

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – May 12, 2025

MINUTES

President DuFort 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, Ashley Kuykendoll and Denise DuFort. ***Board Members Absent:*** Nicole Shannon. ***Central Office Administrators:*** Bill Barnes, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. ***Others in Attendance:*** Daniel Thomas, Russell Hammon, Dawn Hammond, Scott Thomas, Dawn Thomas, Ben Spegel, Jennifer Spegel, Ellery Curtis, Mike Curtis, Penelope Wernet, Delayne Hengesbach, Naomi Fitton, Kieran Ganga, Amelia Bryant, Elijah Hutchinson, Ben Elder, Rebecca Fitton, Quinn Thelen, Becky Manore, Jan Seeger, Keegan Douglas, Pat McKennon, Lori Fountain, Craig Fountain, Abrielle Fountain, Julian Arrendondo, Amanda Hengesbach, Katie Halliwill, Ben Snook, Lori Myott, Jackson Myott, Alexa Platte, Brady Anderson, Todd Anderson, Sarah Anderson, Fred Hutchinson, Cortney Hutchinson, Melissa Mazzola, Asleigh Lore, Arnold Hobart, Kevin Fitton, Megan Szcapanek, John Piper and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the May 12, 2025 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the May 12, 2025 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the April 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes and the teacher hiring of Melissa Hall.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

A. GLHS Class of 2025 Top 25 Scholars

GLHS Principal Dr. Ken Wright presented the Class of 2025 Top 25 Scholars: Riley Goodkin, Benjamin Spegel, Prajeet Boinapally, Spencer Ries, Ellery Curtis, Katelyn Roberts, Penelope Wernet, Kylie Goodman, Margaret Rodriguez, Michelle Odiase, Benjamin Elder, Kieran Ganga, Karis Filipiak, Elijah Hutchinson, Violet House, Alyssa Leisenring, Emma Anderson, Aiden Wear, Delayne Hengesbach, John Miller, Jackson

Myott, Abrielle Fountain, Emily Szczepanek, Benjamin Snook, Keegan Dougherty, Naomi Fitton, Gurleen Kaur and Aubrie Parish. The students were individually presented with a certificate on behalf of the Board of Education and district.

Dr. Wright congratulated the Top 25 scholars of the Class of 2025. He went on to review information regarding essential learnings at Grand Ledge High School, shared there are over 120 classes student can take at the high school and noted assessment practices assist in determining if students are learning what we need them to learn. He went on to share information on how the high school helps struggling students including student academic conversation, lesson pacing and formative assessments. He noted there was growth in the Spring PSAT 10 scores and the utilization of IXL to help improve those scores. He noted the high school prides itself in the many student clubs and events.

Grand Ledge High School students then provided the board with information regarding the production of the yearbook, Comets Landing, Diversity Club, LINKS, PALS, the Thespian Society, and the class of 2026 President and Treasurer shared information about events they have hosted over the current year.

Dr. Wright then answered board questions regarding sustainability, creating a pipeline, the number of students enrolled in advanced placement courses versus those dual enrolled, requirements for taking an advanced placement exam and possible barriers students may face in taking the exams.

B. Grand Ledge Education Pathway (GLEP) Update

Grand Ledge High School teacher Patrick McKennon, in conjunction with students Daniel Thomas and Quinn Thelen who are currently enrolled in the GLEP, provided the board with an update on the program's first year, their student experience, the benefit of receiving college credit, working in various classrooms throughout the district and visiting schools outside the district to gain perspective. They shared they participated in district wide professional development and joined the Creating a Classroom of Calm book read. They encouraged the board, and anyone interested in learning more about the program to follow them on Instagram @GLEP_cohort1.

In closing Mr. McKennon noted in the future he would love to be doing GLEP classes all day long and as the program grows it may be necessary to work with other districts to continue to grow the program. He thanked his teacher colleagues across the district commenting they have been fantastic in working with the students and the program.

