

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 36  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016**

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Collins called the Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Grass Lake School District #36 to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Present: Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel,  
Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Absent: Mrs. Caya

Also Present: Dr. Terry O'Brien, Superintendent  
Mrs. Donna Plath, Principal  
Mrs. Mary Capek, Administrative Assistant

**Guests**

Mr. & Mrs. John Mandigo	Mr. Dennis Bergl	Mr. John Frendreis
Ms. Laura Vertz	Ms. Pam Worklan	Mr. Mike Chmela
Mr. & Mrs. Vince Heywood	Mrs. Paula Sexton	Mrs. Linda Vaughn
Mr. Richard Dowd	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wilberg	Mrs. Karen Lobodzinski
Ms. Susanne Tauk	Mr. William Marcomb	Mr. Andy Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Russ Page	Ms. Susan Koff	Mrs. Kim Gembara
Mr. Keith Dietrich	Mr. & Mrs. Gerard McHugh	Mrs. Deanna Denman
Mrs. Nicole Sweeney	Mr. Gary Slazles	Ms. Jan Simale
Misc. Community Members	Mr. Mike Schmale	

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

As presented under the Consent Agenda, one motion was made by Mrs. Fogel and seconded by Mrs. Rietschel to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes:	6	Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins
Nays:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Absent:	1	Mrs. Caya

**Public Input**

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

Mr. Dennis Bergl presented to the Board how he was willing to sign for the formal tax objection after being approached by two women while he was doing yardwork. He also said he was informed that the unused money was not being used at the school. Mr. Bergl also stated that after he signed the petition he learned that he signed up to sue the school. He talked about how he then wanted to get his name removed. Mr. Bergl confessed that he lost the information that was given to him and has not seen the community members since he signed the petition. He also said his neighbors told him to relax, but he explained to the Board that he felt he was misled about the tax objection. Mr. Bergl apologized for just what he felt was a selfish action by signing the tax objection and it was not his intent to sue the school and ultimately close it down. Mr. Bergl formally asked the school to help him get his name removed from the formal tax objection. Mrs. Collins replied that Dr. O'Brien will get back to Mr. Bergl.

Mr. John Frendreis addressed the Board's tentative vision of the proposed tax levy and he felt it should be lowered more. He also expressed that he felt the Board was rushing the approval of a proposed contract with Gilbane. Mr. Frendreis also talked about the new proposed facility devoting almost 20% to administration when he believes the entire project should be devoted to the most important part of the school; the students. Mr. Frendreis reiterated that the Board should hold off on the \$6M project until the new Board is in place in April.

Mr. Schmale addressed the issue of truancy problems at Grass Lake School. He requested from the Board records of the chronic truants for last year and the passing rates of students. He also requested of the students not passing due to truancy were they required to take summer school and if so, did those students pass to the next grade. Mr. Schmale also talked about the discussion of the Lake County Sheriff being involved for chronic truancy. Mr. Schmale expressed his concern that the Lake County Sheriff would be called for truancy. He requested information from the Board regarding the policies in

place for handling truancies without requesting a formal FOIA. Dr. O'Brien asked him to email his notes presented and that he will follow-up on his request.

Mrs. Heywood expressed her view on the proposed Tax Levy and requested the Board to leave the levy at a 0%. She also stated her concern about reducing the tax levy could result in the District to run out of money. Mrs. Heywood would like the Board to reconsider the tax levy amount.

Mrs. Collins requested Mr. Williams and Mrs. Vaughn to publicly speak. The two of them declined to speak.

Mrs. Mandigo highlighted that the Tax Levy amount concerns have been brought up previously by the Public Input. She inquired about the forecasting utilized and expressed how super conservative it appeared. She also asked about the CPI utilized and was told that the CPI utilized was the same at 1.5%. Mrs. Mandigo also presented that she felt the information used in the forecasting was not realistic and that the Board was voting based on faulty information. Mrs. Collins asked Dr. O'Brien to prepare a presentation of the forecasting and respective assumptions made by PMA Financial.

### **Report/Communications**

#### **Correspondence**

No correspondence at this meeting.

#### **Maintenance Report**

No discussion about the Maintenance Report.

#### **Instructional Report**

No discussion about the Instructional Report.

#### **School Report**

Mrs. Plath highlighted her School Report in which she conducted curriculum committee meetings to identify areas the District needs to improve on. She also collaborated with the Curriculum Director of Oak Grove School District 68 to learn about the current trends in curriculum adoption and the reasons for the change in curriculum.

