

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON / GRAFTON SCHOOL DISTRICT* LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015

***AMENDED**

Village Administrator Darrell Hofland called the Village of Grafton / Grafton School District Liaison Committee to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

Grafton School District Committee members present: Grafton School Board President Terry Ziegler and Grafton School Board Treasurer Paul Lorge and Building and Grounds Jamie Scofield

Village and School Staff present: School Superintendent Dr. Mel Lightner, Village Administrator Darrell Hofland, Director of Planning and Development Jessica Wolff, Chief of Police Charles Wenten, District Building and Grounds Jamie Scofield, Sergeant David Podewils, Senior Coordinator/Recreation Program Supervisor Karin Sevener, and Deputy Village Clerk Nicole Kline

Other Officials present: Trustee David Liss and Trustee David Antoine

Public present: News Graphic Reporter Melanie Boyung

MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to approve the February 27, 2013 Village/School Liaison Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

Superintendent Lightner commented on the meetings minutes that in the past there was some hesitation to use school for voting but he does not have any concerns. The biggest impacts are increased traffic and the need to notify the voters of which entry door to use. Dr. Lightner believes it is good for children to see the democratic process. Dr. Lightner also pointed out that the School District has done a lot of work with safety and security. A buzz in system and cameras have been installed. Appreciation was expressed for the help of the Police Department in this endeavor.

Motion passed.

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

None

SCHOOL DISTRICT PARKING LOTS – TRAFFIC/PEDESTRIAN

Trustee Meinecke stated that parking lots are very chaotic and school rules are not enforced. There is no staff from the school outside to enforce traffic rules. These problems have been brought to the attention of the school officials as well as to the Police Department.

Superintendent Lightner pointed out that Grafton schools were designed before there was so much traffic and the best fix would be to redesign the parking lots and traffic flow. For Woodview Elementary School, a driveway could be added to the side of the school as a dedicated area for student drop offs. There is land available at Woodview Elementary and John Long Middle Schools to make such changes but not at Grafton Elementary and Kennedy Elementary Schools. Unfortunately it would cost up to a quarter of a million dollars and it would have to go to referendum. There should be a turn lane off of WIS 60 to Grafton Elementary School. It was asked what alternatives Director Wolff and Mr. Scofield have explored thus far. Director Wolff responded that mostly the busing issues have been explored so far.

Trustee Meinecke pointed out that it would be free if the School District could just use its staff to police the lot. Dr. Lightner responded that people might not still follow the rules of traffic flow. Some new measures were taken at Grafton Elementary School to have parents pull all of the way up and it has not had a big impact. Chief Werten's suggested first and least expensive option is to get parental buy in. If you can change the behavior of the biggest offenders, others will follow. The staff needs to be actively involved in directing traffic.

Dr. Lightner commented that the only real solution is to separate bus, car and pedestrian traffic. It was agreed this would need more discussion.

Trustee Meinecke questioned what the specific planning/zoning regulations are a factor to be considered in making changes to the parking lots and sidewalks. Director Wolff responded that it is more a problem of topography and design concerns rather than Village ordinances. For example, hills make it difficult to add ADA compliant sidewalks and it would create traffic problems to have two entrances on Fifth Avenue too close together.

Dr. Lightner was asked by Committee members if the school site designer they are working with for the Facility Study could evaluate the site for an intermediate solution. Dr. Lightner agreed to this.

UPDATE ON VILLAGE STAFFING AND USE OF CROSSING GUARDS

Chief Werten reported that there is still one open crossing guard position. Administrator Hofland reported that the open position is the second position on 17th Avenue/WIS 60. There have not been applications for this position even though it has been advertised on the Village of Grafton website and Facebook page. Dr. Lightner volunteered that the Grafton School District could help advertise for the position.

SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FUNDING OF CROSSING GUARD PROGRAM

Superintendent Lightner reported that the School District would like the Village to take over the cost of the crossing guards. Dr. Lightner expressed that the School District's budget is shrinking next year and there will be layoffs. State Statute 349.215 assigns the authority to hire, train and fire crossing guards to the municipality. The School

District believes that it is rare for school district to pay the cost of crossing guards. It is reported to cost an estimated \$20,000 annually. Dr. Lightner asked for an explanation of why this cost was shifted from the Village to the School District in 2010.

Administrator Hofland stated that the function of the crossing guard, much like the function of bussing, is to get the children safely to school. This should be the responsibility of the school and therefore the School District should pay for the cost, just like they do with busing. He pointed out that in 2010 Cedarburg was already paying for the crossing guard for the Cedarburg School District portion of the Village of Grafton.