REPORTS

A. CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

Dr. Glasscoe noted the budget is moving forward but there is no commitment to passing a budget by the statutory July 1 deadline. She noted the Revenue Estimating Conference is scheduled for Friday and we will have to make our best guess prior to actually seeing a budget from the legislature.

The members then discussed Senate Bill 231 which addresses student use of cell phones and tablets during the instructional day and the potential impact on the district.

Mr. Holmes shared information from the MASB Behind the Scenes at the Capitol event that he and President DuFort attended noting that nothing discussed was shockingly enlightening but the House Fiscal Agency did have a good breakdown of the budget, there was a good panel discussion in which three legislators provided their opinions on legislation coming through and an update on House Resolution H and the difficult road in front of it.

B. EATON RESA

President DuFort noted the board received a presentation from Meadowview school, reviewed the proposed budgets, added a school psychologist intern, instructional coordinator position, discussed concerned about funding for the future and the possibility of creating a multi-year budget for an overview of the financial outlook.

C. GRAND LEDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Dr. Glasscoe noted it is all about the 5K Comet Chase and encouraged everyone to sign up.

D. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Vice President Kuykendoll shared the committee reviewed the Mi Student Voice data, thinking about the level of engagement, noting more feedback provides more statistically sound information.

E. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Holmes shared the committee started the process of reviewing NEOLA policy updates and they will continue the process at the next meeting to bring those policy updates to the full board for discussion and action.

F. BOND UPDATE

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided updates on construction work at the high school, Willow Ridge, Hayes and the Operations Building. He noted the high school, Hayes and Willow Ridge will be shut down on June 8th to accommodate moving forward with construction to ensure a smooth opening for the 2025-2026 school year.

Ms. Kuykendoll expressed her thanks to Mr. Piper for keeping the bond projects moving forward noting she understands construction at our schools can create an inconvenience but noting the importance of focusing on the impact it will have for our students and staff.

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Barnes congratulations all the seniors and thanked them for the wonderful work they are doing. He noted that the them tonight from the student presenters noted the strong desire in creating a space where kids feel like they belong. During his most recent Student School Improvement Team meeting at the high school,

that theme was evident in that conversation; how they feel like they are a part of the school and it is creating spaces where all kids feel like they belong. He further shared how the district is creating the “pipeline” that was discussed sharing that he has a 7th grader and just about everything she is involved in has some contact with the high school staff or students. He noted President DuFort mentioned the first hire for the 2025-2026 school year tonight under the Consent Agenda and shared the district has already done rounds of interviews noting the good work of this district is evident in the number of outstanding candidates we are receiving. In closing he turned it over to Dr. Albecht to share information about the book presented to them tonight.

Dr. Albrecht provided information on The Knowledge Gap by Natalie Wexler that was presented to each of the members noting the Academic Services Department is asking key stakeholder to engage in this book that can provide you with context around the decisions we are making in our district right now from the lens of continuing our commitment to equity and aligning all curriculum across grade levels. He noted it is his hope this bring about a shared understanding from a leadership perspective.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

A. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION

President DuFort noted she is bringing this conversation back to the floor noting she received information from Ms. Stevens and has talked with Dr. Barnes about implementing this.

Dr. Barnes noted he recommends looking at this implementation for the fall. The Governance Committee could look at crafting the template for implementation to ensure we maintain the purpose of engaging students in the conversation to talk about what is going on in the district. He noted the board is provided updates, but this would be solely for a student to provide a perspective. This template will cover the entire process from how the student is selected, what their participation looks like, what it is the board wants to garner from the student voice.

Consensus from the members was to move forward and have the Governance Committee begin working on this to ensure implementation in the fall.

NEW BUSINESS

A. BOARD RETREAT DISCUSSION

President DuFort noted the board has not had a retreat in recent years and she feels they can be very helpful. She asked the members for their thoughts.

A detailed discussion among noted all members in support of holding a retreat, MASB recommends doing a board self-assessment, recommending the self-assessment be completed prior to the retreat and using the data at the retreat, continuing and building on the board working and functioning as a team, building authentic relationships

among the members, holding the retreat off-site at possibly LCC West or event at the RESA, and noting the retreat still falls under the Open Meetings Act.

