

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Work Session - January 12, 2026
MINUTES

President Kuykendoll called the meeting to order at 6:35p.m. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Matt Oppenheim, Kali Stevens, Nicole Shannon, Denise DuFort, Coban Holmes, Toni Glasscoe and Ashley Kuykendoll. ***Board Members Absent***: None. ***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, Allyson McCann, Michael Payne and Kim Manning.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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 noting our board is very involved and very engaged and he feels fortunate to have the board we have to support teaching and learning.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING UPDATE

Superintendent Barnes provided background on the district's partnership with Boldly Moving Education Ahead (BMEA) through a grant with the Eaton RESA to allow us to create a more culturally responsive environment.

Michael Payne, BMEA Chief of Strategy and School Partnership provided the board with a detailed overview and answered questions from the members regarding the work of BMEA and the philosophy from which the organization was born.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2025 REGULAR MEETING AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting and Closed Session Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF TEACHER HIRING

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the hiring of Sarah Gooley and Jenna Fish, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF COMET ACADEMY STUDENT HANDBOOK

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2025-2026 Comet Academy Student Handbook, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the second revision to the School Resource Officer Agreement between Grand Ledge Public Schools and the City of Grand Ledge, as presented, and direct Superintendent Bill Barnes to execute the Agreement on behalf of the district. The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF ARCHITECTURAL FIRM

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve TMP for Architectural Services for all future construction projects as outlined in the RFP and instruct Superintendent Bill Barnes to work to secure and execute a contract on behalf of Grand Ledge Public Schools.

Superintendent Barnes provided the board with background information noting that while it is not a requirement that the district conduct a Request for Proposals for Architectural of Construction Management services, the district felt it was important for transparency. He went on to provide a detailed presentation of the process highlighting how TMP and Clark Construction Company rose to the top through the in-depth interview process.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT FIRM

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Clark Construction Company for Construction Management Services for all future construction projects as outlined in the RFP and instruct Superintendent Bill Barnes to work to secure and execute a contract on behalf of Grand Ledge Public Schools.

Superintendent Barnes shared that while the district has a strong history working with Clark Construction Company they were held to the same standards as every other RFP submitted. He expressed his appreciation that Clark Construction Company took the process seriously and conducted their interview as if no relationship were present.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2025-2026 Budget Amendment, as presented.

Chief Financial Officer Adrienne Barna provided a detailed overview of the 2025-2026 budget amendment noting an increase in revenue due to increases in local, state and federal revenues along with incoming transfers. She went on to review increases in expenditures as a result of employee compensation, MPSERS Section 147c, supplies and materials, early college tuition increases, special education transportation increases and capital outlay. In closing she noted this budget amendment reflects an ending fund balance of 15.27% of revenues.

A Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Holmes	<u>YES</u>

Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>
Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>

The motion carried unanimously.

H. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$21,974.00, as presented.

Mrs. DuFort noted reflects work at the Operations Building and the Neff vestibule heater.

The motion carried unanimously.

I. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 3 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$30,612.88, as presented.

Mrs. DuFort noted this represents progress billing from Clark Construction Company and work at the high school.

The motion carried unanimously.

J. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 4 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$145,914.18, as presented.

Mrs. DuFort noted this represents Clark progress billing, office furniture for Willow Ridge and A/V at Hayes and trades work at Wacousta as well as a final payment for Hayes.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Communications Director John Ellsworth acknowledged January is School Board Appreciation Month and expressed appreciation for the members willing ness to serve the public good, our students, and families and community at large.

Deputy Superintendent Steve Gabriel announced registration for the Grand Ledge Education Foundation's Comet Chase will open this Friday, January 16th.

Superintendent Barnes remarked tonight was a good example of the work that is happening in the district and why we are on such an upward trajectory. He expressed his appreciation for the leadership of the Central Office Leadership Team as well as those in our building. In closing he thanked the board for their service and commitment to continuing the district's commitment to learning and growing.

Mr. Oppenheim noted he is excited to be starting his second year as a board member and is looking forward to continuing to build on the successes.

Ms. Stevens wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Ms. Shannon thanked Mrs. DuFort for her leadership as Board President through 2025 noting it was a very successful year. She recognized the great team of administrators and everybody throughout the district. She congratulated President Kuykendoll, Vice President Glasscoe and Secretary Holmes.

Mr. DuFort expressed her appreciation for the BMEA presentation noting it was extremely powerful on so many levels. She expressed her appreciation to work with such engaged board members reiterating Dr. Barnes' remarks about how tonight's meeting showed so much of that.

Mr. Holmes noted he was super excited about his Winkie 3D, remarked he was really impressed with the BMEA presentation noting he thinks it is really important, impactful work and sharing that the return from break has been very smooth highlighting that having professional development on that Monday (as featured on WILX) is a big help to families.

Dr. Glasscoe expressed her appreciation for the work that Mrs. DuFort did as President to lead the board. She commended President Kuykendoll remarking she did a fantastic job tonight. She gave a shout out to Sarah Hopper for the 3D printed Winkie remarking she will be stopping by to see her. In closing she noted to Dr. Barnes that she could love to see our new hire join LCC's Neurodiversity work.

President Kuykendoll shared that the next C3R meeting is scheduled for January 22nd at LCC's downtown campus and will be available virtually. The program starts at 6:00 pm. She thanked Mrs. DuFort for her tremendous leadership for the past year expressing she is grateful for her

partnership and friendship. She acknowledged that standardized testing starts this week and noted she is sending extra love to our students. kiddos. She gave a shout out to Logan Tollson, Grand Ledge wrestler. She reminded students and families that it is scholarship season and encouraged students to reach out to their counselors, watch online and apply for those scholarships. She advised she will be sharing information to the high school and middle school for a program on March 2 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at MSU called Grit, Glan and Guts that promotes building confidence, leadership and emotional wellness. In closing she wished everyone a Happy 2026 and noted she is looking forward to an incredible year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:33p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:


Coban J. Holmes, Secretary


Ashley A. Kuykendoll, President