

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

**Work Session – February 10, 2025**

**MINUTES**

Vice President Kuykendoll called the meeting to order at 6:01p.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, Nicole Shannon and Ashley Kuykendoll. **Board Members Absent:** Denise DuFort and Toni Glasscoe. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Ryan Johnson, April Johnson, Xeon Johnson, Jessica Ream, Emmalyn Ream, Shyla Woodman, Camille Baiv, Tim Totten, Dave Logel, Shelby Logel, Katie Logel, Chase Kimmey, April Welton, Dave Kushman, Kelly Shumway and Kim Manning

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Beagle Middle School Presentation**

Principal Dave Kushman and Assistant Principal Kelly Shumway highlighted Beagle Middle School's MiCIP Goals, winter ELA and Math achievement data and the instructional focus for 2024-2025. They reminded everyone of the upcoming STEAM Showcase on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Teacher Tish Janes shared information on the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to Washington, D.C. with former students sharing their experiences from last year's trip. Students of the Beagle Middle School Comet Council shared events and activities for their respective committees: School Culture, Fundraising, Student Events and Awareness. Students of the Beagle Theater Classes shared their experiences from the class and teachers Mrs. Welton and Mr. Arnet shared information on the upcoming Polar Plunge and plans for implementing activities as a Unified Champion School that will affect system-wide changes in their school and highlighted a Unified School Gym Class that was implemented by a student recipient of the Everson Guild Award. In closing Mr. Kushman shared they will begin planning for educational programming for the 2025-2026 school year shortly.

**B. Student Inclusion, Mental Health & Wellness Supervisor Presentation**

Student Inclusion, Mental Health & Wellness Supervisor Juan Castillo provided the board with an overview his position and the alignment with the district's vision, mission and belief statements.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Approval of January 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes**  
Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the January 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Approval of Teacher Hiring**  
Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Stevens for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the hiring of Jennifer Fedewa, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. MASB Board of Directors Election**  
Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Stevens for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education authorize and instruct Superintendent Barnes, or his designee, to complete the Michigan Association of School Boards, Region 7, Board of Directors ballot on behalf of the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education casting its vote for Guillermo Lopez. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. Schools of Choices for 2025-2026**  
Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Participation in Section 105 and 105(c) Schools of Choice on an unlimited basis for Kindergarten and 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades for the 2025-2026 School Year, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
- E. Approval of the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices**  
Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$72,732.23, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted that all invoices were reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and shared this represents work at Hayes, Marsh Field and Delta Center.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- F. Approval of the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices**  
Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, 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 \$1,330,758.77, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this represents work at the High School.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**G. Approval of the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices  
Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public  
Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond  
Invoices in the amount of \$472,966.77, as presented.**

Ms. Shannon noted this represents work at Willow Ridge, Hayes and Operations.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD**

Ms. Seida reminded everyone that the Polar Plunge will take place tomorrow at Grand Ledge High School.

Superintendent Barnes thanked the Beagle administration, staff and students and Mr. Castillo for their presentations tonight.

Mr. Holmes expressed his excitement for the polar plunge noting he will be there to support our staff. He encouraged everyone to make plans to stop by the Beagle STEAM night and commended the trip to DC.

Mr. Oppenheim commended instructional rounds noting they are invigorating and provide a great opportunity for revitalization. He commended Mr. Castillo commenting that the older students get the world around us tends to creep in and innocence can get lost. He encouraged looking at the systemic structure of the MI Student Voice survey to encourage more student participation to help move us forward.

Ms. Stevens commended Mr. Castillo noting she believes his work is a great fit with the instructional framework and our Strategic Plan noting at times the focus can be on achievement but if you start at the outside of the framework students can feel more engaged. She recognized that Grand Ledge is a great place and its only getting better. In closing she recognized the Beagle students acknowledging she is amazed by their depth of understanding.

Ms. Shannon thanked Mr. Castillo and his family for joining the meeting tonight commenting that sometimes you have to get outside your own perspective to see the broader picture. She commended the Beagle presentation, specifically the students commenting they were so poised in their presentations.

Vice President Kuykendoll echoed her colleagues and encouraged everyone to make their way to the STEAM Showcase on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Attest:

  
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Denise DuFort, President