
GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – March 26, 2018

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 President Shiflett indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Ben Cwayna, Denise DuFort, Kim Mulvenna, Patrick McKennon, Sara Clark Pierson and Jon Shiflett ***Central Office Administrators***: Steve Gabriel, Mike Johnson, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Sutherland and Mark Deschaine. ***Others in Attendance***: Melissa Mazzola, Jim Gee, Erin Ries, Erica Ledesma, Kristy Merignac, Diane Garnaat, Darrin Gyurich, Lisa Klingbiel, Greg Almy, John Nelson, Danielle Nelson, The Bouwens and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the March 26, 2018 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the March 26, 2018 Consent Agenda Item, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the meeting minutes of the February 26, 2018 Regular Meeting and the March 12, 2018 Work Session Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

- A. Capitol Connections Report** - Mrs. DuFort advised several bills have seen movement lately. House Bills 5598-5605 (teacher preparation), HB 4106 (allows students in grades 9-12 to participate in internships & work experience for HS credit) and SB 103-106 (truancy) have been reported from their respective committees and are now before the full chamber for consideration. Senate Bills 871 – 880 (expansion of mandatory reporters) have passed the senate and will now move to House Committee for consideration. SB 795 & 796 (bans paid leave time for union activities) and SB 882 (allowing closed session for purpose of discussing security plans) are currently before the full Senate for consideration. In addition, the Senate School Aide Committee has released its proposed budget, which includes \$96.6M more than was in Governor Snyder's proposed budget, and will be going to full Senate. The House will release its own budget proposal following Spring Break. In closing she noted Senate Bill 885

(eliminate yearly waivers allowing pre-Labor Day starts for schools), has been sent to committee.

President Shiflett noted the Senate has also passed a rewrite of Ag exemption, which reduces overall tax revenue. He noted whenever there is a reduction in tax revenue, the School Aid Fund is in threat of losing money and therefore schools are in threat of losing money.

- B. Eaton RESA Report** – President Shiflett advised Eaton RESA Board Representative Jay Bennett was unable to attend tonight but asked him to report that the Relevant Academy contract has been renewed for another five years through June 30, 2023. Part of this renewal includes Eaton RESA entering into a cooperative shared business services agreement with the Academy through June 30, 2020. Eaton RESA will receive a fee to cover the costs of services provided. At the November Board meeting, approval was granted to proceed with planning a non-voted bond issue not to exceed \$3.3M for the purpose of renovating the Southridge and Packard facilities. The sale of these bonds has now been approved. Eaton RESA is preparing to provide their 2018-2019 budgets, as statutorily required, to local districts by May 1, 2018. Local district board resolutions, either approving or disapproving each of these budgets is due back to the RESA by June 1, 2018.
- C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report** – Mrs. DuFort advised the Board will meet meeting on Wednesday. However, the 15th Annual Comet Chase Race is coming up on Saturday, June 23rd. Registration Forms are available online at: <https://sites.google.com/site/glef501c3>
- D. Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Report** –Mr. McKennon advised the Committee has not met.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Staff Member and GLEA President Greg Almy thanked the board for approving the calendar for next year and now want to switch gears to backing a bond proposal. He also remarked on the practice of “switch class” that is done in DeWitt.

Parent and community member Danielle Nelson asked is the redistricting was a possibility and if the balanced calendar was suspended for a while.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of Board Policy GP206

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Board Policy GP206, as presented.

Board Secretary McKennon read the policy.

Discussion among the members had Mrs. DuFort asked if comments could be submitted to be read at the meeting if a member were going to be absent and Board Parliamentarian Clark Pierson advising this is an acceptable practice. Mrs. Mulvenna noted board members are always going to disagree about something, but members can call each other to discuss their views, to which Mrs. Clark Pierson advised the Open Meetings Act says board members cannot deliberate in private, but are allowed to talk to each other and can have individual conversations.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Food Service Management Contract Renewal with Chartwells

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mrs. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Contract Renewal with Chartwells for Food Service Management, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. GL Bond Information Gathering Process Presented by GMB Architects

