

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 36
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Absent: Mr. Lobodzinski

Also Present: Dr. Terry O'Brien, Superintendent
Mrs. Donna Plath, Principal

Guests

Mr. Steve Witkus	Ms. Terri Swanson	Mr. Russ Page
Mrs. Diane Page	Mrs. Denise Mandigo	Mr. John Mandigo
Mrs. Lori Heywood	Mrs. Denise Ludwig	Mrs. Nicky Dietrich
Mrs. Jessica Dunning	Mr. John Frendreis	Mrs. Laura Valz
Mr. Gordon Pierce	Mrs. Donna Bergl	Mr. William Marcomb
Mr. Joe Mitchell	Ms. Suzanne Tauke	Mrs. Karen Wilberg

Approval of Consent Agenda:

As presented under the Consent Agenda, one motion was made by Mr. Gembara and seconded by Mrs. Kozenski to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and approve the Monday, October 24, 2016 regular minutes as amended. *(Under Public Input ...not included in the \$6.09 (not \$6.9) million budget for the design plan.)*

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0
Absent: 1 Mr. Lobodzinski

Mr. Lobodzinski entered the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Public Input

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

Mrs. Heywood asked about the \$125,000 operations and expense on she believed page 2 of the budget. Mrs. Heywood did not recall the exact line number, but wanted to confirm the expenditure. Dr. O'Brien said he would contact Mrs. Heywood the following day and answer the question.

Mrs. Mandigo questioned the approved consent agenda minutes regarding the expenses for the asbestos abatement. Mrs. Mandigo felt the minutes were incorrect because this should be under the facilities project. Mrs. Collins thanked her for her comment.

Mr. John Frendreis presented to the Board that this was his first time at one of GLS's board meetings. He explained he was a prior Board President of District 68 in Skokie. Mr. Frendreis appreciates the Board's hard work and that the Board should understand the message that was sent by the community with the referendum not being approved. His suggested to the Board to hold off on the \$6 million building project and postpone the major renovation until the new board is in place after the April election.

Report/Communications

Board Recognition

i. HEROES Essay Winners – Abby Bergl & Ashton Swanson

Dr. O'Brien stated that the Dare Program is no longer recognized in the state. Mrs. Plath explained the HEROES program. Ms. Davenport congratulated the two students and presented how the program runs eight weeks and what the students do to learn to become a hero. Ashton Swanson and Abby Bergl each read their essays and a picture was taken of the students. Gift cards will be given to the student at a later date.

ii. PRE-K Video

The PreK students presented their video to the Board this month. The PreK is currently working on sign language and the video displayed how the student can do the letter K, which is the hardest of all letters.

Strategic Planning Committee

Mrs. Collins explained the process that was taken and how the committee worked with the consultant, Joe Porto. Dr. O'Brien discussed the 4-week process and thanked the 19 stakeholders who participated in the process.

Dr. O'Brien then presented a power point presentation highlighting the Strategic Planning process, including the District beliefs and mission, the 3-year strategic goals and plan, and the greatness indicators that will be used to identify success.

Mrs. Caya asked "what now" with the Strategic plan? Dr. O'Brien replied that Mr. Koczorowski is the staff representative for the initial roll-out of the plan. The staff was presented with the beliefs and goals and following approval, the staff would be provided the overall strategic plan (goals and indicators). Following the initial roll-out, staff would be provided additional professional development to form the necessary committees. Mrs. Collins suggested that the Strategic Plan become a monthly revisit and be included in the monthly board packets.

One motion was made by Mrs. Fogel and seconded by Mr. Gembara to approve the Strategic Plan (2016) as presented by Dr. O'Brien.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes:	7	Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins
Nays:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Absent:	0	

Correspondence

None

Maintenance Report

Dr. O'Brien presented the water test results. Mrs. Collins also inquired who we used for the water testing and can we use a local health department. Dr. O'Brien said the company used for testing was PDC Laboratories in Peoria, Illinois. Dr. O'Brien would contact Lake County to investigate the options at the county level.

