

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 25, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Grass Lake Middle School
Library/Media Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tim Waskiewicz

ADMINISTRATORS

Brad Hamilton
Michelle Clark
Doug Moeckel
Andi Overmyer
Brian Thompson

GUESTS

Brandon Crandell
Jessica Crandell
Margaret Henthorne
David Kleine
Shannon Maynard
Nancy Rigg
Jena Tengman
Matt Tengman

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tim Waskiewicz, President

Certified Correct

John Paterra, Secretary

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Monday, January 11, 2010
7:00 p.m.

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Library/Media Center

1. Call to Order

Vice-President Hart 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. Correspondence

None

4. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Administrative Reports

Member Burnett asked Mr. Thompson about the ACT practice test the past weekend. Mr. Thompson reported that there was an issue with some answer sheets, but they were working to get it corrected.

Mr. Burnett commented that the new bleachers in the Middle School gym looked great.

B. Committee Reports

Mr. Hamilton reported that the Ad Hoc Finance committee had met. He gave the highlights of the meeting. A public meeting was scheduled for March 15 to go over the budget and any possible cuts that might be anticipated at that time. The forum would probably be held in the High School Auditorium at 7 p.m. Mr. Hamilton added that, although there still wouldn't be a lot of information at that time on the state aid outlook, it was important to get input from everyone.

Mr. Hamilton continued that the committee had discussed what could be done to balance the budget. They discussed specific items, such as whether to present an early buyout option. They would have to wait to see where the budget process fell to finalize any plans.

C. QSCB Update

Mr. Hamilton informed the board that information would be in the next issue of the Smoke Signals to prepare voters for the February 23rd bond election. Mr. Hamilton would be speaking at the Grass Lake Chamber dinner this Wednesday and the Lions Club on February 21st. Work was being done behind the scenes on how to address the issue with the community. The district's financial advisers say it's probably the biggest no-brainer they've come across, but it's a matter of getting that information across to the public.

Mr. Thompson added that community forums were scheduled on February 3rd and 11th, at 7 p.m. in the High School Library. He planned to use the district call system to notify parents of the meeting.

Mr. Burnett reported that he had distributed fact sheets at the recent Downtown Development Authority meeting.

5. Round Table Discussion

A. Recent Legislation

Mr. Hamilton explained that the Race to the Top grant application had caused legislators to pass some new laws. He reviewed the new legislation and reminded board members that there was additional information in the most recent issue of the MASB Headliner, which all board members received. There were a lot of data pieces with the new legislation, including matching teachers with students in the MSDS (Michigan Student Data System) program.

Thrun Law Firm was holding a webinar soon to explain some of the new legislation. Mr. Hamilton said he would share the ramifications for the district with the board as the information became available.

B. Planning for Upcoming Work Sessions

Mr. Hamilton informed the board that high school teacher Andrea Clark would be making a presentation to the board at the February 8th meeting on the forensic class that she was teaching. There was an article in a recent issue of the Jackson Citizen Patriot about the class. Mr. Hamilton asked the board for suggestions for future work sessions. He added that Gail Kuhl planned to attend the 2nd February meeting to talk about the RTI program and its successes and obstacles.

Mr. Burnett suggested a discussion of the Indicators of Success and MEAP data, and an assessment of how the district was doing. Mr. Hamilton commented that the Indicators of Success had taken on a role that they should have to begin with. They were the data behind the strategic goals; the raw numbers. They needed to look at the data and see what information it could reveal over time, such as trends. Mr. Hamilton cautioned that it was important not to just look at the raw numbers.

Mrs. Overmyer informed the board that the most recent MEAP data would be released soon and could be reviewed at a future meeting.

Mr. Hart suggested having more demonstrations by teachers in the classroom.

6. Unfinished Business

None

7. 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 Paterra – yes, Member Hart – yes.

8. Adjournment

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