Mrs. Plath also highlighted the use of Coach Digital, an online resource, which can utilize NWEA data to identify and address student deficit areas. Mrs. Plath also highlighted her meeting with Lisa Adler from Gavin to learn more about Triumph Learning and how Coach Digital has been implemented with success in their district. Mrs. Plath will share with staff during team meetings on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, for instructional enhancement and use with our RtI program.

Mrs. Plath also highlighted the induction ceremony of the National Junior Honor Society that was held on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Currently, there are 14 (fourteen) students that were inducted into the program. Mrs. Plath also highlighted that the Junior Honor Society is open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and need a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or over.

The Board inquired if this information was on the gls36.org website for the community to see the activity of the National Junior Honor Society. Dr. O'Brien replied he will update the website next week.

## **District Report**

### **i. District Review**

No discussion about the District Review.

### **ii. Year to Date Financials**

No discussion about the Year to Date Financials.

### **iii. Facilities Report YTD**

No discussion about the Facilities Report YTD.

### **iv. Student Enrollment**

No discussion about the Student Enrollment.

### **v. Program Updates**

Dr. O'Brien presented the program updates of the District. The presentation highlighted the following programs that have been implemented since 2015:

- Espark
- Food Service
- Breakfast Program
- Communication System
- Campus Suite Website
- After-school Tutoring
- Activity Bus
- Intramurals
- Technology Coach
- One-to-One Technology Program
- Weatherbug
- Skyward Financial
- Junior National Honor Society
- Morning Tutoring (was also discussed in Old Business)

## **Strategic Plan**

Dr. O'Brien highlighted the positive rollout of the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. He explained to the Board to stay tuned for further progress.

## **FOIA Requests**

No questions asked about the FOIA request(s).

## **IASB \***

### **i. IASB Press Plus Updates \***

Dr. O'Brien highlighted the IASB Policy Press Updates 2:125 (Board Member Compensation: Expenses). This is a new requirement from the State and there are five options for determining the Board members reimbursements (for conferences, etc.). Dr. O'Brien highlighted the summary of the policy and the five options: (1) necessary (2) at the start of each fiscal year (3) at the start of each school year (4) at the start of each calendar year (5) when presenting the proposed budget. Dr. O'Brien recommendation is to accept Option #5.

As recommended by Dr. O'Brien, one motion was made by Mr. Gembara and seconded by Mrs. Kozenski to approve the proposed IASB Press Plus Updates.

Motion carried by voice vote:

Ayes: 6 Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel,  
Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 Mrs. Caya

## **Board Committee Reports/Professional Development**

### **i. Joint Annual Conference of IASB/IASA/IASBO Reports**

Mrs. Fogel highlighted the Family Engagement she saw at the joint annual conference. She highlighted how this would help parents at home and also presented that there is a youtube video. Discussion took place regarding how the video could be utilized as a lesson to show at home.

The information shared by Mrs. Fogel was discussed and should somehow be shared into the Strategic Plan. Mrs. Rietschel questioned what committee would best be achieved by this. Discussion took place that this would be an ad hoc committee to integrate the Family Engagement into the Strategic Plan. Mr. Lobodzinski and Mrs. Fogel said this could also fall under community, collaboration and culture. Further discussion took place to continue talking about this after the holidays. Mrs. Rietschel suggested it be added to the agenda.

Mrs. Kozenski presented her information about Insight. TeacherEase helps implement standards-based learning and differentiated instruction in the classroom. Mrs. Plath highlighted she just signed the pilot contract earlier in the day and the use of Insight will be for the duration of the school year.

Mrs. Collins highlighted her conference she attended "Leading the Leaders". She explained how at the conference she was able to network with other school presidents. Mrs. Collins also learned about her role as the Board President as being the first in line of seven board members. She is able as the Board President to speak for the Board as a whole. Mrs. Collins also highlighted the President position and the relationship with the superintendent. She also talked about how she works with the superintendent to build the agendas for the Board meetings.

Mrs. Collins also highlighted an additional conference that focused on multi-year budgeting which was presented by the same company that the District uses (PMA Financial). She also attended a conference to learn about the collective bargaining agreement. Mrs. Collins said the audience was asking questions for the attorneys to answer regarding the union representation and school boards.

Mrs. Collins would like to follow-up on her attended conferences with slides she received at the joint level conference.