Instructional Report

Mrs. Rietschel stated that the Excel class report was missing from the Instructional Report. Dr. O'Brien replied that he will email the report tomorrow.

School Report

Mrs. Plath highlighted her report. She also highlighted that Grass Lake School is one of seven (7) schools in Lake County to present ALICE.

District Report

i. Student enrollment

The enrollment was highlighted as 176 in district with 10 out of district.

ii. PARCC Analysis

Dr. O'Brien presented the PARCC scores and highlighted external components, several concerns and the below state average scores.

He also highlighted that the PARCC is an elementary test and that is why the high schools are not included in the test scores. The reports presented just show the feeder schools into District 117.

Dr. O'Brien also highlighted the following results for the District:

- Students with IEP's are in red and that this makes up 20 to 23%.
- ELA-SPED did not score as well as low income students. Low income students are not showing any difference with overall student scores.
- 30 to 33% of low income in District.
- For Math/IEP – regular students (Non low income) are on a normal curve.

Mrs. Collins asked if our focus is on all categories of students. Mrs. Collins also asked if the students not meeting expectations is a priority and also is partially met a priority to increase results. She also asked the plans in place to improve the test scores. Mrs. Plath replied that we currently offer the before and after school tutoring program for students and that RtI students meets 3 to 5 days per week. Mrs. Plath also highlighted that there is additional and individual support for those students who choose to attend this two to three times a week.

Mrs. Collins also asked about the school's professional development for PARCC. Mrs. Plath stated that she has looked into a program through the ROE to come in for professional development for staff on a one to one basis.

Mrs. Rietschel inquired whether students that scored below or partially met are attending before and after school tutoring. Mrs. Plath will meet with the tutors and compile a list as the students sign in.

Mrs. Rietschel also talked about the "bubble effect". The bubble effect is a theory in regards to students that typically do well during the school year, but when test time

comes students have anxiety about testing and may score lower. She asked if this was something we can track.

Dr. O'Brien explained how standardized testing is designed for the majority of students under normal testing; however, some student may have text anxiety and those scores may not accurately reflect a minority of students taking the PARCC.

Mrs. Rietschel asked how the Junior High NHS is being launched at Grass Lake School. Mr. Koczorowski and Ms. Ryan are the lead teachers on this initiative. The teachers have reached out to other district to see how it is done.

FOIA Requests

No questions asked about the FOIA request(s).

IASB *

i. IASB Press Plus Updates *

Dr. O'Brien identified 2:125 of the recommended policies and indicated the Board to review the alternatives to "expenses". There are 4 options for the approval of Board expenses: At the start of 1) the fiscal year; 2) school year; 3) calendar year; 4) when presenting the proposed budget. The recommendation is to present during the proposed budget.

After some discussion, it was decided to table the policy until December for further review.

ii. School Board Governance Recognition

Dr. O'Brien spoke to Barb Toney to schedule a Board evaluation process. She is currently booked through all of 2016. Ms. Toney suggested that the Board do a summer booking.

Board Committee Reports/Professional Development

i. Joint Annual Conference of IASB/IASA/IASBO

This item was tabled until the December Board meeting.

Old Business

a. Cafeteria Tables*

Mrs. Fogel asked the Administration to give the Board a vision of what the building will look like and how it will be used in regards after the asbestos abatement with music and

art moving. The art classroom is scheduled to be reassigned to the multipurpose room and it is expected that the room would be crowded. The new cafeteria tables would only be partially used because art would be using part of the cafeteria for their instructional space.

Mrs. Rietschel asked if there are locking mechanisms on the proposed cafeteria tables. Dr. O'Brien did not know and he will look into this.

Due to the space and unknowns of the reassignments, the item was tabled until May 2017.

New Business

a. Approval of the 2016 Estimated Tax Levy *

- i.** Tax Levy options
- ii.** 5-year Projections
- iii.** 10-year Projection

Mrs. Rietschel asked if PMA is scheduled to come out and present the options as they have in the past. Dr. O'Brien replied that they are not scheduled.

