**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 36**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016**

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Collins called the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Grass Lake School District #36 to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Roll Call**

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

Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Absent: Mr. Gembara

Also Present: Dr. Terry O’Brien, Superintendent

Ms. Donna Shupe, Principal

Mrs. Mary Capek, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Deanna Denman, GLS 1st Grade Teacher

Community Members:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Denise Mandigo | Robin Wyatt | Roberta Domas |
| Bob Domas | Diane Page | Russ Page |
| Tom Zawada | Bill Todd | John Macko |
| Janet McLemere | Rudy Bonacka | John Mandigo |
| Gary Slazes | Toma Blowers | Joe Mitchell |
| Susanne Tauke | Larry Burke | Sandy Burke |

**Approval of Consent Agenda**:

As presented under the Consent Agenda, one motion was made by Mrs. Caya and seconded by Mr. Lobodzinski to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 15, 2016, the amended Facilities Committee Minutes of April 5, 2016, March 2016 Treasurer’s Report, Payroll – March, 2016, Vendors – March/April, 2016 and resignation for Jack Clift, F/T Paraprofessional and Rebecca Stefani, PreK Teacher.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 Mr. Gembara

**Public Input**

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

Mrs. Denise Mandigo shared information with the Board from the ISBE which she said the recommended cost per square foot for Middle School classrooms at $188 per sq. ft. Mrs. Mandigo talked about the recommended Scenario C being almost $400 square foot versus the recommended $188 square foot cost she found at ISBE. She also talked about the plans being on the website and that even though the proposed Scenario C shows a budget of $6M there are overruns. Mrs. Mandigo also questioned the current square footage of 39,900 and that after the remodel it appears the school is be 54,000 roughly. She also highlighted again that she found the best practices from ISBE recommends approximately 100 square feet per student which in her opinion the current square footage is sufficient for the current enrollment. She also inquired of the Board the reasoning behind hiring a construction management firm at point in time of the project. Mrs. Mandigo expressed that during the Facilities Committee Meeting it appeared that the construction management firm, Gilbane, was running the show and not the architects. Dr. O’Brien highlighted that the construction management firm was hired as a consultant to the Board.

Mrs. Mandigo continued to speak and felt that the community should be a part of the decision in spending the surplus funds. Further discussion took place that the community was engaged. Mrs. Collins also added that the Board is a trustee of the District’s funds and the Board members have the power to vote on the distribution of the funds. Mrs. Collins also stated that the Board has the benefit of the students going forward.

Further discussion took place by community members and Board members regarding the events leading up to the Facilities Committee recommendation. Events included the building referendum which initiated greater community involvement and, per Mrs. Collins we heard the community’s response, which the Board took into consideration when looking at the different options. Additional discussion took place regarding the educational structure, utilizing flex space and the recommendation of the Facilities Committee. Discussion also took place regarding the different Options and Dr. O’Brien talked about the need to pay prevailing wage.

Mr. Mandigo addressed the Board and stated he is aware of construction management. He also asked who recommended Gilbane and did the Board seek out other people as alternatives. Dr. O’Brien highlighted that the Lake County Regional Office recommended Gilbane. Mr. Mandigo also asked why a construction management firm is required at this point in time. Dr. O’Brien said he would prepare a timeframe and process for hiring a construction management firm and forward to community members who supplied emails.

Additional community members spoke and requested that the Board address the questions at hand before the decision to vote is made. The community members asked for a possible delay in the vote until the public has an answer to their questions not after the fact.

After discussion on the Facilities Commitees’ recommended Option at hand for vote, Mrs. Fogel mentioned her agreement on Option C. Mrs. Collins addressed the community members and that the Board has heard your concerns.

Mr. Mandigo reiterated that the community members have valid questions that need to be answered. Mrs. Mandigo also mentioned that at the Facilities Committee Meeting the community was told to come to the Board meeting to express their concerns prior to a vote. Dr. O’Brien invited members of the community to share their emails or phone numbers in order to provide responses to the questions. Additionally, Dr. O’Brien invited members of the community to visit the school for a private tour. Further discussion took place on holding the vote until the May meeting. Dr. O’Brien replied that it is not his authority to do this and does not have a vote on the options.

Mrs. Caya stated that we have engaged with STR Architects and the monies have already been saved and approved for the $6M with the current budget. Mrs. Collins then requested that the meeting needed to move on.

Prior to the meeting moving on, Ms. Suzanne Tauke stands as a member of the Facilities Committee. She requested to submit and read the record that Mr. Andy Williams not present at the meeting had sent to the committee prior to this meeting. Mrs. Collins requested that it not be read and that all of the Board members had received this prior to the meeting. Mrs. Collins approved the email document to be included in the Board report (located under Correspondence).

