

# **Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education**



**JANUARY 26, 2026**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**SAWDON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
BOARD ROOM  
6:00 P.M.**

# ***Grand Ledge Public Schools***

## **Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**

Please take notice that the Board of Education will hold a Regular Meeting on:

**Date:** Monday, January 26, 2026

**Place:** Sawdon Administration Building  
Board Room  
220 Lamson Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

***Once the meeting begins, it will be Live Streamed  
at: [youtube.com/@GLPS21](https://www.youtube.com/@GLPS21) (click on Live)***

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Purpose:** General Business

**Phone:** (517) 925-5400

Board minutes are located at the Board of Education office, 220 Lamson Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837



William A. Barnes, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

cc: Buildings  
Board Members  
Lansing State Journal  
Melissa Mazzola, President, GLEA  
Katie Grass, Vice-President, GLEA  
Blake Wegenke, Co-President, GLPEA  
Dave Kushman, Co-President, GLPEA  
Jim Gee, Co-President, GLPEA  
Sarah Hopper, President, MEA/NEA Unit I, Secretarial /Clerical  
Denise Truman, President, MEA/NEA Unit III, Food Service  
Allyson McCann, President, MEA/NEA Unit IV, Paraeducators, TA & Health Care Paraeducators  
Danis Peck, President, IUOE Local 547, A, B, C, E & H AFL-CIO, Bus Drivers  
Pat Malloy, Co-President, Building & Grounds Maintenance Association  
Dave Jolley, Co-President, Building & Grounds Maintenance Association  
Sarra Ruiz, President, IUOE Local 324, Custodial Association

*Date of Posting: January 20, 2026*

**NOTE:** Individuals may address the Board for up to three (3) minutes in the Public Comment segment of the meeting. Any person with a disability needing accommodations to attend a Board of Education meeting should contact Kim Manning at 925-5401 at least three (3) days prior to the date of the meeting he/she plans to attend.

**Grand Ledge Public Schools**  
**Board of Education**  
**MEETING AGENDA**  
**Monday, January 26, 2026**  
**6:00 pm**

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- I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance.....Ashley Kuykendoll, President
- II. Roll Call.....Dr. Bill Barnes, Superintendent
- III. Approval of Agenda Items
- IV. Approval of Consent Agenda Items
  - A. January 12, 2026 Organizational Meeting and Work Session Minutes
  - B. Teacher Hiring
    - a. Cassandra Ferry – Kindergarten – Delta Center
- V. Reports
  - A. Capitol Connections
  - B. Eaton RESA
  - C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation
  - D. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
  - E. Governance Committee
  - F. Bond Update
  - G. Superintendent
    - a. Holbrook Elementary School Presentation
    - b. Old Wacousta Update
    - c. Morris Property Update
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Old Business
  - A. Approval of Board Policy 5517.01 – Bullying & Other Aggressive Behavior Toward Students
  - B. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule
- VIII. New Business
  - A. Approval of the CHAT\* as GLPS' SEAB\*\*
  - B. Approval of Resolution Ratifying the Sale of Bonds
- IX. Comments from Staff and Board
- X. Future Topics
  - A. County-Wide School Board Meeting – January 29, 2026 - 6:00 p.m., Eaton RESA
  - B. DEI Committee Meeting – Monday, February 2, 2026, 5:30 p.m., ZOOM
  - C. Governance Committee Meeting – Monday, February 2, 2026, 6:30 p.m., Sup't Office
  - D. Bond & Sinking Fund Committee Meeting – Monday, February 9, 2026, 5:15 p.m., Room 107
  - E. Work Session – Monday, February 9, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Board Room
- XI. Adjournment

\*CHAT= Comprehensive Health Advisory Team

\*\* SEAB = Sex Education Advisory Board

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## **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Ashley Kuykendoll

"I pledge allegiance  
to the Flag  
of the United States of America,  
and to the republic  
for which it stands,  
one Nation under God,  
indivisible,  
with liberty and justice for all."



## ROLL CALL

Superintendent Dr. Bill Barnes



## APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

**PROPOSED MOTION:** I move the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the January 26, 2026 Agenda Items, as presented.



## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. January 12, 2026 Organizational Meeting and Work Session Minutes**

**B. Teacher Hiring**

a. Cassandra Ferry - Kindergarten - Delta Center

**PROPOSED MOTION:** I move the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the January 26, 2026 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

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

**Organizational Meeting – January 12, 2026**

**MINUTES**

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:02 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, Kali Stevens, Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon, Ashley Kuykendoll and Denise DuFort. **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 and Kim Manning

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Board Secretary Nicole Shannon conducted the Election of President.

**A. President**

**Mrs. DuFort nominated Ashley Kuykendoll for the 2026 President of the Board of Education.**

There were no other nominations.

**The nomination of Ashley Kuykendoll as the 2026 President of the Board of Education carried unanimously.**

President Kuykendoll conducted the election for Vice President and Secretary.

**B. Vice President**

**Ms. Shannon nominated Dr. Glasscoe for the 2026 Vice President of the Board of Education.**

There were no other nominations.

**The nomination of Toni Glasscoe as the 2026 Vice President of the Board of Education carried unanimously.**

**C. Secretary**

**Ms. Stevens nominated Coban Holmes for the 2026 Secretary of the Board of Education.**

There were no other nominations.

**The nomination of Coban Holmes as the 2026 Secretary of the Board of Education carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the January 12, 2026 Organizational Consent Agenda Items, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda was setting the Board Compensation Rate, the reaffirmation and adoption of the Legal Reference Note; approval of the depositories for school funds; designating the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer of Grand Ledge Public Schools as the persons Authorized to Sign Checks, Contracts, Agreements, and Purchase Orders; naming the Lansing State Journal as the official newspaper for publication purposes and authorizing the Superintendent (or his designee) to be the designated person to post official business notices; designating the Chief Financial Officer of Grand Ledge Public School as the Electronic Transfer Officer; establishing the fee charged to individuals who request Notice of Board Meeting at the current US Postal Rate; delegating the district's election duties to the Superintendent (or his designee); reaffirming that all seven (7) members of the board of education will sign all ratified collective bargaining agreements and retaining The Thrun Law Firm as the district's legal counsel, Maner Costerisan & Ellis, PC as the district's financial auditors and the Michigan Association of School Boards as the district's labor relations consultant.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF STANDING BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

**Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, the Finance Committee and the Governance Committee as the Standing Board Advisory Committees of the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education.**

A detailed discussion among the member considered a Curriculum Committee or an Academics and Technology Committee. Consensus of the members was to continue with the currently established committees.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**SELECTION OF BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

President Kuykendoll made the following appointments for 2026:

- Parliamentarian: John Ellsworth

- Legislation Liaison: Coban Holmes
- Board Representative to the GL Education Foundation: Nicole Shannon
- Members of the Board Bond & Sinking Fund Committee: Denise DuFort, Nicole Shannon and Kali Stevens
- Members of the Board Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee: Ashley Kuykendoll, Denise DuFort and Kali Stevens
- Members of the Board Finance Committee: Ashley Kuykendoll, Toni Glasscoe and Matt Oppenheim
- Members of the Governance Committee: Toni Glasscoe, Coban Holmes and Matt Oppenheim

**SETTING OF 2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon seconded by Ms. Stevens for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2026 Board of Education Meeting Schedule, as presented.**

Following a detailed discussion among the members, it was noted that the date of the May Work Session should be May 11<sup>th</sup> not the 12<sup>th</sup> as noted on the Proposed Agenda, and the implementation of a Special Meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> to conduct the Superintendent's Annual Evaluation. Dates for a possible retreat will be shared with members in the near future and that date will be posted on the website once established.

**Ms. Shannon amended her motion for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule, as presented noting the correct date of May 11, 2026 for a Work Session Meeting and adding a Special Meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> to conduct the Superintendent's Annual Evaluation. Ms. Stevens accepted the amended motion.**

**The amended motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

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Coban J. Holmes, Secretary

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Ashley A. Kuykendoll, President

**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 or 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>	Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Holmes	<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 16<sup>th</sup>.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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:

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Coban J. Holmes, Secretary

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Ashley A. Kuykendoll, President



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## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Dr. William A. Barnes, Superintendent of Schools  
**FROM:** Kelly J. Jones, Executive Director of Human Resources  
**SUBJECT:** Teacher Recommendations  
**DATE:** January 20, 2026

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I recommend the hiring of the following candidates for employment during the 2025-2026 School Year. Each candidate has the qualifications and certifications necessary for the recommended position.

