

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

Work Session – March 11, 2019

**MINUTES**

President McKennon 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 Metcalf indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Jarrod Smith, Jon Shiflett, Ben Cwayna, Denise DuFort and Patrick McKennon. Sara Clark Pierson joined the meeting at 6:18 p.m. ***Central Office Administrators***: Brian Metcalf, Steve Gabriel, Mike Johnson, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. ***Others in Attendance***: Clare Luz, Katherine Hanson, Pat St. George, Melissa Mazzola and Kim Manning

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Community member Pat St. George spoke to the board about teaching students to code. She provided statistics regarding of growth of this work force and noting 47% of the US jobs are at risk of being replaced by robots and artificial intelligence. She encouraged members to visit code.org for more information to prepare our students for the future.

**ACTION ITEM**

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

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$28,545, as presented.**

President McKennon provided an explanation of the invoices noting the Board Bond Advisory Committee reviewed all the invoices and approved them to be brought forward for full board approval.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. APPROVAL OF HIGH SCHOOL PERSONAL CARE AIDE (PCA) TECHNICAL PROGRAM**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the implementation of the Personal Care Aide Technical Program at Grand Ledge High School, as presented.**

Superintendent Metcalf and MSU Professor Dr. Clare Luz provided the board with an overview and details of the proposed program noting this will be a certificate program being developed for a pilot year beginning in the fall of 2019. The program prepares high

school seniors for entry-level healthcare jobs in the direct care workforce as Personal Care Aides (PCAs). The program will be conducted once per week for three hours after the school day and will provide for work-based learning internships. The training program is based on the 77-hour comprehensive, evidence-based PCA curriculum developed through a federally funded grant. This training program will provide an essential strategy to meet the need for high quality, skilled and person-centered in-home supports and services by increasing the PCA pipeline and ensuring those entering the field have the skills and support needed for success. First school district in the state to do this. State of Michigan is watching this program closely.

Dr. Luz answered questions from the board noting instructors for the program will come from the community services network with Chris Curtin, RN with Area Agency on Aging adapting the curriculum. Trainers will travel once a week from Traverse City to teach. They will also use a train the trainer model. Denise – where would the instructors come from. The program is 77 hours broken down to once a week for three hours, after school to run three semesters. Eaton RESA has been involved in the planning and recommend the students, in the last three months, sign up for a work-based learning. She advised the students who complete this program will receive a certificate and she is working to get that certificate endorsed possibly through the Michigan Office on Services to the Aging. She advised the class does not currently provide credits toward college but would be good in meeting prequalification for other medical professions. In closing she noted current funding is through 2021. Work continues to look at alternative funding to sustain the program.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF MATH CURRICULUM**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the use of General Fund dollars to purchase High School Math Curriculum Materials from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt not to exceed \$101,389.87, as presented.**

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Dr. Steve Gabriel advised the High School Math Department expressed a need to update/replace materials used to teach Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry. The current material was last updated in 2007. The department spent the fall reviewing materials from several companies and while the products reviewed were similar in their offerings Houghton Mifflin Harcourt provides first rate customer service and support and was the least expensive of the materials reviewed.

Dr. Gabriel answered questions from the board noting Professional development for the implementation of the new curriculum will include in person and online training and advised this curriculum merges with the district's current elementary and middle school math curriculum.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF BUSES**

**Motion by Mr. Smith seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the use of 2019 Bond Funds to purchase five conventional, 77-passenger school buses from Midwest Transit not to exceed \$460,595, as presented.**

Assistant Superintendent for HR and Operations Dr. Mike Johnson advised the new buses will replace five 2007 buses currently in our fleet that have at least 175,000 miles on them as well as body corrosion. Equipped with cameras and our general equipment.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

**A. EATON RESA BOARD CANDIDATE**

President McKennon advised current Eaton RESA Board Representative Jay Bennett is stepping down effective June 30, 2019 and the RESA is looking to the district for recommendations for a candidate to replace Mr. Bennett. President McKennon advised it does not have to be a member of our board.

Ms. Clark Pierson provided her perspective as she has served on the Eaton RESA Board noting she believes it is good to have a direct representative who has ties to the district.

Mrs. DuFort may be interested.

President McKennon closed the discussion asking members to think about potential candidates and the board will discuss at the next Work Session Meeting in April. The filing deadline for the candidate is May 6, 2019 to be placed on the ballot.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

District employee and GLEA Representative Melissa Mazzola remarked there were 10 candidates when this Board had an open seat. While two of those candidates are now serving this board, it still leaves eight other possible candidates for the position on the Eaton RESA Board.

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD**

Dr. Gabriel addressed community member Pat St. George noting the district is very aware of the coding issue noting this year the district has an official robotics team at our High School and they will be attending a future board meeting to present their robot and tell the board about their experiences and discuss how we might be able to expand this program to the middle and elementary schools noting a meeting was held this week to begin the discussions at the core level.

Superintendent Metcalf added the high school staff is currently going into our kindergarten building to teach some skills to our youngest learners. He expressed his appreciation to Mrs. St. George for sharing the information.

President McKennon also thanks Mrs. St. George and expressed that while some people question why we are teaching this to our young students, it is important to keep teaching relevant to current day. He believes that other life skills should be taught to students as well, such as how to take out a loan. He commended the PCA program noting he believes this is a great appropriate for students. This is real life teaching, teaching compassion, learning about the aging process, noting it will be a great learning experience.

**CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations**

**Motion by, seconded by for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations Strategies, as per Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>	President McKennon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>

**The motion carried unanimously at 6:28 p.m.**

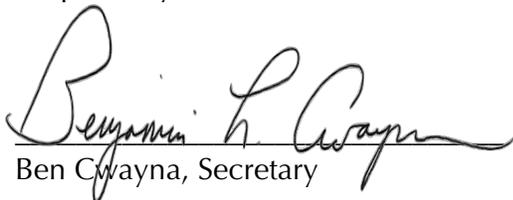
**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The board reconvened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

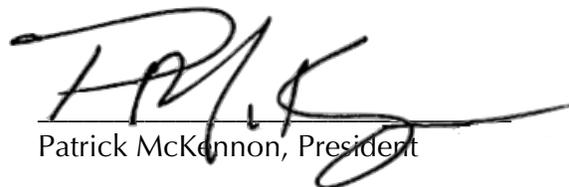
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Ben Cwayna, Secretary

Attest:

  
Patrick McKennon, President