

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON / GRAFTON SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 3, 2010

The Village of Grafton / Grafton School District Liaison Committee meeting was called to order by Village Clerk Teri Dylak.

Motion Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to appoint Sue Meinecke as Chair Pro-tem for this meeting. Approved unanimously.

Village of Grafton Committee members present: Sue Meinecke and Lisa Harbeck

Grafton School District representatives present: School Superintendent Dr. Jeff Pechura, John Long Middle School Principal Greg Kabara and Grafton High School Principal Ken McCormick

Staff/Officials present: Village Administrator Darrell Hofland and Village Clerk Teri Dylak

MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to approve the May 12, 2009 Village/School Liaison Committee meeting minutes, as presented. Approved unanimously.

HEAR PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

None.

JOHN LONG MIDDLE SCHOOL VOTING LOCATION

Village Clerk Teri Dylak indicated that residents' response to the new voting location at John Long Middle School (JLMS) was very positive. Election staff received many favorable comments from voters at the April election.

Staff will be working on better signage for parking locations and marking of entrances to the polls for the fall elections. All staff at JLMS was very helpful and willing to work with us to make the voting experience positive for the residents of the Village of Grafton.

Barbara Duff, 1810 17th Avenue, was present to discuss her concerns regarding the current voting location. Mrs. Duff previously expressed concerns with the logistics of the new location at the April 20 Village Board meeting. She also was concerned that the JLMS location was not as visible at the previous voting location at Grafton Elementary School or at Grafton High School, which are located on Washington Street (STH 60).

Mrs. Duff commented that, on the day the April election was held, school was not in session making it easier for voters to park and access the polls. She suggested that

Village staff witness typical school day traffic to get a better idea of traffic flow and pedestrian access to the school building.

Principal Kabara indicated that he is willing to inform parents that pick-up of students on election days will occur in the east parking lot to lessen traffic congestion at the front of the building.

Mrs. Dylak commented that Mrs. Duff was concerned with access to the site because of curbing. She indicated that a Polling Place Accessibility review was completed and the site passed the review. The required review includes parking and handicap accessibility. She stated that in the event a voter has difficulty accessing the voting site there is a provision to provide a "ballot at the door". This allows the voter to vote in their vehicle rather than having to walk into the voting site. The Village of Grafton currently has 3-4 voters who utilize this option on a regular basis.

Principal Kabara indicated that there may be a problem with using the large gymnasium for the November, election due to a conflict with the fall musical.

Mrs. Dylak stated that the remaining 2010 elections are scheduled for September 14 and November 2. She will work with the school on voting site access and parking. In addition, more signage will be used to direct voters to the parking areas and entrance to the polls.

Mrs. Duff commented that it appears we are dependent upon a school facility for voting purposes. Village Administrator Hofland responded that, unfortunately, the Village does not have a site large enough to accommodate elections. The School District has been very generous in allowing the Village to use their facilities and the two entities have had a good working relationship for many years

Mrs. Duff commented that she was motivated to come forward on this matter because she has lived in the Village of Grafton since 1970 and votes regularly. She expressed concern with the previous poll location at Grafton High School (GHS), and being shuffled to several locations with the school facility. Now the voting has been moved to JLMS. She commented that she just wanted to find out what caused the change.

Principal McCormick commented that the relocation of the polls from GES was based on a safety concern for the younger students at the school. Holding the elections at John Long Middle School is the best possible solution.

Mrs. Duff commented that it is important to have as much voter participation as possible, so it is important to advertise the new location. She questioned if the Village will utilize the large electronic signs on STH 60 for future elections. Mrs. Dylak responded yes.

Mrs. Duff thanked the Committee for their time in discussing this important issue.

IMPACT OF NEW COLUMBIA ST. MARY'S CLINIC (TO BE LOCATED ON CHEYENNE COURT) ON GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL

The Committee briefly discussed the new Columbia St. Mary's Clinic to be located on Cheyenne Court immediately east of the Grafton High School property. A meeting was held between School District representatives and Village staff to review the plans for the new facility and to discuss the impact of the development on traffic on Cheyenne Court.

Principal McCormick indicated that the High School parking lot will likely lose a couple of parking spaces in the winter to accommodate snow storage. Snow has been previously stored on the adjacent parcel, with the property owner's permission. Principal McCormick also commented that the lot line of the two parcels will need to be identified so there is a clear distinction in the property boundaries for the students.

