**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 36**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015**

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Collins called the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Grass Lake School District #36 to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

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

Mrs. Rietschel, and Mrs. Collins

Absent: Mrs. Fogel

Also Present: Dr. Terry O’Brien, Superintendent

Ms. Donna Shupe, Principal

Mrs. Mary Capek, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Denman, GLS Teacher

Mrs. Sweeney, GLS Teacher

Mr. Kevin Bennett, IEA/NEA Representative

Mrs. Sharon Goebel, GLS Teacher

Community Members:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Denise Mandigo | John Mandigo | Jan Taniguchi |
| Tom Zawada | Larry Heuvdlman | John Macko |
| Goerge Luote | Sandee Vaughn | Michael Vaughn |
| Andy Williams | Karen Wilberg | Linda Vaughn |
| Rudy Benacka | Janet McLemoke | Vita Luote |
| Charles Wilbert | Roberta Domas | Jeff Karnes |
| Robyn Eichler | Bruce Goeckner | Barb Esterquest |
| James Esterquest | Susan Kolk | Mike Wyatt |
| Ken Goebel | Atula S. | Arun S. |
| Joe Mitchell |  |  |

**2015 Levy Presentation**

Mrs. Collins presented to the Board that Ms. Merilee McCracken, P.M.A.   
Financial was unable to attend the December board meeting. Mrs. Collins asked for any public input regarding the tax levy only prior to the adoption of the proposed 2016 tax levy.

**Public Input (Tax Levy)**

Mrs. Mandigo presented the community’s interest in going with the proposed lower amount tax levy. She presented her thoughts on the lower amount still giving the school the necessary room for any unforeseen operational costs. Mrs. Mandigo wanted to make sure the Board has heard the requests of the community. She also highlighted a lawsuit in McHenry County for Harrison School and hoped that the Grass Lake community would not have to take this kind of action.

Ms. Domas also presented her concern again of the excess funds and requested the Board to explain the reasoning of the holding on to funds and what their intentions were to utilize that money. She also talked about 92% of the residents are supporting the school and that the future of the school will not sustain based on the taxpayer base. She also stated that the school did not need to be a Taj Mahal to educate the students.

Mr. Mitchell presented his findings in looking at the school’s Illinois Report Card and how the operational and educational costs are 25-30% higher per student based on the number of students. Based on the numbers from the Illinois Report Card, Mr. Mitchell had a hard time with justification for more money and the need for new facilities. Logically, he had trouble with the numbers and was looking for clarification of the Board’s justification for requesting more money.

Further discussion took place regarding the explanation on the invoices and specific vendors. Mrs. Vaughn added that as a past Board member, she knows that all the expenses are justified. Mrs. Mandigo commented again that there is no need to add to the surplus of money.

Mrs. Collins presented the planning process of the Board and that the Board still plans to be conservative all the way through regarding capital projects. She also highlighted the 18 month reserve and that the Board will continue to access the needs for the current fund balance.

**Approval of 2016 Tax Levy**

The tax levy has been on display for the past month and requires final approval from the Board of Education.

One motion was made by Mrs. Collins and seconded by Mr. Lobodzinski to approve the 2016 tax levy with a tax freeze and approximately $200,000 less.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 6 Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski,

Mrs. Rietschel, and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 Mrs. Fogel

**Approval of Consent Agenda**:

As presented under the Consent Agenda, one motion was made by Mr. Lobodzinski and seconded by Mr. Gembara to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 17, 2015, the Special Minutes of the Facilities Committee Meeting of December 9, 2015, November 2015 Treasurer’s Report, Payroll – November 2015, and Vendors – November 2015.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 6 Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski,

Mrs. Rietschel, and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 Mrs. Fogel

**Public Input**

Mrs. Collins called upon the audience for Public Input based on those individuals who signed in and requested to speak.

Mrs. Vaughn presented her view that Grass Lake School has the best teachers and believes in this small school. She also stated that a school cannot be rated solely on the test scores.

Mrs. Goebel, a 5th grade teacher at Grass Lake School, presented a letter to the Board reflecting on her years at Grass Lake School. She identified strengths, weaknesses, and suggestions of Grass Lake School. Mrs. Goebel’s last day in the 5th grade classroom will be on Friday, December 18, 2015.

**Reports**

1. **Correspondence**

No correspondence was submitted.

1. **Maintenance Report – Mr. Quinnett**

No questions asked about this report.

1. **Technology Report – Mr. Wong**

No questions asked about this report.

1. **Instructional Report – GLS Staff**

No questions asked about this report.

1. **School Report – Ms. Shupe**

Ms. Shupe highlighted that Weather Bug will be coming out on Thursday for installation of the equipment. She also presented the professional development for the January 15th Institute Day and how the staff will learn more about NWEA. She also highlighted that the PARCC scores will be going home with students prior to the winter break. Dr. O’Brien added that the PARCC scores measure the common core standards. He also highlighted that all of the school districts are commenting about the PARCC test results.

Ms. Shupe highlighted that the school received a transportation grant through Target. With the receipt of the grant, the Jr. High class will be going to the Holocaust Museum.

Mr. Gembara inquired about the Weather Bug system and whether an extra monitor would be available. Ms. Shupe will inquire.

1. **District Report – Dr. O’Brien**

Dr. O’Brien wanted to publicly compliment Mr. Coon and Mrs. DelGrosso on the Holiday Concert and Art Show and the wonderful job they did.

