

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – March 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, Jarrod Smith, Sara Clark Pierson, Denise DuFort, 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** Tim Totten, Dave Coleman, Chris Groves, Cathy Fox, Michelle Kost, Melissa Mazzola, Jason Devenbaugh, Rob Piercefield, Joseph Ingram, Kim Laforet, Ashley Oneil, Greg Almy, Kelly Smith, Fred Williams, Pat Williams, Kylie Heiler, Ashley Kuykendoll, Howard Pizzo, Nell Pizzo, Michael Patrick, Kyle Dymond, John Ledesma, Rachel Kuntzsch, Julie Tadgerson, Chelsea Hare-West and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the March 14, 2022 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the March 14, 2022 Consent Agenda Items, as amended.

Included on the Consent Agenda was the February 28, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Student Recognition

The Board, and those in attendance, took a moment to recognize the actions of two students, Joseph Ingram (GLHS) and Kiegh Schray (Hayes Intermediate). On February 24, 2022 Joseph and Kiegh were quick to act to assist in rendering aid during a sudden and unexpected medical emergency on their school bus. Their actions resulted in getting medical assistance for their bus driver which resulted in preservation of a life. The boys were presented with a Student Life Saving Award, as well as a Grand Ledge shirt.

B. GLPS MICIP Planning

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Dr. Bill Barnes presented the Board with Grand Ledge Public Schools planning for the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP) noting all district are required to follow the process to develop school improvement plans, which drive instructional practices, guide professional learning and align to applications for state and federal grant funding. He noted the plan needs to be consistently reviewed and updated, but the goals can be

continuous over multiple years. He shared MICIP works starts with monthly district school improvement team (DSIT) meetings and continues in building leadership teams and collaboration sessions. He shared what data is reviewed in the sessions to drive our planning. He further shared the 2021-2022 MICIP Planning and Goals for the Elementary and Intermediate Schools, Middle School, High School, Eaton County Youth Facility and District-Wide Goal. He noted in looking ahead to 2022-2023 by reviewing the data sources throughout the year and monitoring progress they are working on rolling over the 2021-2022 goals noting all principals are seeing great progress and want to continue to maintain their goals for next year as well as establishing new goals for next year based on our available data.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Dr. Glasscoe shared the House Education Committee has approved changes to the Michigan Merit Exam in two pieces of legislation. The Senate Education Committee passed a bill that would allow computer coding to be used for a foreign language credit. House Bill 4326. This bill has already passed the House and is now before the Senate. Legislation would remove the essay portion of the SAT and also remove the requirements that school districts must include a student's MME score for each subject area on their high school transcripts. These bills passed unanimously out of the House Education Committee last week.

B. Eaton RESA Report

There was no report.

C. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

There was no report.

D. Grand Ledge Education Foundation

Ms. Shannon advised the Foundation Board has not met, but it is that time of year when they gear up for their summer fundraiser.

E. Bond Update

Dr. Johnson provided the board with an update noting the tiling and grouting within the pool at Beagle is complete, tiling continues on the deck area. The pool scoreboard was moved from the High School to Beagle. He is hopeful that by his next report, the pool will be turned over to the district. He shared kids are out running on the track today as it's the first day of track practice. He anticipates the restroom and concession stand will be complete by the end of the month. He noted the underground plumbing work has been completed for the High School Fine Arts project and shared foundations were started today. In closing he noted planning is still underway for the Delta Center and Wacousta projects.

F. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Davenport introduced the staff of Wacousta Elementary School who are here to present on some of the great things taking place at their building.

Wacousta Principal Chris Groves introduced music teacher Cathy Fox noting she was named the Music Teacher of the Year (round of applause), Anna Rosalin a Kindergarten

teachers, the PTIA Vice President and member of the district EDIC, Wacousta media specialist Michael Patrick and Wacousta Alumni turned 1st grade teacher, Kylie Heiler. He noted these are just some of the people that make it happen. He stated Wacousta is a great place. He remarked that everyone has been through so much with COVID, the devastation that is taking place in the Ukraine, but he appreciative of the Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) for their leadership over the past 2.5 years. He noted that Wacousta is "Open for All". He remarked Wacousta is a special place and he is blessed to be the principal. He welcomed anyone who would like to stop by for a tour.