The issue of parking on Cheyenne Court was briefly discussed. The possibility of allowing parking only one side of the street will be discussed further at the next Public Safety Committee meeting in July.

Principal McCormick stated that there are approximately 130 student vehicles accessing the High School parking lot on a daily basis. Administrator Hofland informed the members that Form and Fitness is not currently concerned with parking on Cheyenne Court; however, they are considering an expansion of their facility which will increase traffic on Cheyenne Court.

The School District will be sent an agenda for the July Public Safety Committee meeting regarding the parking situation on Cheyenne Court.

UPDATE ON DECREED FORESTED AREAS ON GROUNDS AT GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL AND WOODVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Superintendent Pechura indicated that the Grafton High School Science teacher Bob Bewell has established a decreed forest area at the High School and a nature trail at Woodview Elementary School. The purpose of these areas is to educate students on maintaining our forest and green space. The project includes a nature curriculum and site activities and amenities. The project also goes with the new Village of Grafton brand of "Quality Life. Naturally." as well as the Village's sustainability efforts

Administrator Hofland suggested that the School contact River Edge Nature Center for additional information. They work with many groups to provide cooperative projects for nature protection and education.

PAYING OF CROSSING GUARDS BY GRAFTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrator Hofland indicated that he has discussed the possibility of the School District paying for the various crossing guards, used throughout the school year, with Superintendent Pechura. The Cedarburg School District has been funding the Thorsen Elementary School crossing guards for a number of years.

Superintendent Pechura stated that he is willing to include in the District budget the funding of crossing guards. The School District is the sole beneficiary of the service provided by the guards and should be responsible for paying for that service.

Administrator Hofland stated that the approximate cost for the service is \$16,000 per year. The funding would begin with the 2011-2012 school year. He suggested that the District review their crossing guard needs and work with the Grafton Police Department to establish coverage needed for any new areas.

Superintendent Pechura stated that the busing of children will also be reviewed. The cost of busing is over \$30,000 which may be able to be lessened with additional crossing guards.

FUTURE DISTRICT/COMMUNITY ATODA TASK FORCE AND ADDRESSING ISSUES FOR GRAFTON TEENS

Superintendent Pechura briefly discussed a drug and alcohol task force being established to review drug and alcohol abuse by Grafton area teens. Unfortunately, the Grafton School District has recently has several tragedies involving students. The students need to be fully aware of the consequences of drug and alcohol use and the resulting tragedies that can occur.

The District is looking to establish a committee of community members, including students, clergy, business owners and parents to work in a strategy to address this important issue. Turning a blind eye to the situation will not make it disappear. The District needs to be pro-active and admit there is a problem in order to repair the damage that has been done.

The Committee will be working on a curriculum that focuses on many options including abstinence. Many times there are underlying problems that cause students to use drugs and alcohol which need to be addressed up front.

Student Services Director Marty D'Amato will be the main contact for the committee. It is hoped that the program will start at the High School and then move to the lower grades as well.

Principal McCormick stated that they currently see an increase in drug and alcohol use in the 10th grade students, but have found that the thought process for the use begins in 8th grade. He also would like the Parochial schools to eventually participate in the program.

Paramount Grille owners Brian Bernier and Lisa Docter have sponsored events for teens at their restaurant which provides an outlet for students to unwind and mingle in a safe environment.

Trustee Meinecke commented that the former Pick 'n Save building would make a great youth center.

It is anticipated that the Task Force will be formed this summer and be ready to go with the new school year. Trustee Meinecke indicated that she is willing to serve on the task force.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Hofland stated that the Board of Public Works will be discussing, at their June meeting, the transfer of funds from the Municipal Services Facility budget for an electronic message board sign. The sign can be used for municipal and school events and will be a cooperative project between the two entities. The sign design will include a joint Village/School District header.

Principal McCormick questioned if the upcoming Ride for the Arts event will conflict with the High School graduation activities. Administrator Hofland responded that the event does not include any road closures and should have no impact on graduation.

The tennis courts at John Long Middle School were briefly discussed. Administrator Hofland will have Director of Parks and Recreation John Safstrom contact Principal Kabara to work on the location and number of courts. Superintendent Pechura stated that there is no funding for this project, at this time.

ADJOURN

Motion Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.
Approved unanimously.