

**GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
***Board of Education***  
**Regular Meeting – March 10, 2025**  
**MINUTES**

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Kali Stevens, Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon, Denise DuFort. ***Board Members Absent***: Ashley Kuykendoll and Matt Oppenheim. ***Central Office Administrators***: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, and Mark Deschaine. ***Others in Attendance***: John Piper, Jan M. Seeger, Jenny David, Robert David, Tim Totten, Bree Cleeves, Maria Dionise Kurdunowicz, Corrie Long, Devon Hampton, Asleigh Lore, Melissa Mazzola, SJ Nelton, Keri Rizzo and Kim Manning

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the March 10, 2025 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the March 10, 2025 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda were the February 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS**

**A. CAPITOL CONNECTIONS**

Mr. Holmes noted the courts have determined the hard cap bills have a constitutional right to be passed to the Governor's Office, but they will not compel them to be passed on. He shared partial budget bills were passed by the House and have moved onto the Senate and noted there is a lot of legislation coming out of committees and being presented to either the House or Senate for consideration.

Ms. Stevens noted the House Rules Committee approved a four-package bill, without debate, addressing changes to the teacher certification requirement and this bill package is now before the full House for consideration.

President DuFort noted and Ms. Stevens confirmed that the teacher certification package still maintains requirements for teachers to have a specific degrees before being certified to teach.

**B. EATON RESA**

President DuFort noted the Board received confirmation that the Department of Health and Human Services approved a \$250,000 grant to address renovations that will assist the Grand Ledge Health Center. She shared information regarding staff members who will be presenting and attending upcoming conferences, noted they received a report on the Eaton County Adult Education program, approved the resurfacing of the playground at Meadowview, and noted that 9 students qualified for the State DECA conference. In closing she shared the evaluation of Eaton RESA Superintendent Dr. Sean Williams was completed and he received an effective rating which is the highest rating allowed.

**C. GRAND LEDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Ms. Shannon shared registration has opened for Foundation's 5K Comet Chase. The race is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> which coincides with Yankee Doodle Day. To sign up, visit GLEF.net. At presented 58 people signed up for the race.

**D. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

Dr. Barnes shared during the committee meeting last week the committee established goals for the year along with the metrics to measure success.

**E. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Holmes shared during the committee meeting last week they discussed the NEOLA Spring update and they will use the next couple of meetings to go through the noted changes and bring forward any recommendations from the committee at later meetings. He also shared the committee reviewed Policy 0143.1 addressing Public Expression of Board Members that the board will discuss in more length later in the meeting. In closing he noted the committee will continue the review of the Administrative Guidelines.

**F. BOND UPDATE**

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided updates on construction work at Neff, High School, Hayes, Operations, Willow Ridge. He noted that all projects are on schedule and on budget.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Barnes welcomed Little Comets Preschool and Adventure Club Director, Bree Cleeves to present to the board.

**a. Little Comets Preschool & Adventure Club Presentation**

Little Comets Preschool and Adventure Club Director Bree Cleeves Director thanked the board for the opportunity to present tonight and introduced her Little Comets Assistant Directors Devon Hampton, Maria Dionesse-Kundunowicz, and

Adventure Club Assistant Director Corey Long. She shared videos of the happenings inside the Little Comets Preschool along with the Adventure Club's summer camp program from last year and throughout this year. She provided an overview of the upcoming Adventure Club summer camp program activities. She provided the current wait list for Adventure Club noting that since she took over oversight of the program in the Fall of 2023, the wait list has decreased by approximately 50% and she hopes to continue to look for innovative ways to use space at each of the buildings to continue the downward trend with the hope of eliminating the wait list.

Board members commended Ms. Cleeves for her work to reduce the wait list, remarked the preschool program is a great avenue to teach children how to do school before entering Kindergarten thereby setting them up for success in a school setting, expressed excitement in seeing how the programs have grown and asked how the board can better support her and the Little Comets Preschool and Adventure Club Programs and the times of the programs.

Ms. Cleeves noted she feels very supported in her role and with the programs from Dr. Barnes and the Administration. She shared the programs open for parent drop off at 6:45 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., noting Adventure Club is currently a before and after school program but noting both programs run all summer long.

President DuFort thanked Ms. Cleeves and all the staff of the Preschool and Adventure Club programs noting she hears a lot of positive comments about the programs. She thanked Ms. Cleeves and her Assistant Directors for being here tonight.

