

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Work Session – October 13, 2025
MINUTES

President DuFort called the meeting to order at p.m. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of ***Board Members:*** Coban Holmes, Matt Oppenheim, Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon, Ashley Kuykendoll and Denise DuFort. ***Board Members Absent:*** Kali Steves. ***Central Office Administrators:*** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. ***Others in Attendance:*** Melissa Mazzola, Jon Ringlein, Kevin Garthe and Kim Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2024-2025 AUDIT PRESENTATION – Jon Ringlein, CPA, Maner Costerisan

Jon Ringlein of Maner Costerisan provided the board with an overview of the 2024-2025 Audit reviewing the Financial Statements, Internal Controls, Compliance for Major Programs, Governance Letter and the Management Letter. He reviewed the balance sheet of assets and liability, the statement of revenues, expenditure and changes in the fund balance, budget comparison, revenue in the General Fund, including an overview of the three-year trend, expenditure from the General Fund including an overview of the three-year trend, and the three-year trend of the fund balance. In closing he noted the district has a strong 18.30% fund balance, which is in line with MSBO's recommendation of 15-20%, noted the implementation of GASB 101 and GASB 102 with future implementations of GASB 103 and 104 still to come.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION UPDATE – C. STAFF RELATIONS

Superintendent Barnes provided the board with an update regarding Staff Relations. He reviewed the goal for each of the goals areas including staff feedback, staff communication, personnel matters, delegation of duties, recruitment, labor relations and visibility in the district and provided current initiatives and evidence that support the progress for each goal area.

C. FACILITIES UPDATE – NEXT STEPS

Superintendent Barnes reviewed the presentation from August 2025 reviewing the purpose of the discussion, the past facility upgrades priority updates from 2022, 2024 and 2025, provided the 2018 bond highlights, and reviewed future district needs along with additional future needs for consideration. He advised we are looking at putting out

some Request For Proposals (RFPs). This doesn't change our current bond partners. For transparency, he noted this is to look at considerations for possible future bond or sinking fund proposals noting this is the conversation that needs to start taking place. If we want to live up to the expectations of our district and our community, we must continue to grow and look to the future.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes and the September 29, 2025 Retreat Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 AUDIT

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2024-2025 Audit, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GLPS MEMBERSHIP IN THE WMHIP INSURANCE POOL FOR A MINIMUM THREE-YEAR PERIOD

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to authorize Grand Ledge Public Schools Membership in the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool for a minimum three-year period, as presented.

Dr. Barnes expressed his appreciation to Ms. Barna and Ms. Jones for getting us here. He thanked the members of our Insurance Committee, for helping make the decisions on what we are going to do for our employees with regard to health insurance. He provided information on the health pool noting they only deal with public sector groups. The health pool allows the ability to spread the risk out over a far greater pool of people which keeps costs low. He noted employees will have a number of options that may put more money in our employees' paychecks.

Chief Financial Officer Adrienne Barna, also thanked the member of the Health Advisory Committee and reiterated this plan has very minimal cost increases with many employees seeing cost reductions. She noted open enrollment is the first week of November, but prior to this, the district will offer opportunities for employees to come and see what the plan offers.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Holmes	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>
Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>

Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>
President DuFort	<u>YES</u>

The motion carried unanimously.

D. PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Shannon seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$12,106.80, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this was reviewed at the Board Bond and Sinking Fund Committee prior to the meeting and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents work for the Neff secure entrance.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of General Capital Projects Invoices in the amount of \$69,174.93, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this was reviewed at the Board Bond and Sinking Fund Committee prior to the meeting and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents a payment to the Department of Treasury noting there is a cap on how much the district can earn on bonds.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 3 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$732,694.51, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this was reviewed at the Board Bond and Sinking Fund Committee prior to the meeting and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents work at the high school.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 4 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Invoices in the amount of \$1,201,745.65, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this was reviewed at the Board Bond and Sinking Fund Committee prior to the meeting and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents Clark progress billing and work at Hayes, Willow Ridge and Operations.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Mr. Deschaine reminded everyone tickets for Footloose are on sale now and encouraged everyone to get their tickets as they are going fast.

Dr. Barnes thanked the members of his Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) noting tonight he presented the last evaluation presentation commenting that while he is sharing the information, it is a culmination of the work of the leadership team.

Mr. Holmes also encouraged everyone to get their tickets to Footloose and thanked Ms. Barna and her team for the work they do to bring in a clean audit.

Mr. Oppenheim shared details from his visit to Ashley Allison's, Shawn Bronson's and Natalie Queen's classrooms last Wednesday.

Dr. Glasscoe noted the Education Foundation is set to review this year's teacher grant applications commenting the information provided tonight gives a better idea of what is needed and how it fits in. She thanked President DuFort and Dr. Barnes for the recent Board Retreat. In closing she remarked Dr. Barnes is very visible in the community and the region and thanked everyone for what they have done for employee benefits.

Ms. Shannon congratulated the Cross-Country team, commended the band exhibition last Wednesday noting she loves seeing the all the bands and remarked the Grand Ledge band community were fabulous hosts.

Ms. Kuykendoll gave shout outs for the band exhibition, noting they recently took 1st place in a competition and to the Cross Country team. She thanked everyone for their work on employee health benefits and being proactive to find something good for our employees. In closing she shared her recent experience at MSU's Women In Leadership Institute in which she was a guest speaker.

President DuFort also thanked Ms. Barna and her team for the audit and congratulated the Cross Country team. She shared she visited Hayes last week and was able to see the new CKLA curriculum in action. She also noted she attended the most recent Wacousta PTIA meeting where comments were made about how engaging the new CKLA curriculum is remarking she is pleased to have a strong language arts curriculum that incorporates social studies and science. She shared information regarding Wacousta and Holbrook Counselors, Kelsey Connor and Kelsey Burzinski for seeking our RAMP certified noting this is a very detailed process and commended them for going above and beyond anything that is required of them. She commended the district for their work to bring a favorable benefits plan to employee. She recognized the recent Hall of Fame induction ceremony and the military recognition. In closing she expressed her appreciation to Dr. Barnes and the team for continuing to look at our facilities needs and commented the board retreat was a great event providing the members the opportunity to grow together.

ADJOURNMENT

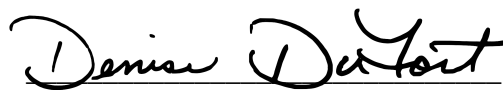
The meeting adjourned at 7:39p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Attest:



Denise DuFort, President