Administrator Hofland stated that there is a State Statute addressing financing of crossing guards by school districts. It states that if the school district and the municipality agree, the school can pay for the costs.

Trustee Meinecke inquired if parents could volunteer to be crossing guards or if there is another way to get parent and teachers groups involved. Chief Wenten pointed out that volunteers would need to be committed long term because there is significant training involved because of dangers. Also managing the volunteers would be cumbersome.

Superintendent Lightner explained that the Grafton School District is struggling financially.

PROPOSED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S BUILDING USE PRIORITY AND FEES

Dr. Lightner reported that the School District has new software for people to request facilities' use online. Historically, the district has allowed many groups to use the facilities without charging the organizations. Some of the groups that use the buildings are for profit. It costs the school a lot of money to open the facilities to these groups. The School District is proposing a tiered system of charges depending on the organization type to recapture some of these costs. Dr. Lightner always has the approval to waive fees when appropriate.

Administrator Hofland though it important to point out some of the services the Village provides at no cost to the Grafton School District. In the past, the Village and the School District have had a good relationship of working together. A few of the ways the Village has helped the School District are: financially helped to purchase the new School District surveillance system, working with the library to have books that the students need for school, the Police Department provides the School District with a juvenile officer, and Parks and Recreation Department allows the schools to use their facilities at no charge.

Senior Coordinator/Recreation Program Supervisor Karin Sevener pointed out that it is not fair that the Parks and Recreation Department is charged the same as some for profit groups. All of the activities that Parks and Recreation Department operates in school facilities would need to significantly increase in the fees to the participants.

Dr. Lightner explained that these fees are to cover costs the School District incurs for being open extra hours such as electricity, heat and cleaning fees. This is not unusual for school districts to charge parks and recreation departments.

Trustee Meinecke and Trustee Harbeck pointed out that historically there has been reciprocity between the School District and the Village and these new fees are not in that spirit of reciprocity. Many of these are programs directly benefit the children of the Grafton School District.

Dr. Lightner pointed out that the School District does not charge for the use of the school for elections. The new fees are in recognition that are costs are going up to use the facilities.

Trustee Meinecke asked why the YMCA does not get charged for the use of the school before and after school care. Dr. Lightner explained because that is a program that directly benefits the children. Trustee Meinecke responded that many if the Parks and Recreation Department programs also directly benefit the children and therefore, wondered why the Parks and Recreation Department would be charged and not the YMCA.

Dr. Lightner conceded that the costs of programs for adults and for children could be considered separately. Administrator Hofland asked if Dr. Lightner would reevaluate the fee structure. Dr. Lightner responded that if the Village would reevaluate who pays for crossing guards, the School District will reevaluate the fees for the programs. Dr. Lightner suggested splitting the costs of the crossing guards.

Treasurer Lorge explained that the district is in a difficult situation. The school district's ability to impact the children is a benefit to the Village at large. Dr. Lightner questioned Administrator Hofland if the Village would reconsider who pays for the crossing guards. Administrator Hofland declined.

Administrator Hofland and Director Sevenser expressed concern about the shifting priorities of who gets scheduled to use school district facilities. Dr. Lightner responded that children's programs get first priority and are scheduled earlier while adult uses are scheduled later.

UPDATE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SURVEILLANCE INITIATIVE

Chief Wenten asked for an update on if the surveillance program is being expanded in the school. Dr. Lightner reported that cameras have been installed and have proven useful. Chief Wenten asked if the Police Department was going to get access to those camera feeds. Dr. Lightner explained that it is part of the district's plan but currently there is a severe shortage of technology staff. Chief Wenten suggested that the Police Department could help with this and that the Police Department has staff with technical expertise.

SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FACILITY STUDY

Dr. Lightner reported that the School District is looking for more people to volunteer to help with the Facility Study. It needs to be considered if these old facilities are worth repairing. A new school would generate growth in new housing construction. There is a lot of land that is open for development but some is in the Town of Grafton. It would be best to be in the Village of Grafton and to have access to water and sewer resources.

Administrator Hofland replied that the Village will discuss areas where land is available with access to water and sewer at an upcoming meeting.

Dr. Lightner reported that the plan is for the first meeting to be April 16. More of the community will be involved by use of surveys and other techniques. It should ready to go the School Board by November or December. It would be ready to go to a referendum a year from now during a general election.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Hofland expressed his opinion that the Village appreciates its relationship with the School District. When The Village surveys Village residents about what they are happy with the Village, the quality of schools is always in the top three.

ADJOURN

Motion by School Board Treasurer Lorge, seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. Approved unanimously.