

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – January 23, 2023

MINUTES

President Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Jarrod Smith, Nicole Shannon, Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort, Ben Cwayna and Ashley Kuykendoll. **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine, Martez Warren and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance** James Edgett, Therese Edgett, Stacy Kruse, Clark Kruse, Crystal Quintanilla-Howard, Marlene Promer, Anna Baryo, Heather Vanderlaan, Cindy Way, Lori Brassington, Kristy Ford, Julie Shotwell, Sarah Hopper, Sophia Hopper, Savannah Hopper, Cindy Hoskins, Dan Klodt, Landon Birchmeick, Dave Trakol, Kim Browning, Ellen Baribeau, Cindy Zerbe, Dave Zerbe, Alexa Snyder, Kayla Cebulski, Bobbi Cebulski, Stephanie Morgan, Chris Polley, Charlotte Polley, John Piper, Jennifer Zimmerman, Deanne Arking, Maranda Morris, William Lawson, Jacob McElroy, Rebecca McElroy, Allyson McCann, Kim Laforet, Melissa Mazzola, Greg Almy, Brian, Klopp, Brittany Huard, Myles Huard, Jill Fillingham, Lydia Baxter, Dawne Velianoff, Sean Stevens, Bill Albrecht and Kim Manning

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – Check Presentation

Dave Trakol, Brian Klopp, Bud Lawson, Dave Zerbe, and Dan Klodt of the Knight of Columbus presented Grand Ledge Public Schools Special Education Department with a check for \$1,819.35 from their MI Drive Campaign. Handing out Tootsie Rolls. Generosity of the GL residents. This money is used to offset costs for special education student activities outside the normal school day.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the January 23, 2023 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the January 23, 2023 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda was the January 9, 2023 Organizational and Work Session Meeting Minutes and the Hiring of Mindi Stevens as a Counselor at Delta Center Elementary School and Madeline Strong as a Math Teacher at Beagle Middle School.

Superintendent Barnes noted we are fortunate to have these candidates who will now be our colleagues. He noted they both come highly recommended and the building principals are happy to have them. He thanked the building team members who served on the interview committees for these two hirings. In closing he noted we are happy to have them as comets.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

There was no report in Dr. Glasscoe's absence.

B. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort shared the Eaton RESA board received a presentation from Meadowview at their January 18th meeting providing them with an overview of all the services offered at Meadowview, a school that represents students from all the districts under the RESA who are more severely impacted with learning disabilities. The board also approved 2.6 FTE social workers for Grand Ledge Public Schools, reviewed the Capitol Projects Plans for the next 10 years and will be reviewing and acting on the Superintendent's self-assessment in February.

C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report

Ms. Shannon advised the committee is meeting to begin plan for the 2023 5K race that will take place on Yankee Doodle Saturday. She noted this is the biggest fundraiser for the Foundation and the money raised is used to provide teacher grants to district teachers that allows them to implement learning opportunities in their class they wouldn't have otherwise.

D. Bond Update

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided an update with regard to bond construction projects at Delta Center and the High School Fine Arts. Everything is proceeding along, especially with the weather being so mild.

E. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Barnes noted each month we highlight one of our schools in the district and having students be a part of the conversation. This evening Holbrook Elementary School will share.

Holbrook Principal Dr. Bill Albrecht thanked Dr. Barnes and the board for the opportunity. He noted we have some special student guest with us and a sample of some of the hardest working, dedicated public servants that make Holbrook run so well and ensuring we are growing learning and preparing students.

Holbrook students, Miles, McKenna, Ethan, Clark, Dawson, Leighton, Piper, Megan, Joey and Boomer presented each board member with a Comet catcher noting they appreciate each board member not only during School Board recognition month, but every month. He noted the work is important. He explained Comet Catches are just one way Holbrook recognizes their students.

In closing he shared a video of the Holbrook Highlight that is shared weekly within the building that highlights many of the great things going on at the building.

