

**GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
***Board of Education***  
**Regular Meeting – April 28, 2025**  
**MINUTES**

Vice President Kuykendoll 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, Matt Oppenheim, Kali Stevens, Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon, Ashley Kuykendoll. ***Board Members Absent***: Denise DuFort. ***Central Office Administrators***: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones and John Ellsworth. ***Others in Attendance***: Michelle Oppenheim, Patrick Bymhold, Abbie Burmeister, Jan M. Seeger, Sally Jo Nelton, Melissa Mazzola, John Piper 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 April 28, 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 April 28, 2025 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda were the April 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS**

**A. CAPITOL CONNECTIONS**

Dr. Glasscoe shared it is anticipated the Senate will have a tentative budget by May 11, 2025. The budget will then go to the House for review and will allow them to present their proposed budget. She advised she is keeping an eye on the process.

**B. EATON RESA**

Vice President Kuykendoll noted Grand Ledge Public Schools was well represented at the CASBA Meeting last week where the RESA shared information regarding their proposed 2025-2026 budget.

Mr. Holmes noted the Eaton RESA Budget will come before this board for review and consideration in May.

Ms. Stevens noted that while she wasn't able to attend the event, she heard the 50-year celebration was a wonderful event.

Dr. Barnes noted that prior to the CASBA meeting, there was a celebration of the 50-year partnership between the Eaton RESA and LCC. During the celebration they had the "Fab Labs" on site. There are trailers the Eaton RESA takes around to local schools to provide students with a hand-on experience in career and technical fields. He shared that he visited the flight simulator wherein he was able to virtually fly a fighter jet which he noted was a blast. In closing he noted the students in Eaton County are very lucky for this partnership sharing that Davenport College, as well as Farm Bureau are also partners in the program that creates great opportunities for kids to get experience and earn college credit.

Vice President Kuykendoll noted that less than 5% of the students in Michigan have access to CTE in their district sharing that Eaton County has approximately 800 students in the program remarking it was impressive to hear about all the wonderful work they are doing and learn about new opportunities that may be added down the line.

**C. GRAND LEDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Ms. Shannon noted the Foundation's focus is on the upcoming 5K Comet Chase 5K. There are currently 160 participants registered. She encouraged everyone to tell a friend or bring a friend and thanked the board for stepping up for the event. She noted last year the Foundation saw over 300 participants and their goal is to beat that this year.

Dr. Gabriel, who serves as the race coordinator shared the new finisher medals for this year and commented a third give away will be announced soon.

**D. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

Vice President Kuykendoll noted the committee did not meet this past month, but Dr. Barnes shared data with the committee that they will be discussing at the meeting next week.

**E. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Holmes noted the Committee did not meet last month, but Dr. Barnes shared policies with the members that will be reviewed at next week's meeting.

**F. BOND UPDATE**

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

Ms. Stevens thanked Mr. Piper and Dr. Barnes for the recent bond tour noting she is impressed that the district provides this opportunity to the board throughout the process.

**G. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Barnes recognized the work the Academic Services department does, noting they are a small but mighty team. He then turned it over to Dr. Albrecht, Executive Director for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment (Academic Services).

**a. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Department presentation**

Executive Director for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Dr. Bill Albrecht introduced his team members in attendance tonight including Michelle Oppenheim, Patrick Bymhold and Abbie Burmeister. He recognized two members of the team, Karen Frisbie and Chrissy Trotchaud were unable to attend and recognized the work of everyone in the department. He and his team went on to share how academic services is driving coherence, clarity and impact across Grand Ledge Public Schools including leading teaching and learning, why this work matters, efforts to ensure that Grand Ledge Public Schools is becoming a high-performing and improving school district, the vision for a high performing professional learning community, the district school improvement goals for academics and programs and learning environment and culture, and reviewed MICIP district and school improvement purpose and how it works. They also provided information regarding communication and visibility sharing information on the Academic Services Calendar, the monthly Academic Services Newsletter and a snapshot of the Academic Services mid-year review. They reviewed Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment highlighting building a coherent learning pathway, defining and supporting high-quality teaching, and aligning what we teach with what we measure. They went on to review district professional learning with the goals to improve teaching and learning, alignment of systems, certification renewal and meeting state requirements through monthly teacher leader collaboration, the implementation of the “Principal Roadshows”, new/beginning teacher support, mentor teacher support, and administrator support. They went on to share information on how they are sustaining momentum and innovation with the curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional learning and family engagement. They shared information regarding the newly formed AI Advisory Group that was created to explore the role of AI in education, be instrumental in helping our district navigate this evolving landscape, explore AI’s potential in enhancing teaching, learning and administrative efficiency while ensuring ethical and responsible implementation and provide an opportunity to the district to align our goals, discuss key focus areas, and establish a vision for our work together. In closing Dr. Albrecht noted that “continuous improvement is a process – our focus is on building coherence over time, not overnight.”

