

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING (*Finance Committee Meeting*) OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 36
Grass Lake School
Antioch, IL
Tuesday, October 24, 2017**

Call to Order

Mr. Frendreis called the Special Meeting (*Finance Committee Meeting*) of the Board of Education of Grass Lake School District #36 to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Ms. Tauke, and Mr. Frendreis

Absent: Mrs. Caya and Mrs. Rietschel

Also Present: Dr. William Newby, Superintendent
Mrs. Donna Plath, Principal

Guests:

Ms. Laura Vertz	Mr. Richard Dowd	Mrs. Denise Mandigo
Mrs. Karen Wilberg	Ms. Susan Kolk	Ms. Jane Lair
Mr. Chris Urban, Gilbane		

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Frendreis led the members with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input

None

Old Business

- i. **PRESS PLUS ISSUE 95, July 2017 (second review)***

Dr. Newby explained the Press Plus Updates provided by IASB and presented ISSUE 95 for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Page and seconded by Mr. Frendreis to approve the Press PLUS Issue 95 as presented.

Motion was carried by voice vote:

Ayes:	5	Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Ms. Tauke and Mr. Frendreis
Nays:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Absent:	2	Mrs. Caya and Mrs. Rietschel

Discussion of Proposed Tax Levy 2017

Ms. Jane Lair presented the Proposed Tax Levy 2017 for the Board and audience guests. The presentation included details on how the Board needs to adopt a resolution November 14, 2017 on the estimated tax levy for 2017. Ms. Lair presented a spreadsheet that showed the EAV and Tax History of Grass Lake SD #36. She also emphasized that the projections shown on the spreadsheet are truly projections not predictions.

Further discussion took place that the Board can only establish the 2017 tax levy and that Ms. Lair has taken into consideration assumptions she learned from meeting with Dr. Newby on the Proposed Tax Levy 2017.

Ms. Lair also emphasized her assumption with the Proposed Tax Levy is that the Board would levy sufficiently and be fiscally responsible to the tax payers.

Mr. Frendreis reiterated to the Board that the community's strong desire is tax relief. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of holding tax revenues and the remainder of the 10 year health and safety. Mr. Frendreis also expressed a desire to use a portion of the monies and give back to the tax payers. He did not know if this is legally possible; but he did bounce the idea off to the district's lawyers. Mr. Frendreis asked how the Board members feel about this.

Mr. Page expressed that he felt the previous board did not intentionally put the school in harm way in regard to the taxpayers. He also felt that the Board today should take it down a notch on the Proposed Tax Levy 2017.

Mr. Frendreis explained again that he spent hours with the district lawyers and that the tax rebate is a possibility. Discussion took place about the working cash available to the District and that the Board is in a position to make judgement on how much working cash should be available.

Ms. Tauke expressed she would like to see a combination of the two ideas; scaling back on the tax levy and a possible tax rebate.

Mr. Gembara expressed how he felt; and that after spending \$6M to the new addition, he would hate to give the money back. He felt that the monies available to the District will possibly be used in the existing part of the school not being renovated.

Further discussion took place regarding the monies available to the District and how Dr. Newby will be allocating each year for the anticipated expenses of the District.

Mr. Frendreis feels the surplus is too large; and inquired of the Board, Ms. Lair and Dr. Newby of how much is enough to have in the bank. He thinks there is room for the possible expenses of the existing part of the school. He also does not see the need for revamping the existing school.

Further discussion took place about the possibility of utilizing the surplus for a science (stem) lab.

Mrs. Mandigo, a community member, asked about the policy that was previously approved by the previous Board regarding the allocation of funds. Discussion took place about the policy. She believed it was 4:20.

During the discussion, Mr. Frendreis talked about the 18 months of reserves the District has had in the past. However, he feels that the Board recognizes this and the District going forward will be taken care of.

Mr. Williams agreed that the Board should not take the highest rate in regards to the tax levy. He does feel that there could be potentially significant capital expenses for the District.

Ms. Lair mentioned that the tax levy rate is just a result of a mathematical equation.

Mr. Frendreis continued on to say that this is a practical problem for the District. We can search the idea of a possible tax rebate and know that the previous accumulated surplus over a long period of time has served a valid purpose.

Mr. Frendreis raised the question to see if it is legal for a tax rebate and what is the majority interest of the Board at this time. Further discussion took place that there is no favor at this time from the Board. The Board feels the need to hold steady on the Proposed Tax Levy 2017.

Mr. Williams spoke up on a separate topic of a Science and Technology lab with project base learning. With the school construction, could we utilize a cut of the \$400,000 for a science/technology (STEM) lab.

Executive Session

At 7:50 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Tauke and seconded by Mr. Williams to go into closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

The selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes:	5	Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Ms. Tauke and Mr. Frendreis
Nays:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Absent:	2	Mrs. Caya and Mrs. Rietschel

The following members answered roll call at 7:55 pm: Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Ms. Tauke and Mr. Frendreis Absent: Mrs. Caya and Mrs. Rietschel

Open Session

At 8:51 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Page and seconded by Mr. Williams to return to the open session.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes:	5	Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Ms. Tauke and Mr. Frendreis
Nays:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Absent:	2	Mrs. Caya and Mrs. Rietschel

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