Dr. Barnes thanked Dr. Albrecht and everyone from Holbrook for the presentation. He went on to provide an update with regard to the implementation plan for the Strategic Plan Smart Goals noting this will be brought forward at one of the February Board Meetings. Additionally in February, the board will receive an update as part of the 98B

legislation to provide information on academic progress. He reminded everyone that Delta Center will host an International Night on Friday, January 27th noting this is a wonderful event for students, families and staff. He stated he will be scheduling another round of opportunities for the Board Members to take a tour of the bond projects to see the progress. He noted that during his evaluation, the board had asked that rather than waiting until the end of the year, he will begin providing information to the board on each portion of the rubric used as part of that evaluation. He thanked the Knight of Columbus for their continued support of our students and noting the funds provide great opportunities to the students. In closing he noted one thing that has always bothered him was the administration building didn't look like a school building. With the help of the art teachers at each of the buildings, every three weeks, the administration building will showcase our students' artwork. He thanked Ms. LaCasse, Wacousta Art teacher for kicking the project off and encouraged everyone to take a moment to stop and enjoy the wondering art pieces outside the board room and in the showcase outside his office. He shared that he will host a small open house for the parents of the students who have artwork on display.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

Cindy Zerbe shared she is proud to be a Grand Ledge Comet sharing she works at Wacousta Elementary School. She commended Bond Supervisor John Piper noting he does an amazing job with the bond projects commenting that he "knows his stuff". She also recognizes Wacousta Art teacher Christina LaCasse noting she spends her days cultivating art among our students teaching them how to be creative, to think outside the box. She commented she is more than just an art teacher; she is a teacher who teaches the whole child. In closing she thanked the board for all they do noting it is greatly appreciated.

Dawne Velianoff addressed the board noting she loves Holbrook and Dr. Albrecht is creating a atmosphere that is open expressing her appreciation. She wanted to ensure the board knew she had not left even though she was not happy with the November election results. She congratulated those who won. She noted she is blessed to have the means to withdraw her children from the district is she chooses. She commented she appreciates Dr. Barnes' communication but stated she feels some things are over-saturated. She questioned is the additional social workers Mrs. DuFort mentioned in her report were being brought based on need or what qualified the need, was it specific to Grand Ledge or of national findings.

Mrs. DuFort noted she would reach out to Ms. Velianoff to provide her with the information she requested.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF 2022-2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the 2022-2023 Budget Amendment Resolution noting a projected fund balance of 8.61%, as presented.

Dr. Barnes noted information on the budget amendment was included in the board packet for the members, persons in the audience and folks at home. He explained the budget process noting assumptions are made when developing the budget in June and the amendments are

based on information coming in. He commended Chief Financial Officer Julie Waterbury on the fabulous job she has done with the budget noting she has a good sense of where we are.

He remarked there are still a lot of assumptions, but the district has been conservative in those assumptions.

Chief Financial Officer Julie Waterbury provided the board with a detailed overview of the 2022-2023 Budget Amendment including revenue and expenditure projections, covering the per pupil foundation allowance established by the legislature, additional federal revenue, COVID relief funds, internal transfers from out non-bond capital projects funds, increases in instructional expenditures, increases in student support and the \$1.1M settlement with a former employee. She noted an estimated ending fund balance of 8/61% which exceeds the board preferred measurement of 8%.

Ms. Shannon thanked Mrs. Waterbury and her team for setting us in the right direction. She recognizes there are many moving parts and we are getting closer to having a balanced budget with a modest surplus.

President Smith noted this is improvement and it is great to see. He recognized the meticulous attention to detail, though cautiously optimistic. He noted we are not being too conservative and he feels like this is a good pace for him.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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|------------------------|------------|
| President Smith | YES |
| Ms. Shannon | YES |
| Mr. Shiflett | YES |

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| Mrs. DuFort | YES |
| Mr. Cwayna | YES |
| Ms. Kuykendoll | YES |

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Ms. Kuykendoll gave Kudos to Holbrook and how they packed the room. She thanked Mrs. Waterbury for helping her navigate through the budget in this space. She thanked Martez and Pete for improvements in the bus routes noting it is easy to hear when things are going bad, so she wanted to ensure she elevates when things are turning around.

Mr. Cwayna noted it was nice to see the kids involved in the Holbrook presentation tonight and thanking Mrs. Waterbury for keeping the budget amendment in simple terms noting his appreciation.

Mrs. DuFort noted Holbrook always represents well and having students here is what it is all about. She thanked Mr. Deschaine for his work in setting up the new sound systems for the board meetings noting it makes it a much nicer environment. She noted she feels like we are having a great year and we continue to build on that, commenting she is definitely proud to be a comet.

Mr. Shiflett commented he knows they aren't supposed to have favorites but Holbrook is kind of his favorite and he looks forward to putting his Comet Catcher on his refrigerator at home.

Ms. Shannon thanked Dr. Albrecht for bringing so much joy to the meeting. She thanked the Knights of Columbus for their donation.

President Smith echoed the comments of his fellow members noting his Comet Catcher is going into his office so people can see it. He thanked the Knights of Columbus and thanked everyone for a great meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Jarrod Smith, President