

**GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
*Board of Education***

Work Session - January 8, 2024

MINUTES

President Shannon called the meeting to order at 6:42 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:** Nicole Shannon, Denise DuFort, Ashley Kuykendoll, Jarrod Smith, Jon Shiflett, Ben Cwayna and Toni Glasscoe **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Tim Totten, Jan M. Seeger, Brenton Bell, Kim Laforet, Ashleigh Lore, Sally Jo Nelton, Melissa Mazzola and Kim Manning

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

January is School Board Recognition Month in Michigan. Dr. Barnes took a moment to recognize the dedication and commitment of our Board of Education members and presented them with a small token of appreciation. He thanked them for their service to the community noting he understands it can sometimes be a thankless job but he appreciates working with all the members and appreciates the work they do.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kuykendoll provided an overview for providing public comment to the board.

Melissa Mazzola addressed the board on behalf of the Grand Ledge Education Association expressing their appreciation for each of the members noting that serving may be stepping into a position outside your comfort zones and she appreciates them taking that step.

DISCUSSION & PRESENTATION ITEMS

A. Strange School District

Dr. Barnes provided the board with background information noting that the Strange School District does not currently have a board of education which is required by the state. He noted the Eaton RESA is currently overseeing the district, but any contingent district has the opportunity to absorb the district. He noted he does not recommend this for Grand Ledge Public Schools remarking he is not sure we are in a position to effectively take that over and run it the way it should be run noting students who attend the district are passionate about that style of learning.

A detailed discussion among the members noted there are only there are only 28 students currently enrolled in the Strange School District, all of those students are schools of choice, this is a completely separate district from Grand Ledge Public

Schools, Potterville Public Schools has expressed interest in absorbing Strange School District into their district.

Consensus of the board that Grand Ledge Public Schools is not interested in taking on the Strange School District voluntarily.

B. Communications Department Presentation

Director of Communications John Ellsworth provided the board with an overview of the responsibilities of the Communications Department.

Each of the members of the board thanked Mr. Ellsworth for the thorough presentation and the work he does on behalf of the district.

ACTION ITEMS

A. 1ST READING OF NEOLA BOARD POLICIES

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to Waive the first reading of the Neola Board Policies, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A detailed discussion among the members noted this will “clean up” the policies that presented questions for the members during the first review and provided updated policies the district received from NEOLA in response to new PERA legislation.

Ms. Shannon reviewed each of the policies and shared the recommendations of the Governance Committee which the members accepted.

B. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Meeting Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

President Shannon noted this includes the meeting minutes of the December 11, 2023 Regular Meeting and Closed Session and the minutes.

C. APPROVAL OF STUDENT INCLUSION, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS SUPERVISOR HIRING

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the hiring of Juan Castillo as the district’s Student Inclusion, Mental Health & Wellness Supervisor, as presented. The motion carried 6-1.

D. APPROVAL OF TEACHER HIRING

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Hiring of Charlotte Janksy, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF BUS PURCHASE

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to purchase of one (1) conventional, 77-passenger school bus from Midwest Transit in the amount of \$140,013.92, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

F. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$1,900,873.98, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 1 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 2, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$191,168.00, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

H. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$13,549.00, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

John Ellsworth thank the board for their service.

Superintendent Barnes thanked outgoing President Smith, congratulated the new officers, thanked Mr. Ellsworth noting he makes his life much easier, thanked the board for their support of the Student Inclusion, Mental Health and Wellness Supervisor remarking he is excited to have Juan join the team, congratulated Charlotte and remarking that while the board meetings may be longer than they used to be, that is credit to the work we are doing and nature the board is approaching that work.

Dr. Glasscoe commented the Grand Ledge Education Foundations Night of Stars was an amazing night, gave a shout out to Dr. Gabriel for taking the lead with GLEF's Comet Chase, thanked Mr. Smith for his service as Board President, and expressed appreciation for Nicole, Denise and Ashley stepping into new leadership roles and noting she is looking forward to a wonderful 2024.

Mr. Smith thanked Mrs. Manning for her assistance throughout his tenure as Board President.

Ms. Kuykendoll wished everyone a Happy 2024 noting she is looking forward to the board's continued collaboration.

President Shannon thanked all of her colleagues commenting 2023 was great and 2024 is off to a great start.

CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations Strategies, as Per Section 8(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

The motion carried unanimously at 8:12 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:46 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

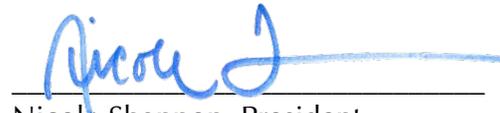
The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Ashley Kuykendoll, Secretary



Nicole Shannon, President