Cassandra Ferry

Kindergarten

Delta Center

KJJ

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Jones', is written over the printed name 'KJJ'.

# Cassandra Ferry (La Brake)

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Email:



Cell:



## Related Experience:

- **First Grade Teacher**
  - Pullen Elementary School, Mount Pleasant MI, (2024-Current)
- **Preschool Teacher/Director**
  - Pullen Elementary School, Mount Pleasant MI, (2023-2024)
- **Third Grade Teacher**
  - Washington Elementary School, Washington UT, (2022-2023)
  - Overbrook Elementary School, Charleston WV, (2021-2022)
- **Substitute Teacher**
  - University Charter School, Livingston AL, (March, 2020 – May, 2021)
  - Campus School, Livingston AL, (August, 2020 – July, 2021)
- **Student Teacher**
  - Lincoln Elementary, Olympia WA, (August, 2019 – December, 2019)
- **Volunteer Teacher Assistant**
  - Hilcrest Elementary, Lake Stevens WA (September 2015 – May 2016)

## Education & Certification:

- BA Education, Endorsement in Early Childhood Education
  - Saint Martin's University
- MA Educational Leadership in Progress
  - Central Michigan University
- Education Certification (Washington State, West Virginia, Michigan)
- First Aid, CPR & AED (American Red Cross)
- LETRS- Year 1 Professional Development Course

## Skills and Qualifications:

- Using Capturing Kids Hearts to build on classroom Community.
- Participating in behavior management strategies gained through CKHs as well as GSRP.
- Creating lesson plans with differentiations for assigned classes.
- Experience teaching students in classes ranging from preschool to 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Experience teaching in a wide variety of schools with curriculum designed for their unique circumstances.
- Promoting positive learning environments for students by utilizing scientifically supported teaching methods and positive interactions.
- Working in conjunction with full time teachers when in a substitute role to ensure the best care of students uninterrupted education.
- Ensuring students' deep understanding of educational standards that can immediately be used in the real world.
- Utilizing numerous formative assessments to measure students' understanding and guide instruction.



## REPORTS

- A. Capitol Connections**
- B. Eaton RESA**
- C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation**
- D. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee**
- E. Governance Committee**
- F. Bond Update**
- G. Superintendent's Report**
  - a. Holbrook Elementary School Presentation
  - b. [Original Wacousta Planning](#)
  - c. [Morris Property Planning](#)



## PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons may address the board for up to three (3) minutes in the Public Comment segment of the meeting by providing your name and jurisdiction (City, Township / County) on one of the Public Comment forms provided at the sign in table and turning it in to the Superintendent's Assistant.

The meeting chair will use the Public Comment forms submitted to invite persons to come forward to make their public comment at the appropriate time.

Board Meetings are constructed to conduct necessary business of the board, while allowing time for the public to express concerns and opinions.

Out of respect for board members, students and staff, you will be interrupted if you:

- Personally attack a board member or district employee on issues unrelated to their job performance.
- Mention a student's name when discussing behavior or other incidents.
- Engage in discussion with other members of the audience.

You will be reminded when you are approaching the end of your three-minute limit so you can conclude with your strongest points.

The board will not respond to questions or comments during public comment but the Superintendent will do his best to answer questions at the end of the meeting. If immediate answers are not available, arrangements will be made to provide you with the information requested.



## OLD BUSINESS

### A. Approval of Board Policy 5517.01 - Bullying and Other Aggressive Behavior Toward Students

**PROPOSED MOTION:** I move the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve Board Policy 5517.01, as presented.





