

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT 36
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015**

Call to Order

Mrs. Collins called the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Grass Lake School District #36 to order at 7:00 pm.

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
Ms. Donna Shupe, Principal
Mrs. Mary Capek, Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Kateri Juszczyk, GLS Teacher
Mrs. Heather DelGrosso, GLS Teacher
Mrs. Denise Spokas, GLS Paraprofessional
Mr. David Coon, GLS Teacher
Mr. Jack Hall, GLS Teacher
Mr. Michael Spiwak, GLS Teacher
Mrs. Deanna Denman, GLS Teacher

Community Members:

John Mandigo	Karen Wilberg	Diane Page	Russ Page	Linda Vaughn
Terry Loe	Dennis Loe	Antionette Giamo	Stephanie Brown	Michael Chmela
Patricia Antonelli	Dorothy Zika	Stephen Ursino	Bill White	Sandee Vaughn
John Pifke	Corrine Parker	Patti Hans	Gary Slazes	Arun Sharma
Atula Sharma	Joanne Bergl	Karen Lobodzinski	Robin Wyatt	Mike Watt
Joe P.	Michael Vedner	Michael Vaughn	Kathy Gawel	Carol Buscemi
Robert Domas	Charles Wilberg	Roberta Domas	Ron Jenczewski	Frank Jrmasek
Jeff Bergl	Sandy Burke	Larry Burke	Susan Lamagdeline	Noel Lamagdeline
Lori Heywood	Patti Norton	Lew McGuire	Jan McGuire	Jill Tortorella
Pat Bletsch	George Schur	Tom Zawada	George Luote	Vita Luote
Barb Esterquest	Jim Esterquest	Pam Worklan	Trish McLaren	Denise Mandigo
Toma Blowers				

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Collins read a prepared statement regarding the proposed budget. The statement included the 1) December 2014 tax levy (revenue) and 2) the District's strategic long-term accumulation of revenue for the purposes of the facilities and 3) the District's goal to keep an 18-month fund balance.

Public Input

Community members requested to speak at the September 22, 2015 Special Board Meeting.

1. Mrs. Denise Mandigo – a copy of her presentation was given to the Board Members prior to the September 22nd meeting (attached item A). Mrs. Mandigo expressed concerns over the following items:
 - The continually dropping enrollment of Grass Lake School
 - Percentage of revenue funded by local taxes for Grass Lake School
GLS Fiscal Responsibility to Taxpayers
 - Impact of the budget on property taxes
 - Mrs. Mandigo encouraged the Board to utilize the surplus to provide improved, quality education while easing the tax burden
 - Mrs. Mandigo provided comparison of Grass Lake School District #36 to Emmons School District #33 and expressed her belief Grass Lake should consolidate with Emmons.
2. Mrs. Linda Vaughn – asked if the Board ever did an abatement of taxes like the high school. Mrs. Collins informed the audience that the tax levy would be discussed in November for approval.
3. Mr. Lewis McGuire – chose not to speak.
4. Mrs. Karen Wilberg – asked the Board what the extra money would be used for? Mrs. Wilberg highlighted that the school only needed a 3 – 6 months reserve versus the 18 months reserve the school currently has proposed. Mrs. Wilberg also asked since the budget is mandated to be approved will the Board to approve a more reasonable budget going forward?
5. Mr. Russ Paige – asked with the building surplus is the Board reviewing their plan and the needs of the school which includes the children, the community and the taxpayers.
6. Mr. John Mandigo – presented to Mrs. Collins a petition from residents that agree with that residents are paying too much in property taxes to Grass Lake School while not getting the benefit of a quality education (attached, Item B). Mr. Mandigo talked about the communication lacking in informing the community.

Also, Mr. Mandigo stated that this school reflects what the community is and that we need to work together to put the right plan together.

7. Ms. Antionette Giaimo – stated that she had a son who attended Grass Lake School some 29 years ago. Inquired why the need for a superintendent and a principal for only 156 students. Ms. Giaimo stated that the school needs to keep pushing the academics and the Board needs to have open meetings for the community to be informed.

Audience comments took place regarding the proposed referendum and Mrs. Collins called for public order and refrain from interrupting the meeting.

8. Mr. Charles Willberg – Mr. Willberg stated that he looked at the surrounding schools and found the GLS tax rate is significantly higher than any of the other schools. He also added that the tax payers in this district do not have a bottomless pocket of cash.
9. Ms. Susanne Tauke – owner of Newport Cove which was built in 2006 for 67 homesites. Ms. Tauke said only 24 houses were sold and each homeowner averages \$12,000 in taxes. Her main objection is the property taxes and how it is destroying the district. She also added that the future of the district is in the Board's hands.
10. Ms. Marion Rohde – commented on how her income cannot afford the tax dollars. She is concerned of what the future holds for her.
11. Mrs. Karen Lobodzinski – encouraged the Board to be proactive. Mrs. Lobodzinski stated that if one student does poorly in a small class, the test scores for the whole reflect this. She also stated that the State of Illinois is broke so why would we mimic a budget of the State. Mrs. Lobodzinski told the Board they were voted in and she appreciated all the hard work they do.
12. Ms. Terry Lowe – reiterated that taxes exceeds her pension dollars. Ms. Lowe felt an increase in population would not affect property taxes.
13. Mrs. Lori Heywood - mentioned the concerns with communication.
14. Mrs. Atula Sharma – stated she is in agreement of what the group is trying to achieve.

Prior to proceeding to the New Business, the public also commented on the website being up and down and information not being provided to the community. Mrs. Caya explained to the audience that every board meeting is held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The only meeting that was rescheduled for the year is the September meeting due to the approval of the budget. Also, Mr. Lobodzinski showed his nameplate to the

audience and asked for any of the attendees to contact him personally and he would be more than happy discuss any concerns with community members.

New Business

Discussion took place regarding the 2015-2016 GLS D36 Budget. Dr. O'Brien highlighted the revenue from the Federal, State and Local sources. Dr. O'Brien further discussed the expenditure funds. Lastly, Dr. O'Brien stated the budget was balanced and met the 18-month reserve.

a. Approval of the 2015-2016 GLS D36 Budget *

One motion was made by Mr. Gembara and seconded by Mrs. Fogel to approve the budget for the 2015-2016 school year at the Budget Hearing Special Board Meeting on September 22, 2015.

Motion was carried by roll call vote:

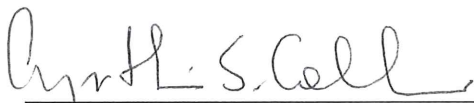
Ayes:	7	Mrs. Kozenski, Mr. Gembara, Mrs. Caya, Mr. Lobodzinski, Mrs. Rietschel, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Collins
Nays:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Absent:	0	

Adjournment


At 8:05 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Fogel and seconded by Mr. Lobodzinski to adjourn the Budget Hearing Special Board meeting.

Motion was 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