Cathy Fox and Anna Rosalin presented the board with an overview of some of the events that have taken place at Wacousta including welcoming therapy dog Sandee noting how much the students enjoy her, a PBIS refresher in January led by the alien, Star. In addition to lessons on expectations throughout the school, students did a craft and had popcorn and a movie, as part of Homecoming Spirit Week, Wacousta students brought in hundreds of food items and raised over \$1,300 for Believers Food Pantry, Kindergarten students participated in their own Winter Olympics, including a parade and learning about and practicing bobsledding, the luge, ice skating, skiing, curling and what the opening ceremonies were; students in 2-4th grade attending the Dog Man: The Musical at the Wharton Center; celebrating March is Reading Month with Wacousta having a March Book Madness tournament, extending thanks to GLEF for a grant that allowed them to purchase the books; and in closing noting that Wacousta is OPEN for all: O – Observant, P – Protective, E – Engaged, N – Neighborly.

Dr. Davenport thanked Mr. Groves for his humble leadership. He too remarked Wacousta is a special place, admitting that he was taken aback when he learned this was a school building without walls. He shared that it is a sight to experience a safety drill at Wacousta and how well the students can hide in a building with no walls. It remarked it is an amazing facility. He recognized that Hayes Intermediate Principal Kelly Smith was in the audience and thanked both of them noting that with leaders like these two, no matter the obstacles, we will continue to stand strong.

Dr. Davenport thanked Wacousta for their presentation. He went on to thank Dr. Barnes for his presentation on MICIP, shared that the Standardized Testing window will open soon, shared his experience in Mrs. Marsh's High School Anatomy and Physiology class noting this just reiterated the greatness we have in our district, in our students and in our educators. He commented on the budget remarking no decisions will continue to be made to continue to provide the best academic atmosphere to support our students. He commended the gymnastic team for a fabulous season and recognition Alana Yaney who was named All State Runner Up. He reminded everyone that on August 9, 2021, the Board of Education supported moving from our current Board Policies to begin working with NEOLA. The administration is in the process of reviewing all the new policies from NEOLA to ensure they align with our practices, handbooks ensuring they can be implemented with fidelity. He noted the Board Governance Committee will begin their review shortly with the plan to bring the policies to the full board for implementation at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. He expressed his thanks to Mr. Deschaine and Mr. Ellsworth for their leadership in this review process at the administrative level. He remarked that he has been proving monthly COVID updates, but there has not been a lot of new information. However, Mr. Ellsworth did provide a new graphic that shares the most recent update from MDHHS with regard to additional measures to keep as many

students and staff in the classroom. Additionally, with regard to Safety and Security, he reminded everyone that this is an important topic that is not lost. The district continues to work with all of our local law enforcement agencies and has met with some outside organizations, to ensure we are providing the safest learning environment possible. He remarked that security plans are not something that can be discussed publicly as it would defeat the purpose but assuring everyone that safety is another aspect that the district will continue to review and improve as necessary. In closing, he remarked that regardless of any differences, Grand Ledge Public Schools has an outstanding teaching staff, outstanding parents and most of all, outstanding students.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Shiflett noted reflection on the “Golden Rule” and we talked about Comet Pride. In honor of Wacousta presenting tonight, he discussed what “OPEN” is: Being Observant, Protective, Engaging and Neighborly. He remarked as we head into Public Comment, he would like to remind everyone that is what we are going to approach this meeting with. It is going to be OPEN.

Mr. Smith read the rules for addressing the board.

Michelle Kost addressed the board reading an excerpt from “Critical Race Theory: What it Is and How to Fight It” by Christopher F. Rufo as published in *Imprimis: A Publication of Hillsdale College*, March 2021 – Volume 50, No 3 found at Hillsdale.edu.

Tim Totten addressed the board with regard to President Shiflett’s comments about civility and order from the last meeting, questioning why public speakers were “shaking in their boots”, stating the diversity, equity and inclusion theology amps up the racial divide, opens old racial wounds and stating it is the wrong way to do it. He remarked to stop demonizing people for being human and accept that people will make mistakes and stop stifling free speech.

Kim Laforet addressed the board regarding public comment from the February 28, 2022 board meeting noting that she, Jason Devenbaugh and Ashley Oneil have had several conversations about trying to make our school district kinder, more diverse, equitable and inclusive. But the way they see going about that may differ from others. Diversity cannot be only seen through the eyes of race, but diversity of thought where all sides are thought out. She noted getting rid of the Confederate Flag was a start but all flags other than the American Flag and Michigan Flag should be banned from school buildings.

Ashley Oneil addressed comments from the last board meeting expressing if she has made anyone feel unsafe or threatened, she apologizes and would love to talk with them. She noted the last two years have been difficult and hopes that we can all agree that those we hurt the most were our children. She encouraged putting a plan in place for any situation and getting back to preparing our students for life after high school. She encouraged making Grand Ledge the amazing place it once was.