## OLD BUSINESS

### A. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule



## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Approval of the CHAT\* as GLPS' SEAB\*\*

**PROPOSED MOTION:** I move the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education identify the Comprehensive Health Advisory Team (CHAT\*) as the Grand Ledge Public Schools Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB\*\*), recognizing CHAT will be comprised of up to 10 board members who will serve a four-year (4-year) term, which includes two co-chairs, one being a staff member and one being a parent of a student currently enrolled in the district. The GLPS Board of Education appoints Amy Ellsworth and Kellee Auge as the co-chairs. Service on the CHAT may be renewed by agreement of the individual member and the CHAT Board. Furthermore, any CHAT Board vacancies will be posted on the Academic Services Webpage on the district website, along with a link to apply. New CHAT board members will be appointed by the current CHAT board through majority vote.



## NEW BUSINESS

### **B. Approval of the Resolution Ratifying the Sale of Bonds**

**PROPOSED MOTION:** I move the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Resolution Ratifying the Sale of Bonds, as presented.

### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

# Memo

**To:** Board of Education  
Dr. William Barnes, Superintendent  
Adrienne Barna, Chief Financial Officer  
Grand Ledge Public Schools

**From:** Jesse Nelson, CPA, Principal  
Sean Walsh, Manager  
Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC

**Subject:** Bond Sale – 2026 Refunding Bonds

**Date:** January 21, 2026

Today, the bond sale for the 2026 Refunding Bonds (the “2026 Bonds”) was completed. The 2026 Bonds are being issued to refund the District’s 2016 Refunding Bonds. We are very pleased with the result and excited to share the below information with you.

As a part of the bond sale process, Grand Ledge Public Schools (the “District”) bond rating was reviewed by Moody’s Investor Service Ratings bond rating agency. Good news was received as the District received the strong bond rating of A1. This is a compliment to the District’s financial/management practices. Thank you to Dr. Barnes and Adrienne for their fine work representing the District on the bond rating conference call. The 2026 Bonds also received a bond rating of Aa1 for participation in the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program.

Competition was very strong as a total of 15 bids were received for the 2026 Bonds. Jefferies LLC was the winning bidder by providing the lowest Truest Interest Cost (“TIC”) of 2.726243%.

The interest rates on the refunded portion of the 2016 Refunding Bonds were 4.00% - 5.00%. The 2026 Bonds achieved lower yields of 2.38 - 3.07%. This resulted in gross debt service savings of \$1,821,363.

Further information regarding the above items are enclosed with this memorandum.

We at Baker Tilly are very pleased with the result received by the school district. We thank you for allowing us to be a part of this successful financing. It is our recommendation that the school district accept the lowest True Interest Cost (“TIC”) bid received from Jefferies LLC.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments and have a great week.

**GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
COUNTIES OF EATON, CLINTON, AND IONIA, STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**SUMMARY OF 2026 REFUNDING BONDS**

**I. Bond Ratings**

Grand Ledge Public Schools	A1
Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program	Aa1

**II. Bids Received**

	<u>True Interest Cost ("TIC")</u>
Jefferies LLC	2.726243%
KeyBanc Capital Markets	2.789109%
Brownstone Investment Group, LLC	2.789980%
TD Financial Products LLC	2.819338%
Piper Sandler & Co.	2.829440%
Loop Capital Markets, LLC	2.843270%
Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc.	2.843503%
FHN Financial Capital Markets	2.851491%
Mesirow Financial, inc.	2.862946%
UBS Financial Services Inc.	2.865451%
TRB Capital Markets, LLC	2.869604%
StoneX Financial Inc.	2.886025%
PNC Capital Markets	2.895245%
Huntington Securities, Inc.	2.908594%
Fifth Third Securities, Inc.	2.937525%

**III. Total Debt Service**

Bond principal	\$12,160,000.00
Bond interest	<u>3,340,137.22</u>
<b>Total debt service</b>	<b><u><u>\$15,500,137.22</u></u></b>

**GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**COUNTIES OF EATON, CLINTON, AND IONIA, STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**2026 REFUNDING BONDS - PRICING SUMMARY**

