

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, March 8, 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
Tim Waskiewicz
David Wright

ADMINISTRATORS

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

GUESTS

Margaret Henthorne
Shannon Maynard
Janet Welch
Sue Schinck
Jennifer Taylor
Carlene Pindzia
Nancy Rigg
Jena Tengman
Deanna Rouster
Cody Lester

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

III. Approval of Minutes

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

IV. Presentation of Bills for Payment

Moved by Member Herendeen, supported by Member Paterra, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$526,928.87. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

V. Correspondence

Superintendent Hamilton reported that he recently met with Margaret Emerson of Ray Printing. He distributed a sample of a publication that Ray Printing does for South Central Michigan Works. About 10,000 copies go to businesses and about 5,000 go to banks, secretary of state offices, etc. Mrs. Emerson asked if Grass Lake would like to be the featured school in the next issue. Mr. Hamilton was going to talk to the Grass Lake Chamber of Commerce to see if they were interested because it would benefit the community as well.

Mr. Hamilton asked for a one-time, ad-hoc committee to meet to discuss prices and plans. Members Herendeen, Waskiewicz and Wright volunteered to be on the committee. Mr. Hamilton suggested meeting a half hour before the next board meeting.

VI. Hearing of Citizens

None

VII. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Trade Show

Mr. Hamilton reminded the board that the Spring Business Expo was scheduled for March 20th and 21st. It would be held at George Long Elementary this year, which was the Chamber's idea. There would be entertainment on the stage in the cafeteria and people could get food from the vendors in the cafeteria and sit and watch the entertainment. The school and the preschool would both have booths, as in past years.

B. Budget Hearing

A community budget forum was scheduled for March 15, at 7 p.m., in the High School Auditorium. Mr. Hamilton explained that that this wouldn't solve the problems, but it would be an opportunity for questions, ideas and discussion by community members.

C. JCISD Budget Hearing

Mr. Hamilton informed the board that the ISD annual budget hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 13th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Jackson Area Career Center.

D. Legislative Breakfast

A legislative breakfast was scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on March 15, at the Jackson Area Career Center. Mr. Waskiewicz was the board representative, and he and Mr. Hamilton planned to attend, but all board members were also invited to attend. The format was going to be altered from previous years and allow time for questions after the comments by the legislators.

VIII. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Lunch Price Proposal Package

Food Service Director Carlene Pindzia and several food service staff members were at the meeting. Mrs. Pindzia explained to the board that the food service budget would balance this year, but next year there wouldn't be enough money in the budget to support the program as it existed. The proposal to raise lunch prices was the first step in the process to make sure the department ran with a balanced budget next year. Mr. Hamilton added that the food service department had been self-supporting for many years. They needed to figure out a way to continue to have a balanced budget in that department.

There was a question about how many adult lunches were served. Mrs. Pindzia responded that, although there was more elementary staff, fewer of them ate lunch in the cafeteria. She explained that the elementary had fewer lunch choices because they didn't offer a la carte foods.

Mrs. Pindzia explained that they were working on increasing the number of breakfasts served. So far, there was a 50% increase over breakfasts served the previous year. She was looking at more healthy food choices, but those tended to be more expensive.

Mr. Waskiewicz was concerned that a price increase would mean that fewer people would eat lunch. Mrs. Pindzia responded that studies showed that a price increase could mean just that. Mr. Hart was also concerned that the price increase would only cover half of the deficit for next year. Mrs. Pindzia added that she was really looking for direction from the board on how to proceed.

Mr. Hamilton explained that there could be a combination of options to balance the budget, such as a price increase, more participation, and different food options. He thought the key was to have more reimbursable lunches because that's where more money was made. Mrs. Pindzia explained what counted as a reimbursable lunch and also about commodities. She said that all elementary students were counted. Middle school students were only allowed to purchase a la carte items after the regular meal was served. High school students were encouraged to combine a la carte items to make a reimbursable lunch, which meant they had to have three food groups on their plate. They did price a la carte items higher, another way to encourage students to take the regular meal option.

Mr. Hamilton wondered how breakfast sales could be increased. Mrs. Pindzia informed the board that her first option would be to have universal breakfast at the elementary, but they couldn't afford it. She explained that she had visited Morenci Schools, where they had a universal breakfast program. The teachers served breakfast in the classrooms during the first ten minutes of the school day. She added that the students and the teachers loved it. Mr. Hamilton added that studies showed that eating breakfast increased test scores and learning in the classroom.

Mr. Hamilton wanted to figure out a way to have universal breakfast at the elementary. He suggested serving it in the classrooms, but making it optional and students would have to pay for it. Mr. Hamilton asked Mrs. Pindzia to work with the elementary principal and some teachers, and come up with a plan to implement universal breakfast during the last month of school this year as a test. He asked Mrs. Pindzia to present the plan at an April board meeting.

Mr. Waskiewicz asked Mrs. Pindzia for a spreadsheet with the breakdown of reimbursable meals by building. He then asked Mr. Thompson about increasing sales at the high school. Mr. Thompson commented that they had discussed serving breakfast after first hour because high school students didn't eat first thing in the morning. Mr. Waskiewicz asked Mrs. Satterthwaite about the middle school and they discussed how to speed up serving lunch in that building.

Mr. Hamilton concluded the discussion by stating that he would rather not raise prices and, instead, look at other options to get more reimbursable lunches served.

Mr. Waskiewicz thanked Mrs. Pindzia for the presentation to the board.

IX. Unfinished Business

Mr. Burnett reported that he and Mrs. Ryan had attended the most recent county school board association meeting, which was held in Concord. There was a presentation by a former Concord student about a class they offer on media production. This former student now works for the Discovery Channel.

Mr. Waskiewicz reminded the board members that March was Reading Month at the elementary and they should all have received an invitation to read their favorite book to an elementary class.

X. Executive Session

A. Contract Negotiations

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Ryan, to move into Executive Session. The board voted by roll call vote: Member Wright – yes, Member Ryan – yes, Member Herendeen – yes, Member Burnett – yes, Member Paterra – yes, Member Hart – yes, Member Waskiewicz – yes. The motion was carried.

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Burnett, to conclude the Executive Session. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

XI. Adjournment

Moved by Member Ryan, supported by Member Wright, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.