

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, October 12, 2009
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

GUESTS

Joelyn Artz
Gail Kuhl
Margaret Henthorne
Shannon Maynard
Sue Schinck
Jennifer Taylor

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Member Paterra, supported by Member Ryan, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 10 and the Special Meeting of September 24, 2009 as presented. All present voted Aye.

4. Presentation of Bills for Payment

Moved by Treasurer Burnett, supported by Member Hart, to approve paying bills in the amount of \$699,490.04. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

5. Correspondence

Superintendent Hamilton called attention to the invitation to board members to attend the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony. He also pointed out information about the Youth Changing Voices Visitation Project. Then he distributed copies of the Financial Audit and certification letter and asked the board members to review the audit and let him know if they had any questions.

6. Hearing of Citizens

None

7. Reports of the Superintendent for Information

A. Committee Reports

Mr. Hamilton reported on three recent committee meetings. The Athletic Committee met and discussed some current issues. Mr. Hamilton explained that the Cascades Conferences had

been looking at cost containment in athletics and everyone had different ideas. Some schools might decide to eliminate some sports; others were considering eliminating transportation to athletic events. Also, the suggestion was made to start games earlier to use less lighting. With the economy and the problems with the state budget, there would be much more talk and discussion. Athletic Director McCalla would keep Mr. Hamilton and the board informed. Mr. Hamilton added congratulations to the Girls Golf Team for a good season, and especially to Ashley Stark, who will compete at State.

The Building and Grounds Committee met and interviewed Adams Building Contractors and discussed different scenarios for the proposed building project. They also discussed some lighting issues.

The Wellness Committee met and identified six areas for subcommittees to work on:

1. Breakfast program - discussed programs that won awards for breakfast program. It was researched-based that breakfast affects learning. Giving up time at the beginning of the day to serve breakfast makes student's time more productive.
2. Communicable disease plan - with H1N1 this year and to be prepared for other things in future years. It is a good idea to promote healthy practices.
3. Fitness subcommittee
4. Health curriculum – fill the gaps, especially at the middle school
5. Healthy snacks
6. Emotional wellness

B. 2009-2010 Budget Revisions

Mr. Hamilton explained that normally a revised budget would have been presented at this meeting but, because of the lateness in the state budget being finalized, it would not be ready for board approval until the next meeting. He said he wanted the board to be prepared because there was not good news about the budget. He did not think it would be possible to have a balanced budget this year and the district would have to dip into fund equity. Mr. Hamilton added that they needed to start thinking about cutting expenses this year.

C. Strategic Planning

Mr. Hamilton informed the board that the Strategic Planning Committee would meet on October 20th to review progress on the goals and begin preliminary discussion on the Qualified School Construction Bond. He added that all board members were invited to attend the meeting, which would be held in the High School Library and 7:00 p.m..

D. Qualified School Construction Bonds

Mr. Hamilton explained that a major selling point of the project was looking at it from a business point of view. The district could borrow \$1.75 million at a very low interest rate and would not have to start repaying the loan for 13 years. Also, it wouldn't add onto what people had to pay in taxes; it would just lengthen the repayment time.

The building project could only include the high school because that's how the request was written. Also, the project should align with the Strategic Goals, in particular Goal 1 – high school of the future. This project also provided an opportunity to include items that were cut out of the previous building project.

Mr. Waskiewicz added that this was a great opportunity to pay for some of the suggestions in the strategic plan. The district needed to clearly explain how the money was available and how we would pay it back.

8. Reports of the Superintendent for Action

A. Student Request for Physical Education Waiver

Mr. Thompson called attention to the well-written letter from Ellen Kellner and recommended approving her request for a physical education waiver.

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Herendeen, to approve the physical education waiver for Ellen Kellner. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Thompson added that there shouldn't be requests for waivers in future years because of the high school curriculum changes.

B. Policy 5722

Mr. Hamilton reminded the board that this was discussed at the past two meetings.

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Burnett, to continue with non-public forum at the high school, as per NEOLA Policy 5722. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

C. Recommendation to Retain Dailey Engineering as the Architect/Engineer for QSCB Project

Moved by Member Hart, supported by Member Herendeen to approve retaining Dailey Engineering as the Architect/Engineer for the Qualified School Construction Bond Project. All present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

D. Recommendation to Retain Adams Building Contractors as the CM At Risk for the QSCB Project

Moved by Member Burnett, supported by Member Paterra, to approve retaining Adams Building Contractors as the CM At Risk for the Qualified School Construction Bond Project. All present voted Aye. Motion carried.

9. Unfinished Business

Mr. Waskiewicz reminded the board that the second meeting in November (November 23rd) would be the annual School Board/Student Council Dinner. Mr. Thompson said that he had asked the student council members to come up with topics of discussion for the meeting.

Ms. Overmyer reminded the board of the Technology Meeting on December 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the George Long Elementary Library.

10. 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.