<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Coupon</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Maturity Value</u>	<u>Price</u>
05/01/27	5.000%	2.380%	\$1,245,000	103.091%
05/01/28	5.000%	2.380%	1,600,000	105.593%
05/01/29	5.000%	2.380%	1,650,000	108.036%
05/01/30	4.000%	2.500%	1,090,000	105.949%
05/01/31	5.000%	2.480%	1,085,000	112.231%
05/01/32	5.000%	2.560%	1,065,000	113.914%
05/01/33	5.000%	2.650%	925,000	115.318%
05/01/34	5.000%	2.710%	895,000	116.742%
05/01/35	5.000%	2.820%	885,000	117.562%
05/01/36	5.000%	2.920%	870,000	118.238%
05/01/37	5.000%	3.070%	850,000	118.177%
Total			\$12,160,000	

**GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**COUNTIES OF EATON, CLINTON, AND IONIA, STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**ESTIMATED INTEREST SAVINGS - TOTAL 2026 REFUNDING BONDS**

Levy Year Ending	Total Debt Service Expense Difference			
	Prior Bonds Debt Service	Proposed Bonds Debt Service	Debt Retirement Cash on Hand	Debt Service Savings
06/30/26	\$1,955,500	\$1,648,550	\$350,000	(\$43,050)
06/30/27	1,893,900	1,964,837		(70,937)
06/30/28	1,827,700	2,134,850		(307,150)
06/30/29	1,762,100	2,104,850		(342,750)
06/30/30	1,702,100	1,462,350		239,750
06/30/31	1,637,500	1,413,750		223,750
06/30/32	1,578,500	1,339,500		239,000
06/30/33	1,517,750	1,146,250		371,500
06/30/34	1,452,000	1,070,000		382,000
06/30/35	1,391,500	1,015,250		376,250
06/30/36	1,331,000	956,000		375,000
06/30/37	1,270,500	892,500		378,000
Totals	<u>\$19,320,050</u>	<u>\$17,148,687</u>		<u>\$1,821,363</u>

Grand Ledge Public Schools, Eaton, Clinton and Ionia Counties, Michigan (the “Issuer”)

A regular meeting of the board of education of the Issuer (the “Board”) was held in the Sawdon Board Room, within the boundaries of the Issuer, on the 26th day of January, 2026, at 6:00 o’clock in the p.m. (the “Meeting”).

The Meeting was called to order by Ashley Kuykendoll, President.

Present: Members Kuykendoll, Glasscoe, Holmes, DuFort, Shannon, Stevens, Oppenheim

Absent: Members None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Member \_\_\_\_\_:

**WHEREAS:**

1. By resolution adopted on December 8, 2025 (the “Bond Resolution”), this Board authorized the issuance of not to exceed Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000) 2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax) (the “Bonds”) for the purpose of refunding that portion of the Issuer’s 2016 Refunding Bonds which are callable on or after May 1, 2026, and are due and payable May 1, 2027 through May 1, 2037, inclusive (the “Refunded Bonds”).

2. In the Bond Resolution, the Issuer authorized the Superintendent of Schools and/or the Chief Financial Officer (each an “Authorized Officer”) to accept a bid on behalf of this Board for the sale of the Bonds within the parameters set forth in the Bond Resolution.

3. On January 21, 2026, the Issuer received fifteen (15) bids for the purchase of the Bonds, which were presented to an Authorized Officer for consideration.

4. Based upon the written recommendation of the Issuer's financial consulting firm, an Authorized Officer accepted the offer of Jefferies LLC (the “Purchaser”) to purchase the Bonds pursuant to the authority delegated in the Bond Resolution, and the Board desires to ratify and affirm the acceptance of the offer.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Authorized Officer’s acceptance of the Purchaser’s offer to purchase the Bonds at a purchase price of \$13,511,960.30, which is the par value of the Bonds, plus an original issue premium of \$1,366,430.70, less the Underwriter’s discount of \$14,470.40 is hereby ratified and affirmed. The Bonds shall be issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$12,160,000 and designated 2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax).

2. The Bonds shall be dated February 17, 2026, and shall mature on May 1 of the years 2027 to 2037, inclusive, on which interest is payable commencing November 1, 2026 and semi-annually thereafter on May 1 and November 1 at the rate and in the principal amounts set forth in Exhibit A. The Bonds shall be initially offered to the public at the initial offering yields as set forth in Exhibit A hereto.