Superintendent Barnes thanked Bree, Maria, Devon and Corey noting that these programs exist outside of our K-12 programming but they get the benefit of being part of our Grand Ledge Public Schools community. He remarked that having a high-quality preschool program is a huge indicator that sets kids up for success in the school setting. He thanked them all for being here.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Shannon read the rules for public comment.

Tim Totten shared information about a Doug Didley movie, expressed his opinion that students should be introduced to the 10 Commandments and shared a quote from the Bible.

Kerry Rizzo addressed the board regarding the wrestling program and sharing their success and shared that concerns have been brought to the Title IX coordinator and she is hopeful for a positive resolution.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Board Members Discussion – Policy #0143.1**

A detailed discussion among the members included information shared at the last Governance Committee meeting regarding how board members respond to email communications from the community. They reviewed Board Policy 0143.1 noting the President is the official spokesperson of the board. Further discussion noted that as elected officials, board members have a responsibility to speak with, and interact with, the community in which they serve but the board speaks through its actions at public board meetings and through its' official minutes. The board recognizes that each of the seven members, as individuals, bring a different perspective to the table. They noted they do not want to send mixed messages to the community reiterating the board speaks as one through their actions at a public board meeting and through their official minutes. To ensure clarity when speaking with, or responding to, public inquiry, members need to be clear that they are speaking on behalf of themselves and not on behalf of the board as the entity that it is while ensuring they are giving due diligence to public input noting this is different than conducting official business of the board. Further discussion noted the policy is clear but it may be helpful to include more clarity in the onboarding process for new board members to ensure understanding that the board operates as a unit.

**B. Bid Award – Willow Ridge & Hayes Intermediate Furnishings**

**Motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the bid award for Willow Ridge Elementary School furnishings in the amount not to exceed \$105,802.08 and Hayes Intermediate School furnishings in the amount not to exceed \$103,632.50 for a total bid award not to exceed \$209,434.58 using bond funds, as presented.**

President Dufort and Ms. Shannon noted this was reviewed in the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee prior to the meeting and was approved to be brought to the full board for consideration.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$24,316.30, as presented.**

Ms. Shannon noted these invoices represent soil boring for new baseball nets and part of the roof at Neff again noting these invoices were reviewed in the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee prior to the meeting and were approved to be brought to the full board for consideration.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. Payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices**

**Motion by Mr. Holmes, 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 \$1,112,309.93, as presented.**

Ms. Stevens noted these invoices represent progress payments to Clark Construction and GMB along with AV upgrades through LiveSpace at the High School and Neff again noting these invoices were reviewed in the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee prior to the meeting and were approved to be brought to the full board for consideration.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**E. Payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$937,976.93, as presented.**

Ms. Shannon noted these invoices represent progress payments to Clark Construction as well as invoices for Technology at Hayes through Hamilton and trades at Willow Ridge, Hayes and Operations. President DuFort noted these invoices were reviewed in the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee prior to the meeting and were approved to be brought to the full board for consideration.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD**

Executive Director of Technology Mark Deschaine commended the Descendants performance.

Superintendent Barnes echoed Mr. Deschaine's comment on the Descendants performance noting it was very well done. He thanked Mr. Totten for his comments expressing his appreciation for his sharing and Ms. Rizzo for sharing the growth of our wrestling program recognizing this is a wonderful opportunity and ensuring that any concerns will be looked into thoroughly.

Mr. Holmes remarked Descendants was awesome. He expressed his appreciation to the staff for their work on the upcoming parent teacher conferences. In closing he shared that he and his wife, along with another friend, have signed up for the Comet Chase.

Ms. Stevens expressed how proud she was of the student performers in Descendants noting she had no idea the amount of work they must put in to learning the choreography and all their lines.

Ms. Shannon shared she doesn't miss the opportunity to go see a production and she is always impressed by our student performers, the stage crew, directors and everyone involved. In closing she shared six teams from Robotics qualified for the State Finals.

President DuFort noted she would be remiss as a former reading teacher if she didn't note that March is Reading Month and encouraging fellow board members, if they haven't already, to read the Book received from Hayes noting she loved it and read it in two days commenting reading will take us anywhere we want to go. In closing, regarding conferences, she expressed teachers are amazing noting the importance of parent teacher conference.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

  
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Nicole Shannon, Secretary

  
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Denise DuFort, President