

## GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Committee of the Whole / Work Session – February 14, 2022

### MINUTES

President Shiflett 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 Marcus Davenport indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Jon Shiflett, Nicole Shannon, Sara Clark Pierson, Ben Cwayna and Toni Glasscoe. **Central Office Administrators:** Marcus Davenport, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Julie Waterbury, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Debbie Stair, Kacie Kefgen, Melissa Mazzola, Kim Laforet, Mark Laforet, Tim Totten, Jason Devenbaugh, Makenzie Gauss, Kari Smith, Dairus Reynnet, Mary Moore, Nell Pizzo, Howard Pizzo, Jon Wise, Lana Gallagher, Kyle Dymond, Erica Ledesma, Torre Miller, Greg Almy, Kristen Andriessen, Ginny Patrick, Donn Ristow, Karlee Ruedisale, Kathy Forgie, Josephine Schwan, Julie Tadgerson, Melissa Burke, Amanda Carr, Joseph Carr and Kim Manning

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice President Shannon provided an overview for making public comment to the board.

Tim Totten addressed the board regarding the upcoming Strategic Planning Process and encouraging transparency. He asked the board to consider him for one of the parent committees. He asked that the second public comment be put back on the agenda.

Kim Laforet addressed the board regarding her alternative ideas to hiring EDI/Student Support person and expressing she does not support equity but does support equality.

Kari Smith addressed the board to express her concerns regarding her perception, addressing testing scores, staff personal social media pages, participation in a health survey and expressing her support to remove masks.

Jason Devenbaugh addressed the board on his perception of political games being played, not putting education first, concerns with participation in a health survey and flags in schools.

Kristin Andriessen addressed the board sharing she feels social issues have infiltrated schools and hours of classroom instruction and encouraging the district get back to teaching math, English, science and social studies.

Jeff McNeilly addressed the board regarding listening to parents, asking if the district was going to implement a vaccination mandate, removing masks, flags in the schools and encouraging the board to look at what is going on around us.

Greg Almy addressed the board sharing he is encouraged by what he has seen of tonight's public comments from what he has seen in the past, noting there are rules in place and not addressing the behaviors is not a solution.

Scott Martzke addressed the board on his recent Freedom of Information Act request and noting he feels masks are unconstitutional and unlawful questioning the board's authority to enforce the mask mandate.

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson to amend the Agenda to add Action Item J to address the mask mandate. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **A. STRATEGIC PLANNING PRESENTATION (MASB)**

Debbie Stair, Assistant Director of Leadership Development with the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB), presented a detailed overview of their Strategic Planning Services to assist the district. She introduced Kacie Kefgen noting the two of them would be the point persons for Grand Ledge Public Schools.

A detailed discussion among the members noted there was not an action item on tonight's agenda, but it would be taken up at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, assuring there would be ample community participation and noting the aggressive timeline.

#### **B. PARTICIPATION IN SECTION 105 & 105(C) SCHOOLS OF CHOICE FOR THE 2022-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Dr. Davenport led a discussion among the members on the district's participation in Section 105 & 105(c) Schools of Choice for next school year. He advised the administrative team will be recommending the board approve participation on an unlimited basis for grades Kindergarten through 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The window for application submission would run May 1 – August 14, 2022. He advised current enrolment is approximately 4,860 and the district has planned to optimize at around 5,200 students. He shared in the last six years the district has enrolled between 48-160 schools of choice students each year.

A detailed discussion among the members noted support for participation in the Schools of Choice program and noting this item will be taken up for action at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **C. 98B Data Presentation**

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, Dr. Bill Barnes presented the board with a detailed overview of the district's K-8 Math and ELA Goal Report and the High School Math and ELA Goal Report respectively noting this is the mid-year report and the board will receive the end of year report in June.