3. Bonds of this issue are not subject to redemption prior to maturity.

4. Blank Bonds with the manual or facsimile signatures of the President and Secretary affixed thereto, shall, at the direction of bond counsel and as necessary, be delivered to the Paying Agent for safekeeping to be used for registration and transfer of ownership.

The Bonds are registered as to principal and interest and are transferable as provided in the Bond Resolution only upon the books of the Issuer kept for that purpose by the Paying Agent, by the registered owner thereof in person or by an agent of the owner duly authorized in writing, upon the surrender of the Bond together with a written instrument of transfer satisfactory to the Paying Agent duly executed by the registered owner or agent thereof and thereupon a new Bond or Bonds in the same aggregate principal amount and of the same maturity shall be issued to the transferee in exchange therefor as provided in the Bond Resolution, and upon payment of the charges, if any, therein provided. The Bonds are issuable in denominations of \$5,000, or any integral multiple thereof, not exceeding the aggregate principal amount for each maturity.

If any Bond shall become mutilated, the Issuer, at the expense of the holder of the Bonds, shall furnish or cause to be furnished, and the Paying Agent shall authenticate and deliver, a new Bond of like tenor in exchange and substitution of the mutilated Bond, upon surrender to the Paying Agent of the mutilated Bond. If any Bond issued under this resolution shall be lost, destroyed or stolen, evidence of the loss, destruction or theft and indemnity may be submitted to the Paying Agent, and if satisfactory to the Paying Agent and the Issuer, the Issuer at the expense of the owner, shall furnish or cause to be furnished, and the Paying Agent shall authenticate and deliver a new Bond of like tenor and bearing the statement required by Act 354, Public Acts of Michigan, 1972, as amended, being sections 129.131 to 129.134, inclusive, of the Michigan Compiled Laws, or any applicable law hereafter enacted, in lieu of and in substitution of the Bond so lost, destroyed or stolen. If any such Bond shall have matured or shall be about to mature, instead of issuing a substitute Bond, the Paying Agent may pay the same without surrender thereof.

5. Argent Institutional Trust Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, is hereby approved as Escrow Agent under the proposed Escrow Agreement (the "Escrow Agreement") presented to the Board. The Escrow Agreement providing for payment and redemption of the Refunded Bonds is hereby approved. The President or Secretary shall execute and deliver the Escrow Agreement substantially in the form presented to the Board with such changes and completions as shall be necessary as determined by Thrun Law Firm, P.C., in order to accomplish refunding the Refunded Bonds in accordance with the law and the Bond Resolution. The Escrow Agent is further authorized to act as the Issuer's attorney-in-fact for the purpose of acquiring on behalf of the Issuer the federal securities, if necessary, as defined in the Escrow Agreement to meet the Board's obligations under the Escrow Agreement.

6. Upon delivery of the Bonds, the accrued interest, if any, shall be deposited in the Debt Retirement Fund for the Bonds and the balance of the Bond proceeds shall be used as follows:

A. The approximate sum of \$125,328.60 shall be used to pay the costs of issuance of the Bonds, and any balance remaining from that sum shall be deposited in the Debt Retirement Fund for the Bonds.

B. The sum of \$13,386,631.70 from the Bonds, together with funds on hand from the 2016 Debt Retirement Fund Account in the amount of \$350,000.00, shall be paid to the Escrow Agent and then invested by it as provided in the Bond Resolution and Exhibit C of the Escrow Agreement for payment of principal and interest on the Refunded Bonds. Any funds from the Bond proceeds not used for the Escrow Account shall be deposited in the Debt Retirement Fund for the Bonds.

7. The President and Secretary are hereby authorized to provide the Bonds in conformity with the specifications of this resolution by causing their manual or facsimile signatures to be affixed thereto, and upon the manual execution by the authorized signatory of the Paying Agent, the Treasurer be and is hereby authorized and directed to cause said Bonds to be delivered to the Purchaser upon receipt of the purchase price and accrued interest, if any.

8. The Preliminary Official Statement, dated January 13, 2026, is deemed final for purposes of SEC Rule 15c2-12(b)(1), relating to the Bonds and its use and distribution by the Underwriter is hereby authorized, approved and confirmed.