Dr. O'Brien read the three scenarios for the estimated Tax Levy as prepared by PMA. It is Dr. O'Brien's recommendation to approve a 0% tax levy increase. Mrs. Collins strongly recommended a 0% tax levy plus a return of \$200,000. Mr. Lobodzinski supports Mrs. Collin's decision.

Dr. O'Brien and Mrs. Collins reminded the Board that tonight's meeting is a vote on an Estimated Tax Levy. The final approval will be in December.

One motion was made by Mrs. Collins and seconded by Mrs. Kozenski to approve the 2016 Estimated Tax Levy as recommended by Mrs. Collins (0% tax levy plus a return of \$200,000).

Motion not carried by roll call vote:

Ayes:	3	Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Lobodzinski, and Mrs. Collins
Nays:	4	Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel and Mrs. Fogel
Abstain:	0	
Absent:	0	

One motion was made by Mr. Gembara and seconded by Mrs. Fogel to approve the 2016 Estimated Tax Levy as recommended by Dr. O'Brien (0% tax levy)/

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes:	4	Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mrs. Rietschel and Mrs. Fogel
Nays:	3	Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Lobodzinski, and Mrs. Collins
Abstain:	0	
Absent:	0	

b. Gilbane AIA Contract*

The Gilbane contract is tabled until the December Board meeting.

Public Input

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

Mrs. Denise Mandigo stated that the 0% Tax Levy option is not actually a 0% tax levy and that the assessor did a blanket lobby. There was discussion in the audience with Mr. Frenreis stating that yes it is a 0% Tax Levy.

Mr. Mitchell went over his tax bill regarding how much it went up this past year. He stated it went up over \$2,000 that he paid just to Grass Lake School. The Board needs to relate what real dollars are to real people.

Ms. Tauke spoke regarding the real estate values and how they are not going up. If the house values increase more people will be living in them. She also stated that the biggest reason she is unable to sell homes is because our taxes are currently so high. If we lowered taxes, Grass Lake would be receiving actual tax money. Ms. Tauke also highlighted that currently on her vacant lots the District only receives \$100 per year per each vacant lot.

Mrs. Wilberg spoke regarding test scores. She inquired whether the students attending schools out of district take the PARCC test. Dr. O'Brien responded that he will get back to confirm all SPED were included in the analysis.

Mr. Pierce spoke in regards to the 10 (ten) year projection that Dr. O'Brien had explained during the tax levy discussion. Mr. Pierce's concern was that if the funds in 10 (ten) years will be decreased will this result in cutting current programs at the school. Dr. O'Brien stated that this may be a problem in 10 (ten) years if an erosion rate increases exponentially.

Mrs. Heywood stated that it is a good idea for Grass Lake School to do the strategic plan and she was happy to be a part of it. Mrs. Heywood feels our school is definitely moving in the right direction, but her main concern is why we spend so much per student. She requested if we can do an independent analysis of this and how do we fix it.

Mr. Williams asked if there are programs in Lake County that Administration can go to see how the high performing school achieve their results. Mrs. Collins replied that the Administration of GLS will get back to anyone that had questions.

Mr. Frenreis asked if the Board can go to the max recommended by Administration or financial planners. He thinks that a 0% tax levy is still unfair to the taxpayers. He expressed his thanks to the Board Members that wanted to reduce the tax levy.

Mrs. Mandigo asked what will cause the four Board members that voted for a 0% tax levy to change their mind.

Recognition of Media

No media present at the meeting.

Executive Session

At 8:34 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kozenski and seconded by Mrs. Collins 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	Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins
Nays:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Absent:	0	

The following members answered roll call at 8:44 p.m.: Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Open Session

At 11:31 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Kozenski and seconded by Mrs. RIETSCHEL to return to the open session.

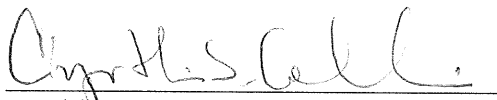
The following members answered roll call at 11:32 p.m.: Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Adjournment:

At 11:32 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kozenski and seconded by Mr. Gembara to adjourn the open meeting.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

Ayes:	7	Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins
Nays:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Absent:	0	



President



Secretary