**Report/Communications**

1. **Correspondence**

Mrs. Petty sent a belated thank you note for the implementation of the breakfast program at Grass Lake School. She also thanked the Board for the charger given to each staff member in December and the gift card with her award at the 2015 graduation ceremony.

Mr. Andy Williams email was included in correspondence.

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

No questions asked about this report.

1. **Technology Report**
2. **Infrastructure – Mr. Wong**
3. **Instructional – Mrs. McIlhany**

No questions asked about this report.

1. **Instructional Report – GLS Staff**

No questions asked about this report.

1. **Athletic Report – Mr. Hall**

No questions asked about this report.

1. **School Report – Ms. Shupe**

Ms. Shupe thanked Mrs. Caya for the $500 Baxter grant awarded to District #36 for her community service hours donated to Grass Lake School.

1. **District Report – Dr. O’Brien**

Dr. O’Brien highlighted the staff member of the year (2016) selection to compete at the state level for teacher of the year.

Dr. O’Brien also presented the 2015 Tax Extensions and explained how the Board chose to go below 0%. He also highlighted that the EAV dropped in the Fox Lake/Antioch Township area. We should see equalization in the 2016-2017 school year in regards to expenses versus revenue.

Mrs. Rietschel inquired about the IPA student of the year and if this was just inclusive of Lake County recognition. Dr. O’Brien clarified that the recipients were of each school in Lake County.

Dr. O’Brien also highlighted his meeting with the Special Education Committee to discuss special education cooperative options.

Dr. O’Brien highlighted the Chart of Accounts report showing year-to-date activity July, 2015 to Present and the newly added report Student Enrollment to show any enrollment changes on a monthly basis.

1. **FOIA Request(s)**

No FOIA Requests.

1. **Board Committee Reports/Professional Development**
2. **Facilities Committee Recommendation\***

The Facilities Committee recommended Option C for the Board to authorize STR Architects to begin to take the concept to design and stay as close to the $6M budget as possible. The committee reviewed four different plans prior to making a recommendation.

Mrs. Collins explained to the audience that in looking at the four different plans the committee hit a majority of the priorities they developed in the facilities assessment:

* Secure Entrance
* Replace 1947 Addition
* ADA Compliant
* Flexible classrooms
* Concept design/administrative
* Square footage of design

Further discussion took place regarding the recommendation to take the concept of Option C to the design phase.

Mr. Lobodzinski expressed concern that the Facilities Committee was not unanimous in the selection of Option C. He also inquired how this option sets us up for the future. It is Mr. Lobodzinski’s opinion that the Option selected is taking off square footage to add square footage. Mr. Lobodzinski talked about the decision of Option C and how this positions the district and how do the plans include a vision to replace the old part of the school that will be reaching 70 to 100 years of age. Again, Mr. Lobodzinski asked what is the long-term vision of the proposed $6M option? Mr. Lobodzinski also mentioned that nothing pops out as a dramatic change with Option C.

Mrs. Caya highlighted that Option C gets us where we need to go and addresses our needs. Dr. O’Brien added that the conceptual design will be for 25 students per regular classroom not the current enrollment.

Mr. Lobodzinski asked about the proposed 1800 square feet for the Administrative Wing and what that included. Discussion took place regarding the wing and the design for a more secured entrance to visually be able to check-in guests, administrative offices, reception, work stations, conference room, a nurse’s office and washrooms.

Further discussion took place regarding the concept to design phase and the rollout process with STR Architects. Discussion took place adhering to details to minimize change orders.

Mr. Lobodzinski asked what happens to the facilities committee. The purpose of the facilities committee was to determine a long term plan with a two story consideration. The committee was also the Board’s request to assist in making a recommendation. The conceptual based on the committee’s findings included bringing the Jr. High classrooms together and bring the Special Education needs up from the basement. Dr. O’Brien discussed the next phase could be a “design committee”.

Mrs. Mandigo inquired whether the 54,000 square feet included the basement and asked what the school’s projected growth is. Discussion took place regarding the proposed square footage and how the existing pillars in the basement interrupt the concept of the classroom in the basement.

Dr. O’Brien responded that the past-practice recommendation for an elementary classroom to be split is 25 students. He also explained that the concept of Option C is created to accommodate room for growth in the student population. Dr. O’Brien said the District has not hired a firm to do a projected growth study.

Dr. O’Brien reviewed the high level of rentals in the Grass Lake School community and he further discussed how the EAV went down 2.47% which includes the upper northwest corner of Lake County.

