

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

January 22, 2024

MINUTES

President Shannon called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, and Ben Cwayna. **Members Absent:** Toni Glasscoe **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Bill Albrecht, Kara Davis, Brenton Bell, Kim Browning, Amy Hirschman, Jon Craig, Heather VanderLaan, Kristy Ford, Sean Stevens, Therese Edgett, James Edgett, Kimberly Kurth, Carrie Long, Stacy Kruse, John Piper, Melissa Mazzola, Ashleigh Lore and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the January 22, 2024 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the January 22, 2024 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the Meeting Minutes of the January 8, 2024 Organizational Meeting, Work Session and Closed Session and the teacher hiring of Elizabeth Kelley and Abbigail Bucholtz.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections – There was no report in Dr. Glasscoe’s absence.

B. Eaton RESA - Mrs. DuFort noted the board met on January 17th. They received a presentation from on the Meadowview program, approved the Resolution to Dissolve the Oneida Twp School District noting the RESA continue moving forward with Potterville absorbing the district, approved a 10-year Capital Projects Plan, and received the superintendent’s self-assessment noting the Superintendent’s Evaluation will be conducted on February 1st.

- C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation** – President Shannon provided an overview of the purpose of the Foundation and noted they are working hard to increase their fundraising which includes revamping their 5K Comet Chase. She asked new GLEF Board Member Dr. Gabriel, who is serving as the Race Director, to provide more details.

Dr. Gabriel shared the race will be held June 22nd, registration will open on February 2nd noting those interested can find more information or sign up on the website: <https://runsignup.com/glefcometchase5k>. He shared highlights of the race including the 5K run/walk, Virtual 5K, 1-Mile kids race and a kids fun run. In closing he shared the route will be different this year as the race will start and end at the Community Stadium and will highlight our GLPS facilities.

- D. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion** – There was no meeting.

- E. Governance Committee** – Ms. Shannon noted the committee has not met, but later in the agenda there is a Resolution to adopt the NEOLA Board Policies which has been over a year’s long process to get to this implementation stage. She went on to suggest that the Governance Committee task itself with ensuring there is an established new board member orientation process as well as an established practice for filling board vacancies.

- F. Bond Update** – Bond Supervisor John Piper provided the board with an update on bond construction throughout the district including updates on the new Wacousta Elementary School, Neff Early Childhood Center, the high school bid award which will finalize the bid awards for their upcoming renovations, and the Hayes and Willow Ridge traffic study, being conducted by an outside company, on Nixon Road during drop off and pick up, to help us find the best way to reroute vehicles and get separation between vehicles and bus lanes.

- G. Superintendent** – Dr. Barnes noted he will share a schedule for his evaluation presentations to the board and get a committee meeting schedule for Governance and EDI out to the members later this week so the board will know what to expect. He then introduced Holbrook Principal Dr. Bill Albrecht to provide the board with highlights and updates from Holbrook Elementary School.

a. Holbrook Elementary School Presentation

Holbrook Principal Dr. Bill Albrecht introduced students Lexa Herington, Miles Kruse, Nathan Pelette, Emily Pelette, Piper FINDER and Pearl FENDER who provided each board member with a Comet Catcher in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month and who have artwork on display at Sawdon this month. He went on to provide information regarding his building destination and how they are working to reach that destination including professional learning and collaboration, instructional rounds, standards-based learning, explicit instructional design and delivery, instructional frameworks, and a revised building schedule. Teachers Heather

VanderLaan, 1st Grade; Kimberly Kurth, 2nd Grade; Carrie Long, 3rd Grade; and Erin Castille, ASD Program, provided the board with information on how their intervention / extension has been implemented at their respective grade level and what they have seen from this philosophy. In closing, Dr. Albrecht presented a video of Holbrook Highlights.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Brenton Bell addressed the board regarding his perception of the lack of discipline at the high school.

Jon Craig addressed the board asking if the Student Inclusion and Mental Health Supervisor is a new position and questioning if the no vote was against the position in general or the candidate.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of Continuity of Learning Plan

Dr. Barnes advised as required of some of the federal grant funds, it is necessary for the Board to review their Continuity of Learning Plan. He shared the plan is hosted on the district website on the Transparency Webpage at GLcomets.net/Transparency and the COVID-19 Webpage at GLcomets.net/COVID.

