

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Work Session – April 14, 2025
MINUTES

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:01p.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, Matt Oppenheim, Kali Stevens, Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon, and Denise DuFort. Ashley Kuykendoll joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m. ***Board Members Absent:*** None. ***Central Office Administrators:*** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. ***Others in Attendance:*** Jill Ford, Erin Snyder, Stacy Austin, Jim Gee, Ashleigh Lore, Tiffany Organek, Melissa Mazzola and Kim Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION & PRESENTATION ITEMS

A. Student Representatives to the Board of Education

President DuFort noted this had been discussed in the past and she wanted to bring it back to the table for further discussion.

Dr. Barnes shared he has some experience with involving students and noted this is not something the board will act on tonight, but rather a discussion that will provide guidance to move forward in the Fall.

A detailed discussion among the members revealed support for this endeavor noting it is a good level of engagement, allows students to get experience in civic engagement and provides a good opportunity for the board to hear from students. Further discussion questioned how the student would be selected, noted the student would not have any voting authority, and would provide a great opportunity for students to see how the board supports them. It was further discussed on how the student representative would be selected and ensuring the onboarding process of the student with the suggestion of having a board member mentor assigned to the student and ensuring they understand this is not just to share all the wonderful things going on, but also to bring concerns to the board to ensure they are hearing genuine information to allow the board to assist in continuing to improve the learning environment for all students.

In closing President DuFort said she would continue doing her research and would bring this matter back to the board for further discussion and consideration.

B. Willow Ridge Elementary School Presentation

Willow Ridge Principal Jim Gee shared information about how Willow Ridge succeeds as a team, including the Math team, Reading team, Building Initiative team, Special Education team, and Specials. He shared testing data from Acadience and NWEA showing growth by cohort. In closing he commended his remarking staff noting that nothing is possible without their unlimited dedication to the students and families.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of March 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

B. Approval of Counselor Hiring

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Stevens for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the hiring of Chelsea Locke, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Curriculum Adoption – Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Adoption of the Core Knowledge Language Arts Curriculum as the district's core English Language Arts curriculum for Kindergarten through 6th Grade, as presented.

Superintendent Barnes expressed his appreciation to Dr. Albrecht, Abbie Burmeister and all the teachers who worked through the process and piloted the different curriculums noting this was a year-long extensive pilot process with extensive engagement.

Dr. Albrecht highlighted the process, reviewed the pilot program over the last year, shared Reading Consultant Chrissy Trotochaud, who was hired using funds available through a grant, has been leading the pilot with the teachers. He took a moment to thank all 26 teachers who engaged in the pilot. He provided the reasoning in bringing this program forward and noted the recommended curriculum, CKLA, brings us into compliance with legislation (PA 146 & 147). He noted the curriculum is well vetted and shared information on the rubric used to evaluate two ELA programs which included current strength and struggles. He reviewed the professional development timeline at both the leadership level and teacher level sharing we are partnering with The Reading League for the professional development.

A detailed discussion among the members included appreciation to all the staff involved in the pilot program and the extra time given, noted the data drove the process with the goal to improve our student outcomes, with rigorous and quality text and ensuring the curriculum being provided is not based on demographics and

puts all students on equal footing. They further discussed the curriculum has a strong computer component, addressing reservations, removing barriers and noting the instructional coaching team is ready to be boots on the ground to provide timely day-to-day feedback.

In closing Dr. Barnes recognized the 26 teachers involved in the pilot and thanked Dr. Albrecht and Mrs. Burmeister for their expertise noting Dr. Albrecht's dissertation was how to support good reading instruction in classrooms. He remarked this has been a very well done, well thought out process and he is proud of the work that has been done.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of iPad Purchase

Motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve purchase of 260 iPads from Apple in the amount of \$84,240 and the purchase of 260 iPad cases from CDW-G in the amount of \$4,661.80 for a total purchase price of \$88,901.80 using General Fund dollars, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of 2025-2026 Adventure Club Rates

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2025-2026 Adventure Club Rates.

Superintendent Barnes noted the district has not raised rates for Adventure Club in several years. Costs have increased and it is necessary to raise our rates to ensure Adventure Club remains a viable option for families while still staying cost neutral for the district. He noted even with this increase; our fees are still less than other programs around us. In closing he advised this information will be shared with families in the near future.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. Approval of the 2024-2025 Budget Amendment

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Amendment Resolution, as presented.

Superintendent Barnes reminded the board that historically only one budget amendment was presented to the board but the district has committed to presenting quarterly amendments. He reminded everyone, this is where the budget stands right now, noting things will change. A final budget amendment will be brought back to the board in June, along with the proposed 2025-2026 budget stating we are not in any shape to present information on next year's budget tonight. He shared the district wants to ensure transparency in our budgeting process by presenting this to

the board tonight and noting this will be presented to the leadership team as well as our union and association leaders in the coming week.