#### 1. Communication Audit

Dr. O'Brien highlighted a school in Prospect Heights that presented a communication audit conducted by the National School Public Relations Association. The audit was completed at their school. The estimated cost is \$13,500 plus expenses for the auditor. The purpose of the communication audit is to assess the current communication efforts; communicate the effectiveness of the overall programs in your school; define district vision and focus; demonstrate accountability; build trust and credibility; raise visibility; and practice best practices for effective communication.

Mrs. Collins expressed that as we rollout the strategic plan and move to a committee which handles community, collaboration and culture; it is her recommendation that we hold off on the communication audit.

### **Old Business**

#### **a. Approval of the 2016 Tax Levy\***

One motion was made by Mrs. Kozenski and seconded by Mrs. Fogel to approve the recommended 0% Tax Levy less \$100,000. The total amount levied is \$3,486,262.00.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 1 Mrs. Caya

**b. Morning Tutoring Program\***

The Board requested to table the morning tutoring program until the next Board meeting.

**c. Cafeteria Tables\***

Discussion took place regarding the proposed cafeteria tables. It was discussed how the multi-purpose room is predominantly used for cafeteria space and how the space needs to be flexible. Dr. O'Brien's recommendation is to approve the six recessed tables. Additional discussion took place regarding the lead time.

One motion was made by Mrs. Fogel and seconded by Mr. Gembara to approve the proposal for six recessed tables for the multi-purpose room.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 6 Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel,  
Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 1 Mrs. Caya

**New Business**

None

**Public Input**

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

Mrs. Denise Mandigo requested the dollar amount on the approved tax levy.

Mr. Fren dreis expressed his concerns about the spending decisions being made by the Board and how is the dollar amounts being approved is improving the student's performance.

Additional discussion took place regarding the approved six recessed tables for the multi-purpose room. Mrs. Collins added that the teachers requested the tables due to the need for the space in the multi-purpose room to be more flexible in use.

Mr. Diedrich highlighted the school is great and feels the tables built in for the multi-purpose room is a good idea. He also talked about the effects of not enough space on the students' academic results.

Mrs. Vaughn asked about the proposed addition and the plans for the administrative wing. She questioned the percentage of the administrative wing versus the overall proposed renovation. Discussion took place regarding the plans being on the website for review and that Dr. O'Brien would email her with the details.

Mrs. Mandigo also agreed that the construction plans are on the website and are very readable for the public to review.

Mrs. Heywood requested that the Board be more active in communicating to the community the school's achievements.

Mrs. Vaughn asked if the school needs to pay to get out of the SEDOL contract. Dr. O'Brien explained there is no penalty fee for withdrawal; however GLS would have some legal bills. Discussion took place regarding the ending of the SEDOL contract at the end of this school year.

Mr. Pierce highlighted the positive experience for his children at Grass Lake School and how well they are doing in school after they leave here. He also commented about the need for parents to be involved in their student's education.

Mrs. Fogel also complimented the school based on her grandchildren's performance at the school.

Mrs. Collins thanked everyone for their input.

### **Recognition of Media**

No media present at the meeting.

### **Executive Session**

At 8:15 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Collins and seconded by Mrs. Kozenski to go into closed session for the purposes of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body (5ILCS 120/2(c) (9)).

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes:	6	Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mr. Lobodinzski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins
Nays:	0	



Abstain: 0  
Absent: 1 Mrs. Caya

The following members answered roll call at 8:15 p.m.: Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins; Absent: Mrs. Caya

Also present: Dr. O'Brien and Mrs. Plath

**Open Session**

At 11:15 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Lobodzinski and seconded by Mrs. Fogel to return to the open session.

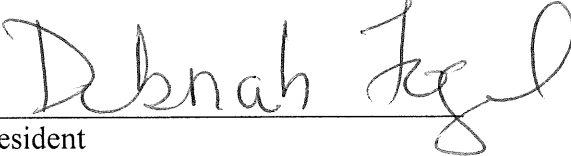
The following members answered roll call at 11:15 p.m.: Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins; Absent: Mrs. Caya

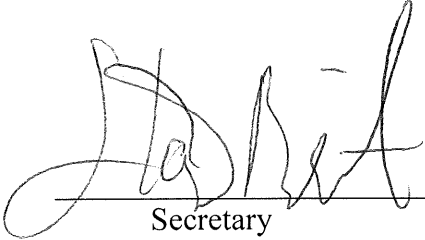
**Adjournment:**

At 11:16 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lobodzinski and seconded by Mrs. Fogel to adjourn the open meeting.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 6 Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mr. Lobodzinski,  
Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 1 Mrs. Caya

  
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President

  
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Secretary