



# Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education

**JANUARY 27, 2025**

## **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 27, 2025

**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  
Ashleigh Lore, Vice-President, GLEA  
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  
Sarra Ruiz, President, Custodial Association

*Date of Posting: January 23, 2024*

**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 27, 2025  
6:00 pm**

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- I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance.....Denise DuFort, President
- II. Roll Call.....Dr. Bill Barnes, Superintendent
- III. Approval of Agenda Items
- IV. Approval of Consent Agenda Items
  - A. Meeting Minutes
    - a. January 13, 2025 Organizational Meeting and Work Session
- V. Presentations
  - A. Knights of Columbus Check Presentation
- VI. 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. Delta Center Elementary School Presentation
    - b. Transportation Supervisor
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Comments from Staff and Board
- IX. Future Topics
  - A. County-Wide School Board Meeting – January 30, 2025 - 6:00 p.m., Eaton RESA
  - B. Work Session – Monday, February 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Board Room
- X. Adjournment

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

President Denise DuFort

"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. William Barnes



## APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

**PROPOSED MOTION:** I move the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the January 27, 2025 Agenda Items, as presented.



## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

### **A. January 13, 2025 Organizational Meeting and Work Session**

**PROPOSED MOTION:** I move the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the January 25, 2025 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

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

**Organizational Meeting – January 13, 2025**

**MINUTES**

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

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Notary Public Kim Manning administered the Oath of Office to new board members Kali Stevens, Matt Oppenheim and Coban Holmes.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call by Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Coban Holmes, Matt Oppenheim, Kali Stevens, Toni Glasscoe, Ashley Kuykendoll, Denise DuFort and Nicole Shannon. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Amy Hirshman, Karen Almcrantz, Rachel Parish, Stacy Kruse, Christina Holmes, Melissa Mazzola, Sean Stevens, Tim Totten, Brian Diller, Ashleigh Lore, Kristy Ford, Tessa Arbour, Lindsey Boots, Allyson Prince, Nicole Conner, Chris Chester and Kim Manning

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tim Totten shared his view on the 2024 election

Melissa Mazzola acknowledge January is School Board Recognition month and thanked the board members for all they do.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Board Secretary Ashley Kuykendoll conducted the Election of President.

**A. President**

**Nicole Shannon nominated Denise DuFort for the 2025 President of the Board of Education.**

There were no other nominations.

**The nomination of Denise DuFort as the 2025 President of the Board of Education carried unanimously.**

President DuFort Conducted the election for Vice President and Secretary.

**B. Vice President**

**Nicole Shannon nominated Ashley Kuykendoll for the 2025 Vice President of the Board of Education.**

There were no other nominations.

**The nomination carried unanimously.**

**C. Secretary**

**Ashley Kuykendoll nominated Nicole Shannon for the 2025 Secretary of the Board of Education.**

**Denise DuFort nominated Toni Glasscoe for the 2025 Secretary of the Board of Education**

President DuFort asked for a show of hands for the nomination of Nicole Shannon for the 2025 Secretary of the Board of Education.

**Having received the majority of votes, Ms. Shannon was elected the 2025 Secretary of the Board of Education.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the January 13, 2025 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda was setting the Board Compensation Rate, noting it remains the same rate as established in 2013 with no increase, 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; the delegation of 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; 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; and confirming the Standing Board Advisory Committees as the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee, the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, the Finance Committee and the Governance Committee.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**SELECTION OF BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

President DuFort made the following appointments for 2025:

- Parliamentarian: Nicole Shannon
- Legislation Liaison: Toni Glasscoe, with Kali Stevens serving as back-up.

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

**SETTING OF 2023 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Option C as the 2025 Board of Education Meeting Schedule, as presented.**

It was noted there are three options to select from with Option A implementing a one meeting per month schedule, Option B implementing more one meeting months with a few two meetings per month, and Option C following the standard two meetings a month with a few months only having one meeting due to holidays and school breaks.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Shannon, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise DuFort, President

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

**Meeting - January 13, 2025**

**MINUTES**

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:31p.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, Ashley Kuykendoll, Denise DuFort, and Nicole Shannon **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Amy Hirshman, Karen Almcrantz, Rachel Parish, Stacy Kruse, Christina Holmes, Melissa Mazzola, Sean Stevens, Tim Totten, Brian Diller, Ashleigh Lore, Kristy Ford, Tessa Arbour, Lindsey Boots, Allyson Prince, Nicole Conner, Chris Chester 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 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. He thanked Ms. Shannon for her year as President and working together.

**DISCUSSION & PRESENTATION ITEMS**

**A. Holbrook Elementary School**

Holbrook Elementary School Principal Kat Farr shared her building's 24-25 social and emotional learning goal, why it was chosen, the impact of the goal and where they are at in accomplishing their goal.

