town hall meetings were scheduled February 3rd and 11th, at 7 p.m., in the high school library.

B. Ad Hoc Budget Committee

Mr. Hamilton asked that the committee meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, January 18. The committee members were Members Herendeen, Hart and Waskiewicz. Mr. Hamilton added that he would try to send them some information before the meeting. He had put together some ideas for budget cuts for next year, around \$900,000 to \$1.1 million, depending on what happened with the state. He also had some suggestions for enhancing revenue, such as looking at grants, trying to advance and enhance the school foundation, and continuing to advance the preschool and latchkey program.

Mr. Hamilton reported to the board on a meeting he had attended in Lansing the previous Friday and gave them copies of a handout that he had received. He then read from an e-mail that he had received about the revenue consensus that was held earlier that day. Revenues were even lower than projected in May and they were projecting a 15% unemployment rate for 2010.

Mr. Hamilton explained that his suggested cuts fell into three categories: 1) line item cuts, 2) personnel cuts with minimal affect on class size, and 3) personnel cuts that would affect class size. He expected a shortfall in the range of \$1.5 million next year, which meant that he needed to find more than the \$900,000 to \$1.1 million in cuts than he already had on his list of suggestions.

All the cuts he was proposing were already being done somewhere else and they were surviving, added Mr. Hamilton. Grass Lake had been fortunate to avoid cuts until this time. Even with cuts, it would still be a great school district that did really good things for kids.

C. RttT Update

Mr. Hamilton didn't feel that Michigan would be awarded any funds from the Race to the Top. He did feel, however, that receiving funds would help the state in more ways than just funding for education. He thought it would help bring more businesses back to the state.

8. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Approve Leave of Absence for Tiffany Finch

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Burnett, to approve a leave of absence for Tiffany Finch. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

9. Unfinished Business

A. School Board Recognition Month

Mr. Hamilton distributed certificates and resolutions from the Governor and the State Board of Education in recognition of January being School Board Recognition Month. He thanked the board members for their dedication to the district.

10. Executive Session

A. Teacher and Support Staff Negotiations

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

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

11. Adjournment

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Ryan, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.