A detailed discussion among the members addressed thresholds and growth rates, comparison to pre-COVID numbers, requesting a comparison to reading growth and being on grade level, and reviewing the guide for how we do our work noting this guide is posted on the Academic Services page on the district website.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 24, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve January 24, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. MASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022 ELECTION (REGION 7)**

**Motion by Ms. Clark Pierson, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to support Guillermo Lopez to serve as the Region 7 Representative on the MASB Board of Directors and instruct the Superintendent's Assistant to cast a vote as such on behalf of this Board of Education.**

Dr. Glasscoe shared she has worked with Mr. Lopez for over 30-years and she has found him to be very well equipped, collaborative and knowledgeable.

**The motion carried 4/1.**

**C. APPROVAL OF DYNAMIC AIR CLEANER PURCHASE**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the use of ESSER III Funds in the amount of \$85,920 for the purchase of Dynamic Air Cleaners for Holbrook Elementary School and Beagle Middle School, as presented.**

Mr. Cwayna questioned and was advised the different price points represents the difference between standard and customization based on building needs. It was shared this will complete a project approved by the board in the fall. At that time, Holbrook and Beagle were still under construction and the units could not be purchased until after construction was complete.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF CAPITAL FUNDS INVOICES**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Capital Funds Invoices in the amount of \$96,178.40, as presented.**

President Shiflett shared all of the upcoming invoices were reviewed by the Board Bond Advisory Committee and have been approved to be brought forward.

**The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.**

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

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of a Sinking Fund Invoice in the amount of \$5,750, as presented.**

President Shiflett advised this is for software changes at Holbrook and Beagle.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$307,213.40, as presented.**

President Shiflett advised these are all invoices dealing with the finalization of construction at Beagle.

**The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.**

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

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$29,840, as presented.**

President Shiflett noted this represents Site Prep work at Delta Center and Wacousta.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$628,120.65, as presented.**

President Shiflett noted this represents work at the Pool with a few things tied to the track.

**The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.**

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

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$654,927.99, as presented.**

President Shiflett noted this is for work on the Fine Arts addition.

**The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.**

**J. Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by President Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to remove the mask requirement, effective immediately.**

**Motion by Ms. Clark Pierson, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to remove the mask requirement effective Tuesday, February 18, 2022.**

Superintendent Davenport requested the board wait to take action on this item until the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting when he can provide data and options to the board members.

A detailed discussion among the members touched on providing time for the district to prepare to rescind the mask mandate, allowing parents time to adjust may be beneficial, the reason for the continuation of the mask mandate when the Delta Variant and Omicron Variant took over with staggering death rates, recognizing that COVID numbers are dropping rapidly, availability of vaccines, information from the health department and their removal of mask requirements being based on a budget threat, what other districts are doing, creating a seamless process not one that is chaotic, several effective dates including immediately, at the start of the trimesters, March 1, following Spring Break, how removing the mandate will affect quarantine guidelines, noting the district has not had to shut down a building or the entire district and wanting to keep in-person learning going, rescinding the masks now and reinstating if necessary down the road, providing time in terms of implementation.

It was noted the majority of members support moving toward rescinding the mask mandate in the near future. Dr. Davenport again asked the board to allow him to pull together data and options for consideration at the February 28<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

**Ms. Clark Pierson withdrew her motion noting she looks forward to the conversation on the 28<sup>th</sup> and bringing an end to the mask mandate.**

**Vote on original Motion by Mr. Cwayna: The motion failed 4/1.**

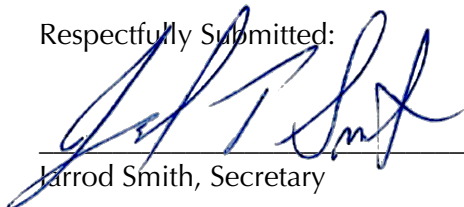
**COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD**

There were no comments from staff or board.

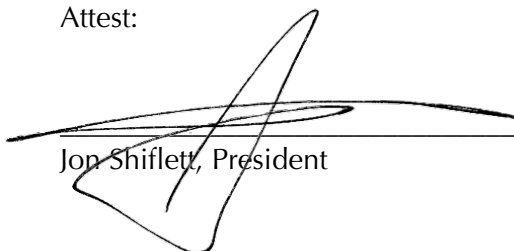
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Jarrod Smith, Secretary

Attest:

  
Jon Shiflett, President