

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 36
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2016**

Call to Order

Mrs. Collins called the Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Grass Lake School District #36 to order at 6:31 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Terry O'Brien, Superintendent
Mrs. Donna Plath, Principal
Mrs. Mary Capek, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Jan Taniguchi, STR Architects
Mr. Doug Lim, Gilbane Construction

Guests

Simone Oslage	William Marcomb	Denise Ludwig
Denise & John Mandigo	Donna Bergl	Lori Heywood
Holly Garvey	Tim Babin	Erich Olson
Nicky Dietrich	Marissa Casper	Karen Wilberg
Deanna Denman	Susan Kolk	Amanda Lutze
Gordon Pierce		

Approval of Consent Agenda:

As presented under the Consent Agenda, one motion was made by Mrs. Fogel and seconded by Mr. Lobodzinski to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and approve the Tuesday, September 20, 2016 regular minutes as amended. (*d. Water Filtering Systems * Nays: 1 Mrs. Collins (name missing)*)

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

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

Public Input

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

Mrs. Denise Mandigo requested to speak at the end of the meeting.

Report/Communications

Board Recognition

Prior to the Recognition Resolution, Dr. O'Brien presented a presentation that highlighted the projects that the 3rd and 5th grade classes did using the Green Screen app on their Ipad.

He also highlighted that Mrs. Curtis was recognized at the *Those Who Excel* program to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to our states' public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. Excellence, Meritorious Service and Special Recognition awards are presented in seven categories: classroom teacher, school administrator/principal, student support personnel (licensed), educational service personnel (unlicensed), school board member/community volunteer; team, and early career educator.

Dr. O'Brien publicly congratulated Mrs. Curtis on her achievement of Special Recognition as a classroom teacher at the *Those Who Excel* conference held on Saturday, October 22, 2016 in Bloomington/Normal. In addition, Mrs. Curtis was selected by staff and administration at Grass Lake School as Teacher of the Year 2016.

i. Recognition Resolution*

Dr. O'Brien recommended the adoption of the resolution to approve October as the month for the National Principal Recognition. In addition, the resolution proclaims Principal Week for October 16-22, 2016 and Friday, October 21, 2016 as Principals Day in Illinois by Governor Bruce Rauner.

One motion was made by Mr. Gembara and seconded by Mrs. Fogel to approve the adoption of the resolution for National Principals Month.

Motion carried by voice vote:

Ayes: 7 Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mr. Lobodzinski,
Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 0

Facilities Committee

- i. Facilities Project*
 - 1. Design Plans to Construction Plans*

Mrs. Kozenski and Mrs. Fogel presented to the Board and audience an overview of the decision making process in developing the details of the design plan. Both highlighted the committee meeting dates between June and October and how the proposed design plan meets most of the “guiding principles” criteria from the facilities planning committee. The proposed design is within the \$6 million budget. They highlighted their participation in the design phase and how the committee met for two hours every other week since June 16th. The design committee consisted of Mrs. Fogel, Mrs. Kozenski, GLS Administration, STR Architects, and Gilbane Construction.

Mr. Taniguchi, STR Architects, presented the proposed design and how the plan reflects an addition of 14,900 square feet to replace the 1947 wing. Discussion took place regarding the design being a one-story addition versus a second-story addition. Mr. Taniguchi presented the details of the design and noted that most areas of the facilities “guiding principles” were met. Mr. Lin of Gilbane Construction presented a proposed schedule.

Discussion took place regarding the height of the proposed learning center and how this will look esthetically versus the gymnasium’s height. STR and Gilbane highlighted that the view of the new learning center will look like the same height as the gymnasium.

Additional discussion took place regarding the ADA requirements and only meeting a portion of these requirements. STR presented that due to budget constraints, there is no accessibility to the lower level (Primary Wing) which would mean installing a lift. Further discussion also took place regarding the basement and the uses of the room downstairs. Discussion took place on how the basement will become a multi-use room.

The proposed plan shows the possibility of a small outdoor amphitheater at the current front entrance. Due to budget constraints, the plan shows a fence blocking off the current stairs to the front entrance. The current stairs cannot be removed due to the fact that the stairs are on top of the lower level ceiling. If the bids were to come in low, STR suggested that a request be made for an alternate bid for the amphitheater.

Dr. O’Brien highlighted that it is the recommendation of the Design Committee to approve the Architect’s Design Development concept, as presented, and authorize the Architect to prepare Bid Documents for the project.