Mrs. Mandigo expressed her opinion that we need to focus on the education, teaching and learning.

Dr. O’Brien addressed her comment that on behalf of Ms. Shupe and him, they are very passionate about the education of the students and recognize the concern about the test scores. Further discussion took place regarding the return on investment for the student growth.

Further discussion took place regarding comparisons to Emmons and how our low-income and special education makeup is much higher than Emmons. Again, discussion took place about Option C and how it is designed for a capacity of 25 students in each grade not the current enrollment.

Mrs. Collins repeated again to the audience that the construction is one of the many areas in which the Board is identifying as areas of improvement.

Mr. Lobodzinski also commented about the education of our students and the ability to benchmark the success of our students in different ways. Discussion took place the ability to compare our school to similar schools with the same percentage of low-income and special education needs.

Mrs. Collins again called the meeting to order and the need for the Board to complete their open meeting. She asked for the Board’s direction on the decision to vote on the facilities committee’s recommendation tonight or to delay the vote for another month.

Further discussion took place that the Board is unable to give back collected taxes due to the Lake County regulations.

After further discussion, the Board selected to take a vote on the Facilities Committee’s recommendation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Fogel and seconded by Mrs. Caya to approve the recommendation from the Facilities Committee to direct STR Architects to go from concept to design for Option C.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 5 Mrs. Kozenski, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel

and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 1 Mr. Lobodzinski

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 Mr. Gembara

**Special Education Committee Meeting**

Dr. O’Brien highlighted the meeting held on April 5th with Mrs. Kozenski, Mrs. Rietschel and Ms. Shupe to discuss special education cooperative options. The Special Education Committee has been meeting for the past two months to review in detail options for providing services for students with disabilities. Dr. O’Brien presented the notes from the recent meeting which included the conditions to change from SEDOL to the Exceptional Learners Collaborative (attached to these minutes). Discussion took place regarding the reallocation of the special education dollars to elced.org. and maximizing our dollars by withdrawing from SEDOL. The change would not be a reduction in expenditures but rather, provide more local control of special education services and the development of intergovernmental agreements with area school districts. Dr. O’Brien is looking for the Board’s direction to processing formal withdrawal from SEDOL. For the school year 2016-2017, Grass Lake School will be members of SEDOL and beginning in school year 2017-2018 GLS would be non-members of SEDOL. Beginning in school year 2017-2018, a change of special education services would allow shifting costs to local control.

Further discussion took place regarding the assurance of having a withdraw clause if there was a better fit with a different coop. Dr. O’Brien again is looking for the Board’s direction for the 2017-2018 school in hopes of better local control, financial costs and building better relationships for our students needing services. After further discussion, the Board provided Dr. O’Brien the direction to begin the process of a withdrawal from SEDOL for the 2017-2018 school year.

**Old Business**

1. **Junior High National Honor Society\***

Dr. O’Brien highlighted the Constitution of the National Junior Honor Society. Discussion took place to offer a stipend similar to the other clubs the school has. Dr. O’Brien recommended an $800 stipend. Further discussion took place regarding the JHS society and the commitment required for the startup and the meetings required per the bylaws. Discussion took place to increase the stipend to $1,000 and begin immediately to recruit an advisor.

A motion was made by Mrs. Collins and seconded by Mr. Lobodzinski to approve the implementation of the National Junior Honor Society at a $1,000 stipend.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 Mr. Gembara

**New Business**

1. **Summer School 2016 \***

Dr. O’Brien highlighted that summer school registration will be available online by Friday and will be personalized for the RTI students, as well as, grade specific enrichment programs. Discussion took place regarding the efforts of Mrs. Hageli working on summer school and the plans for going online will expedite registration. Dr. O’Brien recommends that the District offer summer school 2016 which will mirror last year’s program.

A motion was made by Mr. Lobodzinski and seconded by Mrs. Caya to approve summer school 2016.

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

Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 Mr. Gembara

**Recognition of Media**

No media present at the meeting.

**Executive Session**

At 10:03 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Collins and seconded by Mr. Lobodzinski to go into closed session for the purposes of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 Mr. Gembara

The following members answered roll call at 10:14 p.m.: Mrs. Kozenski, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins Absent: Mr. Gembara

**Open Session**

At 11:24 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Fogel and seconded by Mrs. Caya to return to the open session.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 Mr. Gembara

The following members answered roll call at 11:25 p.m.: Mrs. Kozenski, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins Absent: Mr. Gembara

**Adjournment**:

At 11:25 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Collins and seconded by Mrs. Fogel to adjourn the open meeting.

Motion carried by voice vote:

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

Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 Mr. Gembara

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

President Secretary