**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 36**

**Thursday, May 18, 2017**

**Call to Order\***

Mr. Frendreis called the Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Grass Lake School District #36 to order at 7:04 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Present: Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel, Ms. Tauke

and Mr. Frendreis

Absent: Mr. Gembara

Also Present: Dr. Terry O’Brien, Superintendent

Mrs. Donna Plath, Principal

Mrs. Mary Capek, Administrative Assistant

**Guests**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Mr. Joe Mitchell | Ms. Susan Kolk | Mr. John Macko |
| Ms. Joanne Osmond | Ms. Peggy Lynch | Ms. Diane Donaldson |
| Mr. Jerry Winslow | Mr. Richard Dowd | Mr. & Mrs. John Mandigo |
| Ms. Toma Lee Blowers | Mrs. Karen Wilberg | Mrs. Debbie Fogel |
| Mrs. Luan Veitz | Mrs. Nicole Sweeney | Mrs. Chris Urban |
| Mr. Colby Lewis | Mr. Douglas Lim |  |

**Approval of Consent Agenda**:

As presented under the Consent Agenda, one motion was made by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Page to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 6 Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel, Ms. Tauke

and Mr. Frendreis

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 Mr. Gembara

**Public Input**

Mr. Frendreis requested the Public to refrain from input until the two presentations have ended. Mr. Frendreis also requested if Gilbane and STR would be willing to allow SEDOL to present first. Gilbane and STR agreed.

**Mr. Gembara entered the meeting at 7:08 p.m.**

**SEDOL Presentation**

Dr. Tom Moline, Superintendent of SEDOL and his team presented SEDOL’s role with Grass Lake School. He also presented SEDOL’s services, funding mode; and administrative support on a State level. Dr. Moline explained the roles of the Governing Board consisting of 31 districts that meet quarterly, the Executive Board, and the Central Administration.

Mr. Frendreis asked Dr. Moline of the reasons for denying Grass Lake School District #36 to withdraw from SEDOL. Dr. Moline explained that it was about the logistics of the students and their needs. He also added that the Board felt it was better for the students and their needs to be served by SEDOL. Mrs. Rietschel also asked about the reasons Stevenson was able to pull out even though that District was a large contributor to SEDOL. Again, Dr. Moline explained that it was about the logistics of keeping the students in their home districts and that Stevenson and others were more capable school districts to provide their students inclusion of neighboring school districts.

Dr. O’Brien highlighted the reallocation of the dollars for Special Ed Services by entering in intergovernmental agreements to allow GLS students the proximity to their home district. The basis for the withdrawal from SEDOL was for Grass Lake School to provide more localized education for D36 students.

Mrs. Rietschel also stated that the District’s petition to withdraw from SEDOL was based on monies prior to the restructuring of SEDOL. At the time the District was looking to withdraw the tuition was rising. Dr. O’Brien highlighted that the District is now reestablishing relationships with SEDOL going forward.

Mrs. Mandigo inquired about the higher percentage of IEP students and how students are determined of IEP’s. Discussion took place that those students with profound disabilities are referred to SEDOL.

Dr. Moline requested a SEDOL representative from the School Board be selected. This is a position that meets quarterly as a representative for the Governing Board. Mr. Frendreis offered to go on to the first meeting on June 7, 2017. He also will invite any Board members if they are interested in attending any of the quarterly meetings.

**Facilities Update**

1. **Facilities Expenditures and Budget**
2. **Architect Update – Colby Lewis, STR Architects**
3. **Construction Update – Doug Lim, Gilbane**

Mr. Lewis presented a review of the plans for the facilities’ design. Mr. Frendreis inquired about the typical costs of STR Architects. Discussion took place that the typical costs range from 7-10% and that Project Management range from 7-10%.

Discussion took place that a May facilities’ meeting needs to occur to address Art, Music and possibly STEM with a hands-on environment to provide a facility. Mr. Frendreis stated that a necessity for STEM for a PK-8th Building is access to water and technology.

Mr. Lewis agreed with Mr. Frendreis and how the students need a place to build and present. The area needs to provide cooperative learning to brainstorm together.

Mr. Frendreis presented a common question of whether this proposed facility would be larger than the current facility. Discussion took place on the $6M estimated cost and after many discussions the main focus of the monies spent on a new addition without doing the interior rooms.

