**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 36**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Collins called the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Grass Lake School District #36 to order at 6:38 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Present: Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski,

 Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Terry O’Brien, Superintendent

 Mrs. Donna Plath (formerly Shupe), Principal

 Mrs. Mary Capek, Administrative Assistant

**Guests**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Denise Mandigo | Antoinette Giamo | Jen Sherman |
| Randy and Janeal Simale | Joe Mitchell | Richard David |
| Karen Wilberg | Susan Kold | Deanna Denman |
| Kim Shaffer | Nicole Sweeney | Marissa Casper |
| Diane & Russ Page | Susanne Tauke | Gordon Pierce |

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Input on the 2016-2017 Budget**

Mrs. Collins invited the following community members to speak at the Public Input.

Mrs. Denise Mandigo requested clarification with the issues she had in regards to analyzing the expenses of the Proposed 2016-2017 Budget. She requested information regarding the expense per student increases and how she was comparing these increases to the actual expenses.

Dr. O’Brien explained that the increases are for curricular, technology, and professional development and further improvements in instructional.

Mrs. Collins also added that the Board has been involved in strategic planning and the proposed budget is allocating all of the funds from the previous tax levy. Mrs. Collins also commented that ideally the Board will continue to look at lowering the expenses to lower the tax levy.

Dr. O’Brien shared with the Board the detail and complexity of the proposed budget and that there is a 10% increase spread over the nine different funds. He also added that no additional staff was added for the upcoming school year.

Mrs. Mandigo also inquired about the transportation fund and how this has doubled. The proposed budget for this year is $338,728.

Dr. O’Brien again clarified to the Board that the proposed budget reflects accurate expenditures and that last year the District under budgeted in transportation which led to deficit spending in transportation. Dr. O’Brien also talked about withdrawing from SEDOL and collaborating with Fox Lake District #114 for students needing services outside the district; the transportation expense will be reduced in the future.

Additional questions were asked by Mrs. Denise Mandigo regard the planned O&M and requested the actuals increase in the O&M fund.

Dr. O’Brien explained to the Board that the proposed budget is adjusting the O&M from previous years and that he anticipates proper expenditures. He also highlighted that the proposed O&M fund is budgeted it deficit spending from the previous year. Mrs. Collins also highlighted that last year’s expenditures show overspending on the budgeted amount.

Mrs. Mandigo also asked about the surplus plan of the $5.8M and the anticipated breaking ground schedule.

Mrs. Collins highlighted that the capital projects are shown as planned in the proposed budget. Dr. O’Brien also hoped that the proposed capital project will come under budget.

Mrs. Mandigo asked if there were rental fees for telecommunications. Dr. O’Brien replied that there are no rental fees.

Mrs. Mandigo also inquired about the number of PreK students needing services outside the district. Mrs. Plath thought we had two (2) students going to a different school at this time.

Mrs. Collins asked if Mrs. Diane Paige would like to speak. She replied that she had signed the wrong sheet. She did not wish to speak.

Mrs. Collins asked if Mr. Joe Mitchell would like to speak. Mr. Mitchell replied yes.

Mr. Mitchell expressed to the Board that Mrs. Mandigo did not get her questions answered. He also said to the Board how can you honestly vote on the proposed budget when he felt that the Board does not really understand the proposed budget.

Mrs. Fogel tried to explain the budget preparation and how the monies allocated are for the tax levy voted on last year.

Further discussion took place between Mr. Mitchell and the Board regarding the allocation of the monies. Dr. O’Brien highlighted the $100,000+ increase in two (2) critical areas. Mr. Mitchell further expressed concerns about the District taking his taxes. Mrs. Collins tried to explain the District lowered taxes.

Mrs. Collins also highlighted that the Board has heard the community and that the tax burden is on all of us and the Board has taken a different plan.

Mrs. Mandigo also shared her view and explanation of the previous tax levy.

Dr. O’Brien also presented the 0% fund balance in the Ed fund and (200,000) of deficit spending in O&M. He also highlighted the completion of the audit and will be getting the audit detail in the near future.

Mrs. Collins also stated again that the Board has heard the community about the tax levy and that we are planning on spending down.

Mrs. Mandigo asked again for the explanation of the Ed fund increases. Mrs. Collins explained that based on best practices and that we are looking to make the necessary changes in the curriculum.

Mrs. Mandigo also asked if these changes are in line with the overall strategic plan and in line with the mission and goals of the school.

Mr. Lobodzinski asked if there is a shortfall in a specific area during the school area could the proposed budget be amended.

Dr. O’Brien replied that the proposed budget is as close to our actuals as possible and is projected for the District and will not accumulate revenue in the fund balance. He also highlighted that 65% of the Ed fund is the teacher’s salaries.

Dr. O’Brien highlighted that the O&M fund is budgeted for deficit spending and was using reserved fund. He also highlighted again the same staff as last year, increases for our curricular and transportation.

**Approval of 2016-2017 Budget**:

One motion was made by Mrs. Gembara and seconded by Mrs. Fogel to approve the proposed 2016-2017 budget as presented.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 7 Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Lobodzinski

 Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

**Public Input on the 2016-2017 Budget**

Mrs. Collins invited the following community members to speak at the Public Input.

The public expressed their appreciation for all of the Board members and requested the answers to the questions presented be qualified line by line item.

Mrs. Collins highlighted that the Public Input portion of the Board meeting is for the public to voice their opinions and an opportunity for the general public to speak. She requested from the public that the more notice you can give us, the Board would try to get the answers to the public more promptly.

Mrs. Mandigo inquired about the cost per student versus the school and how this looks in the future. Mr. Mitchell presented that this is the type of information needed to be shown on the web page. Mrs. Mandigo also commented that more information relevant to the taxpayers should be highlighted on the web page.

Mrs. Collins presented to the Public that the Board has improved better accountability and understanding of the special needs and technology upgrades required. Mrs. Collins also highlighted that we will look at a comparison again Emmons and we are aware of our costs being higher.

**Adjournment**:

At 7:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gembara and seconded by Mrs. Rietschel to adjourn the open meeting.

Motion carried by voice vote:

Ayes: 7 Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski,

 Mrs. Reitschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

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President Secretary