1. **FOIA Request(s)**
2. Gabriella Lauricella, Data Acquisition Specialist, SmartProcure-Vendor/Purchasing Reports

No discussion took place on the FOIA request(s).

1. **Board Committee Reports/Professional Development**
2. **Facilities**
3. **December 9 Facilities Committee Meeting**

Dr. O’Brien stated that he was unable to find the original blueprint of the 1965 building. Mrs. Collins recommended calling the township or county Building & Planning division to see if they could assist if finding the blueprint.

1. **Architect of Record**

Dr. O’Brien highlighted that Mrs. Caya and Mr. Lobodzinski will be reviewing the Architect of Record proposals. We are anticipating a quick turnaround on the selection of the Architect of Record.

1. **Legal Workshop**

No updates on Legal Workshop.

1. **Triple-I Conference – November 20-22**

Board members highlighted the sessions they attended during the Triple-I Conference.

Mrs. Collins attended sessions regarding school security, sharing resources for schools (vendors, teachers, special education services), and a presidential roundtable. Mrs. Collins highlighted she contacted a few Board presidents to share ideas with others. Of the five contacted, she said four are interested in meeting. She hopes this will help her to run successful meetings.

Mr. Gembara attended sessions regarding school bonds and improvements to schools. Mr. Gembara highlighted the review of a $6M science room in Deerfield.

Mrs. Kozenski attended a new member orientation session and suggested that it would be helpful to assign a mentor to new board members. She also attended a session on how to engage your community which highlighted the different aspects of communication with the community. She also attended a session on taxes, but due to the weather the presenters were unable to attend.

Ms. Shupe attended a strategic planning session and she learned how joining forces develops benefits and to hear the hurdles other school districts have. She also attended a technology session which gave her the opportunity to network with other districts and to learn about apps to utilize in the classroom.

Mrs. Caya attended a session in which she learned about a rubric sheet for selecting an architect of record.

Mr. Lobodzinski attended a session on networking and learned a great deal about family engagement and how the school should welcome families and make it part of the registration process.

1. **IASB Training Date – February 6, 2016**

**Old Business**

1. **Beacon Flasher for School Crossing\***

Dr. O’Brien updated the Board on the Beacon Flasher for the school crossing. Discussion took place regarding a painted crosswalk on the east/west side of the school and installing a sidewalk. Dr. O’Brien highlighted that Antioch Township would be involved and that it would cost approximately $20,000 to install a sidewalk. Ms. Shupe talked about a program called safe routes for schools and that we could possibly get additional funding for the school. Mrs. Collins said she has reached out to the Township Supervisor and the Lake County Board representative. As of this meeting, Mrs. Collins has not heard back from them.

**New Business**:

1. **Skyward Business Services \***

Dr. O’Brien presented a proposal for implementing the Skyward Business Services software. The current program used is an older program with limited capabilities. Skyward is designed for governmental funding and would be an electronic business office. It is recommended that for a smooth transition of July 1st, an order would need to be placed on January 1st. Dr. O’Brien’s recommendation is to approve the program for purchase of approximately $40,000 and $3600 per site with off-site storage. Further discussion took place regarding the purchase of this big ticket item. Mrs. Caya asked about the return on investment for this program and is the investment going to improve on our effective operations. The Board inquired what other schools are using such as District #34 or District #117. Dr. O’Brien highlighted that District #41 utilizes Skyward. No action was taken on this item at this time.

1. **Staffing\***

Ms. Shupe presented that the pilot for the intramurals program has been completed. Ms. Shupe requested that the Board approve the intramurals program to continue for the remainder of the year. She also would like to adjust the hourly rate for the intramural program to be the same as the after school tutoring program of $25.00 per hour.

One motion was made by Mr. Gembara and seconded by Mrs. Caya to approve the recommended intramurals program for the remainder of the school year and adjust the hourly rate for the intramural program to be $25.00 per hour.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 6 Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski,

Mrs. Rietschel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1 Mrs. Fogel

Absent: 0

**Recognition of Media**

No media present at the meeting.

**Closed Session**

A motion was made at 8:46 p.m. to go into a closed session for the purposes of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body by Mr. Gembara and seconded by Mr. Lobodzinski.

Ayes: 6 Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski,

Mrs. Rietschel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1 Mrs. Fogel

Absent: 0

At 8:59 p.m. Mrs. Collins called the closed session to order.

The following members answered roll call: Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, and Mrs. Collins. Absent: Mrs. Fogel

A motion was made at 9:42 p.m. to return to open session by Mr. Lobodzinski and seconded by Mr. Gembara.

Ayes: 6 Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski,

Mrs. Rietschel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1 Mrs. Fogel

Absent: 0

The following members answered roll call at 9:43 p.m.: Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, and Mrs. Collins. Absent: Mrs. Fogel

One motion was made by Mr. Lobodzinski and seconded by Mrs. Kozenski to approve the amended resignation of Mrs. Goebel.

Ayes: 6 Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski,

Mrs. Rietschel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1 Mrs. Fogel

Absent: 0

Discussion took place regarding the selection of the architect of record and a construction manager. Mrs. Caya and Mr. Lobodzinski will be reviewing the architectural firm submissions, as well as, meeting with potential construction managers.

**Adjournment**:

At 10:43 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gembara and seconded by Mrs. Caya to adjourn the open meeting.

Motion carried by voice vote:

Ayes: 6 Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski,

Mrs. Rietschel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1 Mrs. Fogel

Absent: 0

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President Secretary