B. Approval of Resolution Adopting NEOLA Board Policies

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution Adopting NEOLA Board Policies effective February 5, 2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Cwayna	<u>Yes</u>	Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<u>Yes</u>	Mrs. DuFort	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>Yes</u>	President Shannon	<u>Yes</u>

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar, as presented. The motion carried 4-2.

B. BID AWARDS – GRAND LEDGE HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATIONS

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Bid Awards to Intertek PSI in the amount of \$5,165 for Testing, FISECx in the amount of \$39,900 for Commissioning, Asbestos

Abatement, Inc. in the amount of \$497,325 for Demolition, Grit Services in the amount of \$108,000 for Concrete Flatwork, CI Contracting in the amount of \$6,770 for Foundations, Complete Enclosures in the amount of \$105,930 for Masonry, Eagle Enterprise in the amount of \$121,993 for Structural Steel, Moore Trospen in the amount of \$136,700 for General Trades, Roofing Innovations in the amount of \$969,690 for Roofing, Vos Glass in the amount of \$84,500 for Entrances & Storefronts, Scheper Brothers in the amount of \$79,136 for Walls & Ceilings, B & J Painting in the amount of \$36,400 for Painting, Integrity Interiors in the amount of \$48,820 for Flooring, FCI Group in the amount of \$85,547 for Casework, Hunter Prell in the amount of \$28,532 for Fire Protection, Vander Hyde Mechanical in the amount of \$420,406 for Plumbing, B & V Mechanical in the amount of \$10,931,000 for HVAC, H & R Electrical in the amount of \$1,767,470 for Electrical for a Total Trade Contract Award of \$15,473,284, with a Construction Contingency of \$1,083,130, and General Conditions of \$464,199 for a Total Bid Award of \$17,020,613, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Executive Director of Student Services Wendy Seida noted that Holbrook is a Unified Champion School with Special Olympics who provides funding to these districts to bring general education and special education students together. She noted the district supports an inclusive environment, and the members of the Central Office Leadership Team are participating in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge at the Jackson Field House on Saturday. All funds raised go to Special Olympics to support their mission.

Superintendent Barnes thanked Holbrook for their presentation noting they all did a great job. In reference to questions asked during public comment he advised the best way to approach an issue in a building is to have a conversation with the building administrator and assist them with ways, or a plan, to address those issues. In respect to our new Student Inclusion, Mental Health and Wellness Supervisor, this is a new position that we received state funding as a per pupil funding allocation for student safety and student mental health and wellness with half the funds being spent on each category. He noted that Chris Chester has recently joined the team as our Student Safety Supervisor and Jean Castillo will be joining us as our new Student Inclusion, Mental Health and Wellness Supervisor. He noted both of these individuals bring expertise to their respective position that will support our efforts in creating a space where students feel comfortable, safe and included in all aspects of their education.

Mr. Cwayna thanked Holbrook for their presentation and the Comet Catcher.

Mr. Shiflett acknowledged he feels Holbrook is the best building in the district with the best teachers and a couple of them have even had the best student. He thanked them for the Comet Catcher. In closing he noted that he has signed up and down loaded the couch potato to 5K app so he can participate in the GLEF 5K Comet Chase.

Mr. Smith thanked Holbrook noting the bar has been set again and remarking he believes Dr. Barnes does this strategically. He thanked everyone for coming out.

Ms. Kuykendoll echoed the praise of Holbrook and the wonderful students. She gave a major shout out to the Central Office Leadership Team for their response to situations out of their control at Wacousta with power outages and lock downs and the district as a whole with the snow, ice and freezing temperatures remarked it was a tremendous response to some unexpected obstacles. She remarked the communication was exception and the coordination to ensure the students were safe and did not cause mass panic to families and again thanking them for leaning in when we need them the most.

Mrs. DuFort agreed with Ms. Kuykendoll remarked she knows how much it was appreciated that it was managed so well. She thanked the Holbrook team and noted she is very proud and please to see the intentionality the staff is bringing to meeting every child where they are at. She gave a shout out to the Quiz Bowl Teams.

President Shannon thanked Dr. Albrecht and the teachers and students from Holbrook noting it is always exciting to hear from the buildings. In response to public comment, she noted she voted yes for the hiring of the Student Inclusion, Mental Health and Wellness Supervisor position and she would be happy to talk further if needed. She acknowledged the challenging week for the district along with the tremendous positive feedback, the appreciation for the reasoning and thoughtfulness and how things were handled for the Wacosuta families, noting you can't always plan for those things and recognized the true team effort.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:


Ashley Kuykendoll, Secretary


Nicole Shannon, President