One motion was made by Mrs. Rietschel and seconded by Mrs. Fogel to approve the Architect's Design Development concept, as presented, and authorize the Architect to prepare Bid Documents for the project.

Motion carried by roll call vote:

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

Nays: 1 Mr. Lobodzinski

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Correspondence

Mrs. Capek read a thank you note from the Benes family for the wonderful get together event at Richardson Farm sponsored by the Board of Education for staff and families.

Maintenance Report

No questions asked about this report.

Instructional Report

No questions asked about this report.

School Report

Mrs. Plath highlighted the visit on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 by Author Ben Mikaelson. He provided seminars for all of our GLS students throughout the school day and addressed the issues of bullying and self-respect. Mr. Mikaelson also conducted a writer's workshop to provide helpful hints to future aspiring authors. Mrs. Denman also highlighted how the author engaged with the younger grades and how her students enjoyed his presentation especially when they "*knocked his shoes and socks off*".

In addition, Mrs. Plath highlighted Mr. Larry Bell who provided an all-day professional development to GLS teachers on Friday, October 7th. The main goal of his presentation was to review and develop test taking strategies, address issues in the classroom that teachers can control and raise the level of expectation for instruction and student growth.

District Report

i. Student enrollment

No discussion took place on the enrollment.

ii. District Audit

Dr. O'Brien highlighted the District Audit. Discussion took place regarding the audit and Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins commented that the audit went extremely well.

iii. ISBE Audit

Dr. O'Brien highlighted the ISBE Audit for the 2013-2014 school year. He highlighted the audit adjustment summary report which explained the findings and reasons for adjustment(s).

iv. Consolidation Exploration

Dr. O'Brien presented the discussion results from the board meeting Thursday, October 20th at District 33. Emmons School District 33 was advised by their attorney that consolidation is an issue for voters, not school boards or administrators.

Dr. O'Brien expressed that he was "extremely pleased" that the Emmons officials took Grass Lake's request seriously and spent time researching the issue.

FOIA Requests

No questions asked about the FOIA request(s).

IASB Press Plus Updates *

No IASB Press Plus Updates for this meeting.

Board Committee Reports/Professional Development

i. Joint Annual Conference of IASB/IASA/IASBO

The Board was reminded of invites in the drop box for the joint annual conference in November.

Old Business

None

New Business

a. Morning Tutoring Program *

Mrs. Plath highlighted the tutoring program and how the Administration would like to expand the tutoring program to include an AM program. The program would start at approximately 7:00 a.m. and last 30 to 45 minutes per day. Currently, there is one

teacher that is providing students tutoring in the morning. The cost is \$25 per hour and Administration is anticipating an additional \$2,000 to \$2,500 for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.

Further discussion took place regarding the morning tutoring program and how 7 – 11 students are showing up for the program currently. Mrs. Plath reiterated that we would like to offer this on a more consistent basis versus the present two days a week. Further discussion took place regarding the program and board members expressed their views regarding the program. The Board initially motioned to approve the morning tutoring program and amended the motion as follows. The Board requested a review of the results based on students coming to the morning tutoring. Board members want to make sure that the program is being utilized for the right thing. Further discussion took place on reviewing the program at the end of Trimester 1. Additional discussion took place that this is a short period of time for reviewing the program.

One motion was made by Mrs. Kozenski and seconded by Mr. Gembara to approve the morning tutoring program with subject to review at the December Board meeting.

Motion not 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	

Public Input

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

Mrs. Denise Mandigo addressed the Board and attempted to recap her view from the Emmons Board meeting on Thursday night. She felt that the Board should be embarrassed by the neighboring district’s opinion of our district. Mrs. Mandigo also explained that it was apparent that no community member in Emmons District wanted to consider consolidation. She highlighted the statements by Emmons’ parents who felt our children would taint their school.

Mrs. Mandigo also asked what the addition of 14,900 square feet consisted of. Also, she requested the square footage of the administrative offices. Dr. O’Brien replied that he did not have the information readily available at this meeting. Mrs. Mandigo said she would email Dr. O’Brien for the specifics.

Further discussion took place regarding the placement of the students for Music and Art. Dr. O’Brien assured the Board and audience that there will be no mobile classrooms.

Additional discussion took place regarding the basement and Mr. Mandigo asked about the possibility of utilizing that space for a learning center. Mrs. Plath talked about the current basement and how there are posts non-removable that will block the flow of an open learning center.

Mrs. Plath also commented that GLS and Emmons will continue to strive to work together in terms of intergovernmental agreements and special education services with Emmons.