Mrs. Caya explained that the $1.8 million was the dollar amount that started defining the renovated space. That is where the discussions got into higher numbers. Discussion took place to spend $6M to maximize your square footage. Mr. Lewis highlighted that the $6.09 million presented to the Board in October. Mr. Frendreis inquired how the District is not ADA compliant at this point. Further discussion took place regarding the ADA compliancy of the school.

Mr. Lim of Gilbane presented that there was a total of seventeen (17) bid packages and that this was accomplished to eliminate layers of contracts. He also presented that the initial bid opening came in higher at $6.7 million. Gilbane identified a number of engineering values mostly on the mechanical side and requested a rebid of a number of items.

Those bids were opened on the 12th of May and as of the date of this meeting; the cost of the facilities’ project is $6.06 million. Discussion took place of the items value engineered out; things like the elimination of canopies, windows by removing some of the glass not vision level, and the cost of aluminum versus metal.

Mr. Frendreis commented that the facilities’ design is still the same addition as the architects designed. Gilbane and STR agreed. Mr. Frendreis presented that the Board has a decision to make on the current facilities’ project:

* #1 Option to kill the project which would result in consuming three-quarters of the Architect’s fee
* #2 Option to go forward in some way
* #3 Option to complete a redo of the design.

Discussion took place regarding six (6) different new schools Gilbane has been involved in. The hard costs were presented by Gilbane as the following:

* 2015 - $260/sq.ft.
* 2016 - $300/sq.ft.
* 2019 - $330/sq. ft.

Discussion took place on the rising hard costs and how time is money and the amount of square footage the current design is. (approximately 14,900 square feet)

Mr. Frendreis asked Administration what is the current scenario and what has that done to the District. Dr. O’Brien explained about the restoration of the 1947 wing would cost approximately 500,000 and with the architects fee the District is currently looking at $1 million invested if the project was to end.

Mrs. Plath also added that with the proposed facilities’ design would allow the students to collaborate more and that the overall goal of the design was to enhance the curriculum.

Gilbane also added that there was a $130,000 reduction in the mechanical costs. Discussion took place regarding the value engineering items left and Mr. Williams added the impact to one contract versus many contracts. Additional discussion took place regarding the change of materials on the project and how changes cannot be made until the award of contracts. Currently, with the revised bids the project is down to $6.06 million.

Mr. Frendreis inquired if Gilbane is the Construction Manager, who handles the warranty on the work. Discussion took place that once the building is occupied, the District will need to identify items within ten (10) months to do a walk-through and a written notice will be sent out to the trades. Additional discussion took place regarding the value engineering items and the project management and architectural costs for those items. Public projects like this must have public bids.

Mrs. Wilberg inquired about the Life & Safety costs of the facilities’ project. Discussion took place regarding the estimated cost of $500K for the elevator to the basement (ADA compliancy), $500K for a secured entrance and bringing PreK into the main building creating more security. Mrs. Mandigo asked about the estimated hard costs for the Life & Safety and it was discussed that the estimated costs were in the low $300’s.

Discussion took place if this is the best design for the school and the community expressed their no awareness of the design and Mr. Frendreis acknowledge their feeling of frustration. Mrs. Fogel highlighted the design which created a new entrance with security and moving administration into a new wing.

Mr. Frendreis addressed the Board and guests that for the small district to survive there is a strong desire to see this design work. He would like to see the opportunity for the current and future students to prevail and how he has come in to this with an open mind. Mr. Frendreis also expressed it is highly unlikely to go for a different strategy with this project.

Mr. Williams also commented how he had gotten involved in the big bubble and how everyone looks differently at the construction plans. He also highlighted the great deal of thought process that went into this plan and that not everyone will agree on everything.

Mrs. Mandigo commented that she trusted the new Board and that the new members are very knowledgeable people. She also highlighted that the new Board members understand the current and past Board members.

Mr. Mitchell inquired about the number of current classrooms at the school. Discussion took place regarding the current 14.5 classrooms increasing to 15.5 classrooms with 5 in the new wing.

Further discussion took place regarding the instructional costs of the school being higher by 30% due to fewer students. The Board reassured the guests that the District has the cash flow with no additional tax levy or a referendum. Mr. Frendreis presented the District has a $5-6 Million reserve and that the current Board has not addressed the additional monies and that they need to evaluate where they stand in the future.