Ashley Kuykendoll acknowledged Kiegh Schray and Joe Ingram expressing she hopes they are both proud. She questioned the design of the audio/visual set up for the board meetings as a one-way streaming option and asked about future considerations to allow full remote engagement and other accessibility features that may be available. She questioned the process to elevate questions and/or concerns to receive a prompt response mentioning an email she sent to Dr. Davenport on January 25, 2022. She expressed the last two years of education have been impactful for students

but questioned how the district is communicating with parents about the plans, strategies and resources being developed and put in place and how the district is tracking the success rate of those plans, strategies and resources. In closing she thanked Dr. Barnes for the MICIP Planning and Goals expressing this is something she can get behind and announcing she is a candidate for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education.

Kyle Dymond addressed the board commenting that as noted in the MIPCIP presentation that students learn better when they see people who look like them and have similar life experiences. He expressed his appreciation to the board and administration for continuing to work toward those goals and expressed his hope the work will continue towards the EDIC recommendations and encouraged this meaningful path forward to ensure all people feel safe and secure.

Rachel Kuntzsch addressed the board noting she is the parent of two Grand Ledge graduates and wanted to take a moment to thank the board. She expressed her understanding of the roll of service on a board of directors noting it is challenging and often thankless. She expressed her thanks to each of the members for their service to the community and for their commitment to the students and staff of the district noting she will always be proud to be a Grand Ledge parent.

Melissa Mazolla addressed the board and thanked Dr. Barnes for his presentation. She then addressed equity versus equality noting the Constitution states all students will have equal access to education meaning that all students can equitably access the education. Not that all students will have equal outcomes. She provided examples of equity versus equality noting equity provides the access to education. She expressed her support for the continued display of LGBTQIA+, BLM and Thin Blue Line flags that support inclusion. In closing she noted she will continue to support all students at Grand Ledge Public Schools and will lead with kindness, compassion and empathy.

NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT

Chief Financial Officer Julie Waterbury noted general fund revenues are expected to increase since the original budget adoption in June 2021 noting an increase in the State foundation allowance and the offset by a decline in the projected student count. She shared other increases come from various categorial funds and federal funds. She further reviewed the increase of general fund expenditures as a result of employee contracts settlements, the purchase of various capital improvement items and expenditure associated with the receipt of grant funds. In closing she noted a projected fund balance of 9.42% of revenue and 8.59% of expenditures.

A detailed discussion among the members noted it has been an exceptional couple of years, the implementation of remote learning and the global upheaval of the pandemic, a possible additional increase in the per pupil foundation allowance, recognizing the fund balance and the need to reduce that fund balance, short-falls in the bond planning, being proactive in planning for the future, appreciation for the administrations proactive approach with regard to the budget, and commending Mrs. Waterbury on her presentation of the data. It was further clarified that the district's projected budget of 9.42% is well outside any triggers for the early warning.

Motion by Ms. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2021-2022 General Fund Budget Amendment, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 2022-2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET PROJECTIONS DISCUSSION

Chief Financial Officer Julie Waterbury shared an overview of the 2022-2023 General Fund Budget Projection noting an estimated ending fund balance of 8.02%. She shared the process of the projected 2022-2023 budget including the estimated increase in the foundation allowance, the estimated decrease in enrollment and carrying over known expenses. She advised regular conversations are taking place with regard to the budgets and ensuring the fiscal vitality of the district.

A discussion among the member noted that while school districts are required to have their budget established by July 1, the State of Michigan does not have to provide districts with their budget until October. Everyone was reminded this is an election year and members of both the House and Senate are targeting to have the State budget established by June.

C. APPROVAL OF AUDIO/VISUAL UPGRADE BID AWARD

Motion by Ms. Clark Pierson, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Bid Award to Moss Telecommunications in the amount of \$207,487.11 using \$101,079.20 from the General Fund and \$106,407.91 from the Technology Capital Projects Funds for audio/visual upgrades to the Board of Education Room and the music and science classrooms at Beagle Middle School, as presented.

Executive Director of Technology Mark Deschaine provided the board with information regarding the upgrades to the Board of Education Room at the request of the Board of Education as well as the details for the upgrades at Beagle Middle School. He reviewed the process for the request for proposals, bid review and analysis and noted that by bidding the three projects together, there was more value and savings.

The motion 6-1.

D. APPROVAL OF TIMBER SALE

Motion by Ms. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Standing Timber Contract with Bourdo Logging for the sale of 42 Walnut Trees in the amount of \$32,400, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF CAPITAL FUNDS INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Capital Funds Invoices in the amount of \$120,001.07, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted the all the upcoming payments have been reviewed by the Board Bond Advisory Committee and approved to be brought forward. He noted this invoice represents work done at the High School.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, 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 \$67,501, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this was for the replacement of a coil.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 1 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 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$345,968.29, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this was for bond work at Beagle and the music room at the High School.