Mrs. Mandigo also inquired about the release of the construction schedule. Mr. Mandigo explained to the Board and her that it is too early for a construction schedule to be released.

Mrs. Heywood mentioned that the plans looked much different on the website. She recommended that the approved design plans be updated on the website.

Mrs. Heywood also inquired about the asbestos abatement project and was that project independent of the overall design plans. Dr. O'Brien explained that the asbestos abatement project is independent of the design project and results in the loss of classrooms. He proceeded to say that this will start in December under the current Operations & Maintenance fund and be approximately \$31,000. This is not included in the \$6.9 million budget for the design plan.

Mrs. Ludwig commented that when the water filtration unit arrived at the school that there should have been better communication to the parents regarding the use of this unit. She was not aware of this unit being installed and asked whether teachers were in compliance in allowing the students to utilize this unit.

Mrs. Lutze highlighted that she attended Emmons' Board Meeting on October 20, 2016. She prepared a formal statement for her to read at the GLS Board meeting. Mrs. Lutze, a concerned parent of four, attended the meeting out of curiosity having heard the rumors that our schools may potentially be considering a consolidation. Mrs. Lutze was shocked and extremely disappointed to hear what Emmons parents and community members had to say about our district. She explained that she was clearly naïve and uninformed as to the unacceptable state of our academic progress and the level to which we are failing our kids.

She explained that she is not an advocate for standardized testing, but that is the scale for comparison in the educational system. Mrs. Lutze has done her research on the ISBE website to see if there has been an improvement over time or if the results were at least trending in the right direction. She reiterated that there has been little change. Mrs. Lutze shared her opinion that there has been a gap in accountability. She further talked about accountability and the roles of Teachers, Administration and the Board of Education. Mrs. Lutze feels that in order for a change to happen there needs to be responsibility for the shortfalls this district has allowed to be adequate. Mrs. Lutze highlighted that changes need to be made until the test results exceeds expectations.

Mrs. Lutze had debated on whether to say anything tonight because she has been warned of the consequences of small town politics. But, her goal for being here tonight is to become more informed, get more involved and do whatever it takes to make this school great for our kids.

Mrs. Lutze complimented the Board and expressed her confidence in Mrs. Plath for her passion, going above and beyond to fix problems, and improve the school's social environment. She would like to know what steps the Administration is taking to improve the school's academic performance and restore our reputation within the surrounding communities. Mrs. Lutze feels that the improvement in academic performance and reputation will increase the property values again.

Mrs. Lutze also mentioned the website and how it has improved a little. She still feels that the website is lacking at communicating the school's vision for improvement and transformation.

The Board understands the comments and criticism of the GLS community and is aware of the things needed to be done. Mrs. Collins highlighted that the building is one of the components.

Ms. Oslage, a resident of the Emmons District #33, complimented the school on their board meeting and the various items the Board is trying to accomplish. She also highlighted that she liked the educational values she sees in the things discussed to improve the education for the students.

Mrs. Dietrich followed up on the water filtrating system and appreciated the water system. She said if there is a need for one maybe we should have purchased two. Further discussion took place about the water conditions and Dr. O'Brien assured her and the audience that there are no concerns about the water. Mr. Lobodzinski added that he was the one who commissioned to get the unit based on the complaints from his own children regarding the taste and look of the water.

Mr. Marcomb inquired about the testing of the water and suggested that there are companies out there that will test the water for all levels of contaminants. He explained that he has the water at his residence tested on a yearly basis.

Further discussion took place regarding the tests recently completed for the school and how the state only schedules for certain tests. The tests this year was for copper and lead. Both test results from the state show that the water at Grass Lake School is within the levels.

Recognition of Media

No media present at the meeting.

Executive Session

At 8:09 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kozenski and seconded by Mrs. Fogel 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 8:17 p.m.: Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Open Session

At 10:27 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Gembara and seconded by Mrs. Fogel to return to the open session.

The following members answered roll call at 10:27 p.m.: Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins

Adjournment:

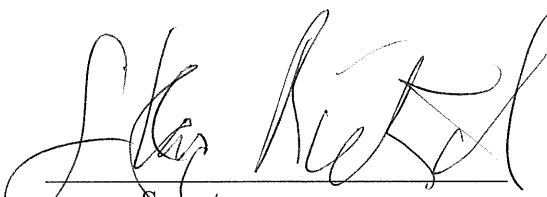
At 10:27 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Kozenski and seconded by Mrs. Collins to adjourn the open meeting.

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