

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Special Meeting – February 17, 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:** Jason Devenbaugh, Liz Devenbaugh, Kim Laforet, Jill Chapman, Megan Bouwens, Trever Bouwens, Hunter Aprill, Karlee Ruedisale, Danielle Pyle, Tara Kopietz, Ashley Oneil, Logan Allen, Sara Allen, Isabella Henrys, Dr. Andrea Herrst, Jeff McNeilly, Julie Tadgerson, Zeke Tadgerson, Kristen Andriessen, Brian McLaughlin, Grey Steven, Erin Jones, Jody Lyon, Alex Hoeksema, Renee Hultberg, Megan Hurley, Christy Price, Mike Price Christina Robedeau, Joseph Robedeau, Greg Almy, Melissa Mazzola, Courtenay Hamilton, Ryan Beattie, Melissa Burke, Michael Perrine, Jamie Mckennon, Amanda Carr, Joe Carr, Joe Farmer Tiffany Organek, Steve LaRegbe, Tyler Hubert, The Hubbard Family, Dawne Velianoff, Megan Szczepanek, Donna Ristow and Kim Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Ashley Oneil addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Kim Laforet addressed the board stating she was running for school board and among her concerns were that she heard that there were litter boxes in the bathrooms for kids who identified as furries (animals), books that are in classes, boards appearing in teachers' rooms and supporting Ashley Oneil, Jason Devenbaugh and herself for the Board.

Hunter Aprill addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Ethan Fox addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Grant Cwayna addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Tara Kopietz addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Noah Graver addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Dr. Andrea Herrst addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Kristin Andiessen addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Jeff McNeilly addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Erin Jones addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Madison Bellet addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Jason Devenbaugh addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Julie Tadgerson addressed the board regarding the American Rescue Plan and in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Melissa Burke addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Michael Perrine addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Alexa Hubbard addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Jack Hubbard addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Joe Farmer addressed the board to express having difficulty hearing the board members, no microphones in the Administrative Conference Room, the new sod field, his perception the board is ignoring parents, concerns for his student's English class and the manner it is being taught, flags in the school, and stating his perception that cloth masks don't work.

Joseph Robedeau addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Lara Hubbard addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

John Hubbard addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate and concerns about safety in the buildings.

Dawne Velianoff addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate, asking for a review of all board policies, asking who is on the negotiations team, asking who is the Title IX Coordinator.

Scott Martzke addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Katie Fox addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

Megan Bouwens addressed the board in support of rescinding the mask mandate.

MDHHS MASK GUIDANCE

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to rescind the mask mandate effective immediately.

A detailed discussion among the members reviewed the impact of the Delta variant and Omicron, the availability of vaccinations for the students who parents want them to receive it, there is no vaccination mandate in the district, figuring out what quarantine, mask-to-stay and contact tracing will look like without the mask mandate to ensure we are being clear with our students

and parents, the continuation of in-person instruction with minimal interruptions, and clarifying the rescinding of masks does not remove the mask requirements on school buses as this is a federal guideline and the board cannot supersede a federal or state order.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Ms. Clark Pierson stated that the person who identified himself as “Joe Farmer” was inappropriate when he shouted to the last public comment speaker, Katie Fox, to ‘shoot ‘em up’ as she approached the lecterns to address the board. She remarked use of violent imagery was inappropriate, especially after the shootings at the Oxford School District. She further noted Ms. Laforet’s comments about litter boxes in the schools was silly and that she should show some discernment when faced with obviously ridiculous rumors that she simply accepted as truth.

Mr. Cwayna, speaking personally, noted he does not feel the parents have been served well over the past two years, expressing he feels parents should have been given the choice to go back to school in 2020-2021, now students are back to school and they have had to go through masking requirements, expressing he is glad the board did this tonight but noting the work is not over and expressing we have to get back to educating our children, back to basics. He noted going forward we have to work together, not as opposites and he hopes he can count on everyone.

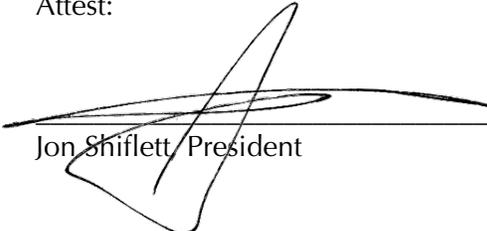
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Jarrod Smith, Secretary

Attest:


Jon Shiflett, President