9. An Authorized Officer is authorized and directed to execute and deliver the final Official Statement on behalf of the Issuer. An Authorized Officer is further authorized to approve, execute and deliver any amendments and supplements to the final Official Statement necessary to assure that the statements therein are true, as of the time the Bonds are delivered to the Underwriter, and that it does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact and does not omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. In the absence of an Authorized Officer, the President may execute the above documents.

10. The President and Superintendent are authorized to execute a Certificate of Issuer to enable the Underwriter to comply with Rule 15c2-12 under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 in connection with the offering and sale of the Bonds. In the absence of the President, the Vice President may execute the Certificate of Issuer, and in the absence of the Superintendent, the Treasurer may execute the Certificate of Issuer.

11. The President or Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Superintendent, the Chief Financial Officer, and/or all other officers, agents and representatives of the Issuer and each of them shall execute, issue and deliver any certificates, statements, warranties, representations, or documents necessary to effect the purposes of this resolution or the Bonds.

12. The officers, agents and employees of the Issuer are authorized to take all other actions necessary and convenient to facilitate sale and delivery of the Bonds.

13. The Issuer hereby appoints Argent Institutional Trust Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, as Paying Agent-Bond Registrar and directs an Authorized Officer to execute for and on behalf of the Issuer a Paying Agent-Bond Registrar Agreement.

14. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Members

Nays: Members

Resolution declared adopted.

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Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Grand Ledge Public Schools, Eaton, Clinton and Ionia Counties, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at the Meeting, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the Meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

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Secretary, Board of Education

CJI/baf

EXHIBIT A

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
COUNTIES OF EATON, CLINTON, AND IONIA, STATE OF MICHIGAN  
2026 REFUNDING BONDS  
FINAL NUMBERS

Pricing Summary

Maturity	Type of Bond	Coupon	Yield	Maturity Value	Price	Dollar Price
05/01/2027	Serial Coupon	5.000%	2.380%	1,245,000.00	103.091%	1,283,482.95
05/01/2028	Serial Coupon	5.000%	2.380%	1,600,000.00	105.593%	1,689,488.00
05/01/2029	Serial Coupon	5.000%	2.380%	1,650,000.00	108.036%	1,782,594.00
05/01/2030	Serial Coupon	4.000%	2.500%	1,090,000.00	105.949%	1,154,844.10
05/01/2031	Serial Coupon	5.000%	2.480%	1,085,000.00	112.231%	1,217,706.35
05/01/2032	Serial Coupon	5.000%	2.560%	1,065,000.00	113.914%	1,213,184.10
05/01/2033	Serial Coupon	5.000%	2.650%	925,000.00	115.318%	1,066,691.50
05/01/2034	Serial Coupon	5.000%	2.710%	895,000.00	116.742%	1,044,840.90
05/01/2035	Serial Coupon	5.000%	2.820%	885,000.00	117.562%	1,040,423.70
05/01/2036	Serial Coupon	5.000%	2.920%	870,000.00	118.238%	1,028,670.60
05/01/2037	Serial Coupon	5.000%	3.070%	850,000.00	118.177%	1,004,504.50
Total	-	-	-	\$12,160,000.00	-	\$13,526,430.70

Bid Information

Par Amount of Bonds	\$12,160,000.00
Reoffering Premium or (Discount)	1,366,430.70
Gross Production	\$13,526,430.70
Total Underwriter's Discount (0.119%)	\$(14,470.40)
Bid (111.118%)	13,511,960.30
Total Purchase Price	\$13,511,960.30
Bond Year Dollars	\$67,719.56
Average Life	5.569 Years
Average Coupon	4.9323082%
Net Interest Cost (NIC)	2.9358978%
True Interest Cost (TIC)	2.7145194%



# COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD



## FUTURE TOPICS

- County-Wide School Board Meeting - January 29, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Eaton RESA
- DEI Committee Meeting – Monday, February 2, 2026, 5:30 p.m., ZOOM
- Governance Committee Meeting – Monday, February 2, 2026, 6:30 p.m., Sup't Office
- Bond & Sinking Fund Committee Meeting - Monday, February 9, 2026, 5:15 p.m., Room 107
- Work Session – Monday, February 9, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Board Room



## ADJOURNMENT

Time: \_\_\_\_\_