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

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

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$4,822.56, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this was for the initial prep work at Delta Center.

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 1 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 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$552,678.84, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this is for pool work at both Beagle and the High School.

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

J. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF CAPITAL FUNDS INVOICES

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$528,471.34, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this is for work at for the Fine Arts addition and the Track.

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

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Dr. Gabriel encouraged everyone to get their tickets for this week's musical – High School Musical, congratulated our gymnastics team and Alana Yaney and giving credit to gymnastics coach Duane Haring.

Mr. Ellsworth shared information regarding enrollment for peer districts noting every district lost and Grand Ledge is well within what was happening between within the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. He expressed his excitement for the upcoming Schools of Choice campaign noting the wants everyone to become ambassadors for the fantastic things happening within our district.

Dr. Glasscoe thanked Garrett Callison and Ms. Scott for their recent interview of her for the latest edition of the Comet's Tale.

Mrs. DuFort advised Hayes Intermediate School opened their library today, much go the delight of their media specialist Nola Cockroft, and encouraged everyone to stop by, mentioned the High School quiz bowl team has qualified to go to Nashville sharing they have established a Go Fund Me page to offset costs, and shared highlights from the Michigan Department of Education Annual Report encouraging the board members to take a moment to review the information.

Dr. Barnes shared the district was the recipient of one of the Future Proud Michigan Educator Grants in the spring. We have met with local partners at the college level and conversations with the Eaton RESA to receive funding through the CTE program. There is a lot of opportunity.

Mrs. DuFort discussed the adequate and equitable school funding and encouraged everyone to keep contacting their state legislators with regard to public education funding.

Ms. Clark Pierson noted Ms. Cockroft has been a wonderful part of the district, she commended the gymnastics team noting it is probably the best sports team Grand Ledge has ever had, and addressed comments made at the last meeting with regard to the hiring of Dr. Davenport and noting that Dr. Davenport has his Ph.D from MSU, had a strong elementary education background as well as experience as a teacher, building principal and superintendent before he came to us. She encouraged people to go back and view his interview. Additionally, she noted that the 2021-2022 budget was approved in June, before Dr. Davenport's tenure began with the district.

Ms. Shannon thanked Mrs. Waterbury for a fantastic presentation of the budget forecast as well as Dr. Barnes for his MICIP presentation. She commended Dr. Davenport for a fantastic team of administrators. She again recognized the students who took action on the school bus and expressing that while tonight may have expressed some challenging things ahead it also showed so much.

Mr. Smith wished President Shiflett a Happy Birthday.

President Shiflett acknowledged Kiegh Schray and Joe Ingram again for their quick actions stating this is Comet Pride. He expressed he is glad everyone is here and appreciated the tenor and candor of the moving noting we will continue moving forward.

CLOSED SESSION – ATTORNEY / CLIENT PRIVILEGE

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of receiving confidential Attorney / Client Communication, as per Section 8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976 – Metcalf versus Grand Ledge Public Schools, Court of Appeals Docket Number 358259 and per Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976 – Written Attorney / Client Privilege.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously at 8:24 p.m.

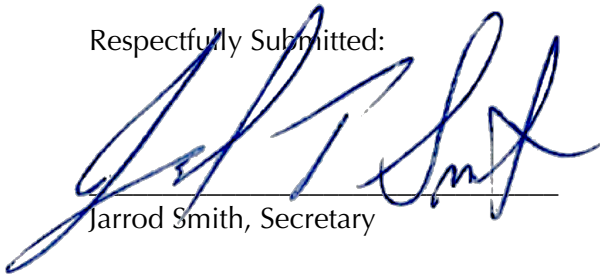
RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 9:42 p.m.

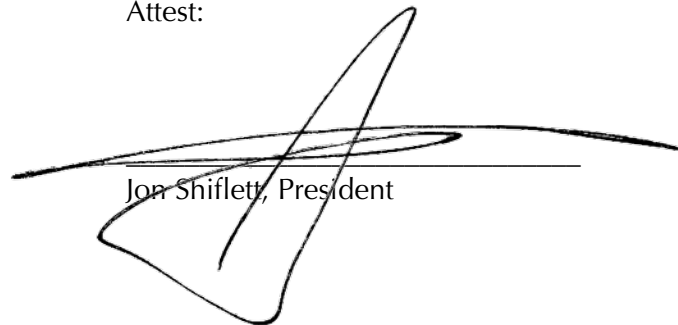
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at. 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Jarrod Smith, Secretary

Attest:


Jon Shiflett, President