Discussion took place regarding PARCC results will be released in August. Mrs. Plath also commented that the District is looking at different ways to keep the 1:1 technology initiative.

**Report/Communications**

**Correspondence**

Mrs. Rietschel read a note from Dr. Morgan regarding her time at Grass Lake School and how she appreciated being here to support the school during her role as an Interim Principal.

**Maintenance Report**

No discussion about the Maintenance Report.

**Instructional Report**

No discussion about the Instructional Report.

**School Report**

Mrs. Plath highlighted how she is planning to utilize Mrs. McIlhany this summer for the 1:1 technology initiative. She asked for the Board’s direction on this and if she needed Board’s approval to go forward. Discussion took place regarding how she handled this last summer and she was directed to go forward as she has in the past.

**District Report**

1. **District Review**

No discussion about the District Review.

1. **Legal Fees Summary**

No discussion about the Legal Fees Summary.

1. **Year to Date Financials**

No discussion about the Year to Date Financials.

1. **Facilities Report YTD**

No discussion about the Facilities Report YTD.

1. **Student Enrollment**

No discussion about the Student Enrollment.

1. **FOIA Request(s)**
2. Illinois Retired Teachers Association Requests for retiring teachers for the current school year.

No discussion about the FOIA request.

**Board Committee Reports/Professional Development**

No updates at this meeting.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

1. **Acceptance of Bids\***

Mr. Frendreis requested that the Acceptance of Bids\* be bumped up on the Agenda to approve this.

Dr. O’Brien is seeking the Board’s direction on the signing of the general conditions of the contract for construction.

Discussion took place regarding the signing of the contract with Gilbane. Additional discussion took place regarding the contract and whether it has been reviewed by the school attorney and Gilbane’s attorney. Dr. O’Brien confirmed the contract was reviewed. However, the compensation contract has was not included as a hardcopy and Mr. Frendreis suggested to the Board to have a Special BOE meeting next week to approve the Gilbane Contract with all documents present. It was determined to post the meeting for Sunday, May 21st at 9:00 a.m.

1. **Website Compliance Update\***

Dr. O’Brien presented that new regulations require ADA accessibility for the school’s web site (i.e., access for individuals with limited hearing and vision). The school’s website company, CampusSuite, offers the upgrade for $750 setup and an additional $1,480 annually for maintaining the ADA accessibility site. Dr. O’Brien recommended the approval for the upgrade.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**:

One motion was made by Ms. Tauke and seconded by Mr. Gembara to approve the Website Compliance Update as presented.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 7 Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel,

Ms. Tauke and Mr. Frendreis

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

1. **Review of the Strategic Plan\***

Mr. Frendreis asked that this item be pushed to the June Board meeting.

1. **2017-2018 Student/Parent Handbook**

Dr. O’Brien presented that Dr. Morgan served as the district administrator for the Student/Parent Handbook. The areas recommended for change have been highlighted in red. Dr. O’Brien recommended the approval of the handbook as presented. Discussion took place on the technology fee and how this needs to be explained as a separate item from registration fee.

One motion was made by Mr. Page and seconded by Ms. Tauke to approve the 2017-2018 Student/Parent Handbook with a technology fee separate addendum.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 7 Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel,

Ms. Tauke and Mr. Frendreis

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

**Public Input**

None

**Recognition of Media**

No media present at the meeting.

**Executive Session**

At 10:03 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Tauke and seconded by Mr. Page 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: 7 Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel,

Ms. Tauke and Mr. Frendreis

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

The following members answered roll call at 10:10 p.m.: Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel, Ms. Tauke and Mr. Frendreis

**Open Session**

At 10:29 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: 7 Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel,

Ms. Tauke and Mr. Frendreis

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

The following members answered roll call at 10:29 p.m.: Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel, Ms. Tauke and Mr. Frendreis

A motion was made by Ms. Tauke and seconded by Mr. Page to accept the separation agreement and general release between the Board of Education and Superintendent Terry O’Brien.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 7 Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel,

Ms. Tauke and Mr. Frendreis

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

**Adjournment:**

At 10:32 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Caya and seconded by Mr. Williams to adjourn the open meeting.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes: 7 Mr. Page, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel,

Ms. Tauke and Mr. Frendreis

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

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President Secretary