Chief Financial Officer Adrienne Barna provided an in-depth overview of the budget amendment noting a favorable budget amendment. She shared the General Fund Revenues for the 2024-2025 year are projected to equal approximately \$79.3 million, an increase of \$3,078,803 from the first budget amendment and reviewed the factors that contributed to the revised revenue projection. She shared the General Fund expenditures are projected to increase by approximately \$845,254 from the first amendment budget to \$76.9 million and reviewed the factors that contributed to the revised expenditure projection. In closing she noted the amended budget adoption for 2024-2025 estimates a \$2.3 million addition to the fund balance leaving the District with a projected ending fund balance of \$11.4 million as of June 30, 2025. This fund balance level represents 14.38% of revenues.

Superintendent Barnes noted this is a budget amendment and not the final budget remarking things will change between now and the end of June. He reviewed the typical pupil accounting increase districts receive from the State noting this year we received a savings from the State but that savings will be used to offset increased costs of doing business. He commended the new structure of the Board Finance Committee noting this was presented to them last week and they really dug into the details and he expressed his appreciation for the way the Finance Committee asked questions and committed to the process.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Holmes	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>	President DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

G. Approval of 2018 Bond Technology Purchase – Security Cameras

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the purchase of 13 Axis Cameras from People Driven Technology in the amount of \$6,549.90 and Service and Materials from Moss Telecommunications to assist with the installation of said cameras not to exceed \$10,000 for a total cost not to exceed \$16,549.90 using 2018 Bond Technology Infrastructure funds, as presented.

Superintendent Barnes noted that while this purchase did not meet the State threshold for requiring bids, because it is using Bond Funds, he felt it was necessary for transparency to bring this to the Board Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and the full Board prior to the purchase.

The motion carried unanimously.

H. Approval of the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$65,090.32, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted that all invoices were reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and shared this represents lights for the baseball field and HVAC for Sawdon.

The motion carried unanimously.

I. Approval of the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$2,169.37, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted that all invoices were reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and shared this represents Wacousta furniture purchases.

The motion carried unanimously.

J. Approval of the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, 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 \$556,444.99, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted that all invoices were reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and shared this represents Clark progress billing, AV design work and trades work at the High School.

The motion carried unanimously.

K. Approval of the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$967,627.77, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted that all invoices were reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and shared this represents Clark and GMB progress billing and trades work at Willow Ridge, Hayes and the Operations building.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Communications Director John Ellsworth noted we talk a lot about One Team in reference to our bargaining but noted we also try to live this as our culture. He recognized the Willow Ridge team and their presentation and core message, the test pilot, the challenge of hirings mid-year, the budget amendment noting that growth is not something all district are seeing and our core interest to attract and retain students and staff is a conscious effort on a daily basis throughout the district.

Superintendent Barnes, expanding on Mr. Ellsworth's comments noted the core work of the school district was represented tonight, noting we can't have that one team if we don't have the strong leadership at every level. He expressed his appreciation for the work that went into everything heard tonight and the organic conversations that take place on a daily basis. In closing he expressed his appreciation for the board's leadership in supporting the district.

Mr. Holmes recognized the conscious effort of everyone to make things happen expressing he is grateful so many people work together to make this school district pretty awesome. He reminded everyone the STEAM showcase at Beagle is scheduled for May 8th and encouraged everyone to stop by giving a shout out to Mrs. Fred for putting an amazing show together.

Mr. Oppenheim noted he endeavors as a board member to be present and has committed to continue that. He shared he visited the High School and participated in Lauren Read's and Courtney McDonald's classrooms sharing there was great energy and remarking he was impressed with both of these teachers.

Dr. Glasscoe noted one of her greatest regrets is that she is a full time professional who doesn't get much time to do the fun things but she appreciates the efficacy and grit that shows students they can do what we encourage them to do. She shared that Grand Ledge High School will be hosting the Career Prep Awards Night for LCC on May 13th and the 50-year celebration will take place on April 24th on the West Campus of LCC in conjunction with the CASBA meeting. In closing she gave a shout out to Grand Ledge for their participation in the Ready for Launch Orientation for students on the autism spectrum noting they had excellent parent and student participation.

Ms. Shannon remarked she feels tonight was Grand Ledge at its best and expressed she is proud of the work of this district and this community.

Ms. Kuykendoll noted we spend a lot of time celebrating Grand Ledge but noted there is still work to do remarking there are still things we want to do better. However, we are not complacent in how we show up in this space. We know there are issues that need to be dealt with and we do not bury our heads in the sand and that makes her proud.

President DuFort clarified the 50-year celebration is from 4:00 – 6:00 pm and the CASBA meeting will start at 6:00 pm. As far as everything else, she expressed she feels we are doing amazing things in Grand Ledge and One Team sums it up.

ADJOURNMENT

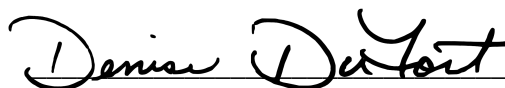
The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Attest:



Denise DuFort, President