Brad Hemmes from GMB Architects and Engineers presented the board with an overview of the Bond Information Gathering Process noting he, or a member of his team, has attended most of the PTA meetings over the last couple months including holding a community forum at the GLHS last week. This was done to provide staff and parents an opportunity to provide input on what they feel is important if the board were to opt to pursue a bond proposal in the near future. He provided the members with a copy of the 2017 Facility Assessment that was conducted in August 2017. GMB Architects and Engineers assembled a team made up of a Mechanical Engineer, an Electrical Engineer and a Construction Administrator to tour ten of our facilities to assess the condition of the building. This assessment will be used as a planning tool to show the useful life and how to make the buildings more efficient. The goal is to provide the board with a 10-year plan to guide a potential bond proposal and how to best utilize current sinking fund and general fund dollars. He noted his staff is in the process of pulling all this data together giving us a good snapshot of where we are. The next step in this information gathering process will be to host a Community and Staff Survey after Spring Break. Mr. Hemmes noted this process has been very grassroots driven but it is important for the community to know, and understand, Grand Ledge Public Schools' newest building is over 20-years old. The process moving forward will be to look at the survey results, review building capacity and how the building(s) are being used now and how they might be used, enrollment predictions for the next five years and five years after that, and unfortunately, ensuring the appropriate security measures are in place to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Discussion among the members noted the Facility Assessment has not been made public, as it needs to be ensured it will be useful tool the community can understand. With regard to the safety and security at each of our buildings it was discussed the district has been proactive in most of the building and this process will look for best practices. It was also pointed out that it has been 11-years since the district has had an infusion of cash but it has been very fiscally responsible with the resources available. It was noted the last two bond proposals, which had

a lot of security in it, have failed. People don't think it will happen here but the unfortunate reality is, nobody thinks it will happen to them, until it does. In closing it was noted that Michigan Association of School Administrators, along with Thrun Law Firm recently hosted a security conference at MSU where internal, external and family security issues were discussed noting they need to be addressed.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS

District employee Melissa Mazzola expressed her continued believe social media is a great tool to share information and believes it needs to be utilized in the discussion of a bond proposal. She noted transparency is important and while everyone in this room is on board, we need to make sure that we let the parents and community drive this proposal.

Community member Danielle Nelson advised she loves the security issues being discussed but cyber security is another security issue that must be considered. She believes technology is important in our schools she does not support a 1-1 implementation.

District employee and GLEA President Greg Almy advised he will have a general membership meeting in May, and while he doesn't know the exact timeline, he offered to rally his group and do what they can to help, whether it be knocking on doors to handing out literature.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF

Mrs. Mulvenna clarified the board of education did not vote to approve the 2018-2019 calendar, it was negotiated and approved through the negotiation teams. She thanked Mr. Hemmes for coming and noted a bond proposal is in its infancy and there is no timeline yet. She commended Maintenance Supervisor John Piper and Assistant Superintendent Mike Johnson on the great job they do staying on top of the care our buildings need. In closing she questioned Technology Director Mark Deschaine on what we have in place to protect our students?

Mr. Deschaine advised we have a great firewall in place, and believes the debate is about when the devises go home. He noted the technology we do have in place is aging rapidly and new gains in cyber security are made every day. In closing he agreed there is an appropriate time and inappropriate time to use technology and we need to teach our children that, in conjunction with parents.

Mrs. DuFort noted in reference to Mr. Almy's comments the district does do something similar to Switch Class in some of our buildings at some levels. She also noted there was a coalition unveiled on Thursday that is made up of law enforcement, education groups and social mental health professionals who are preparing the Michigan Safe Schools Reform Plan (MSSRP) with the goal to prevent violence in schools. MASB has thrown their support behind this. In closing she noted these are knowledgeable people coming together and she believes funding for this coalition is coming from grants.

President Shiflett noted he saw the announcement on the MSSRP as well, and knows the legislature has been making plans as well. He remarked he supports more coalition building as there is so much overlap. In closing he noted the community is very intentionally driving any potential bond proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

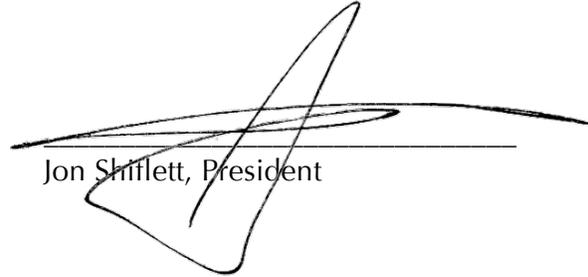
The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Patrick McKennon, Secretary

Attest:



Jon Shillett, President