**B. Student Safety Supervisor**

Student Safety Supervisor Chris Chester provided the board with an overview of his responsibilities in ensuring safety measures throughout the district.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Meeting Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

President DuFort noted this includes the meeting minutes of the December 12, 2022 Regular Meeting and Closed Session and the minutes.

**B. APPROVAL OF PROBATIONARY TO TENURE STATUS**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to award Tenure Status to Erin Fredericks, Amanda Gabriel, Josephine Oren, Ryleigh Scott, Jenna Rieske and Jason Wester-Hall, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. APPROVAL OF TEACHER HIRING**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Hiring of Annemarie Reik, Kaylie Cano, and Emily Wenzlick, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$19,940, as presented.**

Mrs. DuFort noted this is for the boiler at Delta Mills.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Ms. Stevens for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$5,000, as presented.**

Mrs. DuFort noted this is for landscape work at Wacousta.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$561,741.78, as presented.**

Mrs. DuFort noted this includes fees for Clark Construction and GMB Architects & Engineer as well as Audio Visual work at the High School and Furniture for the High School store.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$515,172.30, as presented.**

Mrs. DuFort noted this includes fees for Clark Construction and GMB Architects & Engineers as well as trades work.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD**

Executive Director of Technology Mark Deschaine thanked the board for their service.

Superintendent Barnes explained that while last year the Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) provided the board with information on the work their respective departments do, this year, the district supervisor will present on the work they are doing within the district. He shared this is a means to provide the board, and community, with an understanding of the work done by the administration of the district.

Mr. Holmes expressed his thanks for the opportunity to serve the district and community as well as his appreciation for those people who came before him. He noted they set a great example and made his decision to run for the Board of Education easy. In closing he commented he is excited for the next six-years as this is a great district that is doing awesome stuff.

Mr. Oppenheim thanked everyone for welcoming him to the board and expressed his appreciation for the community's support and the support of his family. He shared he looks forward to the opportunity and challenges ahead recognition the positive scope the district has accomplished and that he is looking forward to continuing the positivity going forward.

Ms. Stevens thanked the community for their support of her in the election. She commented this is a great district that is only getting better. She recognized Ms. Farr for her Holbrook presentation noting she has a student at Holbrook and it has been a wonderful year with Ms. Farr leading the building. She thanked Mr. Chester for the safety information he shared and expressed her appreciation.

Dr. Glasscoe welcomed her new colleagues and commented she looks forward to working together. She shared information about a conversation with a teacher and their excitement about getting to work within the district and noted the importance of people feeling comfortable talking with the board members. In closing she thanked Dr. Barnes for the way he has implemented the departments sharing information in a manner that allows the members and community to understand.

Ms. Shannon welcomed her new colleagues commenting they don't feel new because they have been very engaged. She thanked Ms. Farr and Mr. Chester for their presentation.

Ms. Kuykendoll welcome the new board members expressing her excitement in having them here. She wished everyone a Happy New Year. She thanked Mr. Farr for her presentation commenting on the student committee and expressing she loves to see her taking their voices into consideration. She thanked Mr. Chester for what he does and commented it shows that he does not take his position lightly. She thanked Mr. Deschaine for the new iPads for the board members, the communication entire Central Office Leadership Team expressing her appreciation for the way the team stays on top of everything. In closing she thanked everyone for the manner in which they handled the challenge of the Wacousta issue prior to break and ensuring the kids would be able to return after the winter break and thanked our community for the outpouring of books to replace those damaged at Wacousta.

President DuFort echoed Ms. Kuykendoll's sentiment on the Wacousta situation noting it is another wonderful example of how everyone in this community jumps in and pulls together. She thanked Ms. Farr for her leadership at Holbrook and creating an environment where people feel welcome. She recognized Mr. Chester noting we are fortunate to have someone with his experience in his position as Student Safety Supervisor. In closing she welcomed the new board members and thanked her colleagues for their confidence in selecting her to serve as the Board President this year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Shannon, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise DuFort, President



## PRESENTATION

### A. Knight of Columbus Check Presentation

Members of the St. Michael's Knights of Columbus will present a check from their Tootsie Roll Drive to Student Services.



## REPORTS

- A. Capitol Connections**
- B. Eaton RESA**
- C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation**
- D. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**
- E. Governance**
- F. Bond Update**
- G. Superintendent's Report**
  - a. Delta Center Elementary School Presentation
  - b. Transportation Supervisor



## 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.



## COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD



## FUTURE TOPICS

- County-Wide School Board Meeting - January 30, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Eaton RESA
- Work Session - Monday, February 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Board Room



## ADJOURNMENT

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