Consensus among the members was to conduct a poll for date and time for the event looking at the first two weeks of August. Dr. Barnes will work with his Assistant to get dates pulled together and shared out to the members.

B. DESIGNATION OF ELECTORAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE EATON RESA JUNE 2, 2025 BIENNIAL ELECTION RESOLUTION

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to appoint Nicole Shannon as its designated representative of this District to the electoral body for the ISD biennial election to be held on June 2, 2025 and Coban Holmes as an alternate in the event the designated representative is unable to attend.

A detailed discussion among the members noted not being comfortable nominating someone who is not in attendance tonight and the date of the election meeting and this board's committee meetings.

Mr. Holmes amended his motion to appoint himself, Coban Holmes, as its designated representative of the District to the electoral body for the ISD biennial election to be held on June 2, 2025 and Kali Stevens as an alternate in the event the designated representative is unable to attend. Ms. Kuykendoll supported this amendment.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

C. DESIGNATING DISTRICT'S ELECTORAL BODY REPRESENTATIVE & FIRST BALLOT CANDIDATE CHOICE RESOLUTION

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the designation of Coban Holmes as the representative of this Board to the electoral body, which body will elect three (3) candidates to the vacancies on the ISD Board on Monday, June 2, 2025 and Kali Stevens as an alternate in the event the designated representative is unable to attend. The designated representative and alternate are further directed to cast a vote on at least the first ballot on behalf of this Board for Denise DuFort.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

D. EATON RESA 2025-2026 GENERAL EDUCATION BUDGET RESOLUTION

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution supporting the 2025-2026 Eaton RESA General Education Budget, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously with Mr. Holmes abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

E. EATON RESA 2025-2026 CTE BUDGET RESOLUTION

Motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution supporting the 2025-2026 Eaton RESA CTE Budget, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously with Mr. Holmes abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

F. BID AWARD – NEFF SECURE ENTRANCE

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve Bid Awards to Dobie Construction in the amount of \$61,100 for General Trades, Aaron Glass in the amount of \$47,800 for Glass and Glazing, H & H Painting in the amount of \$4,818 for Painting, Integrity Interiors in the amount of \$8,180 for Flooring, Myers Plumbing & Heating in the amount of \$32,000 for HVAC and H & R Electrical in the amount of \$37,850 for Electrical with a Construction Contingency in the amount of \$22,500 and General Conditions in the

amount of \$5,752 for a Total Bid Award of \$220,000 using Sinking Fund Dollars for the Neff Early Childhood Center Secure Entry Project, as presented.

President DuFort noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward to the full board for consideration.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. TECHNOLOGY BOND PURCHASE – HAYES GYM, CAFETERIA & MUSIC ROOMS

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Technology Bond Purchase of Audio/Video for Hayes Gym, Cafeteria and Music Rooms in the amount of \$146,039.75, as presented.

President DuFort noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward to the full board for consideration. She shared this is the company the district has worked with in the past for this type of project.

The motion carried unanimously.

H. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$2,405.00, as presented.

Ms. Stevens noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward to the full board for consideration. These invoices represent work from Boynton Fire and progress billing from GMB.

The motion carried unanimously.

I. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 3 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$334,393.32, as presented.

Ms. Stevens noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward to the full board for consideration. These invoices represent progress billing for Clark and GMB, and work at the high school.

The motion carried unanimously.

J. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 4 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$1,651,875.48, as presented.

Ms. Stevens noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward to the full board for consideration. These invoices represent progress billing and work at Willow Ridge, Hayes and Operations.

The motion carried unanimously.

K. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$278,386.34, as presented.

Ms. Stevens noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward to the full board for consideration. These invoices represent work on the band shell and HS fine arts.

The motion carried unanimously.