A detailed discussion among the board questioned how the new STEAM specialist will be absorbed into the elementary schedule, the positive feedback received in regard to the calendar design implementing professional development, how we are getting feedback from teachers, how students are selected for advance placement with the removal of teacher recommendation, highlighting the mindset of our staff who are willing to allow kids access to the

curriculum they are ready for diminishing inequitable practices, the workload of the department highlighting the right people are in the right spots and the team collaborates very well, the focus of making the work meaningful and impactful not by going elsewhere but by doing the work, managing the data in all the systems, implementing the profile of a learner noting that part of the essential learnings is ensuring the students are prepared for the next level and what it means to be a graduate of Grand Ledge Public Schools. The need to ensure that families have what they need to be a support for their students was discussed.

In closing Dr. Barnes noted this is the engine of the school district. This is why we are here, this is why it is so complex. We make sure we have clean buildings so kids can learn, we make sure there is heat in the buildings so kids can learn, we implement IEPs so kids can learn. It all cycles around this work, that is why we have the Academic Services Department.

**b. Superintendent's Performance Update – Community Relations**

Superintendent Barnes provided the board with an update regarding Communication with Community/Parents, Community/Parent Input, Media Relations, District Image, and Approachability goal areas, reviewing the goal for each of the areas and providing current initiatives and data sets that support the progress for each goal area.

A detailed discussion among the members noted they were happy to hear how Dr. Barnes balances his personal and professional life, remarked they hear he is approachable, they like the family communications, and appreciate the way the CSIT meetings are run and bring about great conversation. It was further noted that community relations are a responsibility for each board member and while all the things Dr. Barnes shared make a highly effective superintendent, they also make high quality board members as well.

In closing Dr. Barnes noted there is still work to do to ensure we are engaging all of our community members where they are.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD**

Dr. Barnes noted the district served as host to 15 of the best track programs last Friday. This was a great event with the side benefit of bringing all of those schools into our community and showing off the beautiful space we have created.

Mr. Holmes thanked Mr. Deschaine and Mr. Ellsworth for the handling of the PowerSchool breach noting his appreciation for the communication and that he is thankful it was not a larger issue. He also reminded everyone of the Beagle STEAM showcase on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

Ms. Stevens noted she joined Mr. Oppenheim in visiting classrooms at Beagle last week and shared her experience in Ms. Kelly's and Ms. Leik's classrooms.

Mr. Oppenheim shared his experience in Ms. Kelly's, Ms. Leik's and Ms. Strong's classrooms last week and sharing he will be visiting elementary schools next. He noted he enjoys doing this and invited any of the members to join him remarking he enjoyed having Kali next to him to give him another perspective that maybe he didn't quite capture.

Dr. Glasscoe noted she will be at the High School on May 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Senior Awards.

Ms. Shannon highlighted the Chamber Annual Dinner that took place last week and remarking on the number of our staff nominated for educator of the year noting Stacy Nelson won the award. She also noted that Tim Marsh was awarded volunteer of the year remarking he is the prototype of a great volunteer and this board was fortunate we were able to borrow him for a short period of time to fill a vacancy on the board.

Vice President Kuykendoll thanked everyone noting everything we do pours into our kids.

**CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Holmes 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(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>
Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>

Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Vice President Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Holmes	<u>YES</u>

**The motion carried unanimously at 8:44 p.m.**

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**


The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 9:17 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

  
Nicole Shannon, Secretary

  
Denise DuFort, President