L. TECHNOLOGY PURCHASE – NEFF SECURE ENTRANCE

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Access Control Quote from RedGuard in the amount of \$43,620.57 for the Neff Early Childhood Center Secure Entrance using Bond Technology and Sinking Funds.

Ms. Stevens noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward to the full board for consideration. This is for key fobs and control systems at the new Neff secure entrance.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Director of Communications John Ellsworth noted we were testing the ILL translation devices tonight and it seems to have gone well. He remarked that additional insight into our GL School community is our enrollment trends but there is lots of pieces that help tell the entire story and one of those pieces is how we work together with other units. IBB plays a roll in telling the story. We are all story tellers of our story and that is what makes people want to join our team.

Executive Director Dr. Bill Albrecht noted he attending the Beagle STEAM night for the first time and it was outstanding. He congratulated the senior and Dr. Wright and his crew. He noted June 3rd will be the last meeting of our AI Advisory Group for the year and we have several guests coming in to present their perspectives.

Mr. Holmes noted the MASB Summer Institute is being held August 15-16 right here at the MASB headquarters. He commended the Beagle STEAM Showcase noting it was amazing and expressing his appreciate to the PTO for creating a green room for the staff and volunteers. He

shared there is a district-wide art show at the high school right now with a reception on May 19th from 6:00 – 7:00 pm where several of the pieces will be for sale. He commended Dr.

Barnes for sharing information with our families about the recent vandalism at Beagle that was alarming and derogatory and referencing a national trend moving back toward traditional rolls for females. He thanked Dr. Barnes for visiting the Beagle C3 classes with building administrators to explain this is not what we expect from our students and not how we want to represent our district. He expressed his appreciation to the administrative team.

Mr. Oppenheim shared a conversation he had recently with a neighbor around what Mr. Holmes noted as a national trend remarking the conversations are not just from the male side. He commended the STEAM Showcase noting it was massively impressive. In closing he noted he was unable to get into any classrooms as M-Step was thwarting those plans and remarking he wants the teachers to know we are thinking of them.

Mr. Holmes advised he forgot to mention the performance by the 11 Across band during the STEAM showcase and advising if anyone gets a chance to see them this summer to take it.

Ms. Stevens commended all the staff that are showing up for the students after hours at events like the STEAM showcase and the Family Fun Nights. She expressed she believes it is an enrichment for the students to see their teachers there, getting in character and enjoying the event with the students. She thanked everyone for showing up.

Dr. Glasscoe commended the Prom 4 U event expressing her appreciation to Crystal (Quintanilla-Howard) noting it was fantastic and the LINKS are amazing. She reminded everyone Senior Awards are May 22nd and tomorrow is the E-RESA awards night at the high school. In closing she noted she is looking forward to giving her grandson his diploma at the commencement ceremony.

Ms. Kuykendoll congratulated the Top 25 and thanked the students who spoke and added context to their respective group. She expressed her appreciation for the Comets Landing vision and LINKS. She thanked Mr. McKennon for the GLEP update and noted the Spring Institute conference was tremendous noting former Board Member Jay Bennet challenged the district to get all members to one of their conferences and bring Dr. Barnes with them. She went on to express her personal thanks, individually, to Kim Manning, Dr. Barnes, John Ellsworth, Dr. Albrecht, Dr. Gabriel, Kelly Jones, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Mark Deschaine and her fellow board members.


President DuFort thanked Ms. Kuykendoll for sharing and all the thoughts she pulled from attending the Spring Institute. She noted she also attended the STEAM Showcase and commended Mr. Holmes for his attire that evening. She recognized the number of applicants the district is receiving and noting her niece is hoping to apply here next year. She shared another piece from the Behind the Scene noting many attendees are worried about budget cuts due to declining enrollment and we do not have those concerns, our concerns are how are we going to continue accommodating the increased enrollment. She shared she visited Hayes and popped into their LINKS program recognizing the great leadership there as well as the Comets Landing program. In closing she asked about bringing the Madrigals back to a board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Denise DuFort, President