

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – May 13, 2019

MINUTES

President McKennon 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 Metcalf indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Jarrod Smith, Jon Shiflett, Kim Mulvenna, Sara Clark Pierson, Ben Cwayna, Denise DuFort and Patrick McKennon. **Central Office Administrators:** Brian Metcalf, Steve Gabriel, Mike Johnson, Nancy Rasinske, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Connie Stevens, Mike Stevens, Dawn Thomas, Angie Mamaligas, Rob Bennett, Debi Cole, Jill Mangrum, Laura Konen, Tim Johnson, Katarina Kheuehtuyan, Michael Grown, Shari Brown, Lorene Kappler, Luke Huelskamp, Dave Jackson, Sue Jackson, Jim Heinowski, Carol Heinowski, Sarah Heinowski, Elena Schoenheit, Mary Rodeck, Kevin Rodeman, Linda Rodeman, Anthony Rodeman, Emma Rodeman, Debbie Vogt, Kristy Vukovich, Melanie Vukovich, Brian Matthews, Estelle Mathews, Aley Mathews, Allan Blaske, Lonna Blaske, Claire Blaske, Lauren Blaske, Melissa Mazzola, Jennifer Pakkala, Michalene Elder, Betty Elder, Ken Cole, Sarah Hopper and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the May 13, 2019 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the May 13, 2019 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the Meeting Minutes from the March 25, 2019 Regular Meeting and the April 8, 2019 Work Session along with the approval of a Teacher Leave of Absence for the 2019-2020 school year for Wacousta 4th grade teacher Jill Hill.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

A. CLASS OF 2019 TOP 25 SCHOLARS

Grand Ledge High School Principal presented the Class of 2019 Top 25 Scholars to the Board of Education: Anthony Rodeman, Pratiksha Boinalpally, Claire Blaske, Scott Thomas, Priya Razdan, Jennifer Juelskamp, Stanley Elder, Reed Stevens, Alexander Pakkala, Trinity Thelen, Samuel Konen, Emma Rodeman, Jennifer Feenstra, Nicholas

Mamaligas, Tyler Matson, Sarah Heinowski, Melanie Vukovich, Kaylin Brown, Estelle Matthews, braden King, Phyllis Feldpausch, Payton Cole, Sara Pepper, Matthew Jackson and Samantha Bennett.

The board honored the scholars with certificates of achievement and wished each of them well in all their future endeavors.

B. YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING

Lorene Kapler a volunteer with Youth For Understanding brought three of this year's foreign exchange students. She reminded everyone the program is always looking for host families and if anyone is interested, they can contact her at 517-388-1173.

Mia Scheele from Denmark introduced herself and thanked the board for the opportunity to attend Grand Ledge High School and the many experiences she had this year including seeing movies, attending prom and football games and receiving the full American high school experience and she is sad it is coming to an end. She mentioned a class designed with other foreign exchange students and noted this provided a great resource to all the foreign exchange students because they understand what the others are going through. She thanked the teachers of this class - Ms. Williams and Ms. Folkertsma. She participated on the Cross Country and Track teams. She has created friendships that will last a lifetime. She thanked her host family and noted she will miss them terribly. In closing she noted, "You can't say this is a year in a life, because this experience was a lifetime in a year."

Katarina Kachatryan from Armenia introduced herself and thanked the board for their support of the foreign exchange program. She expressed she believes this program is beneficial to not only the student coming to Grand Ledge High School, but the students of Grand Ledge High School. She explained her difficulties when she first arrived due to the cultural differences, but she thanked the many friends she made who helped her along the way. She noted she participated on the Cross Country team in the fall, served as the team manager for the girls varsity basketball team over the winter and during the homecoming game, she got to play for the first time in her life. Currently serving as the team manager for the girls softball JV team. She thanked her American English and Culture teacher noting she helped her make the adjustment and better understand the American Culture. She enjoyed homecoming and prom, but especially the homecoming parade. Many differences in the high school experience here in America and expressed her appreciation for being able to have this experience. In closing, she thanked her host family and expressed how much she will miss them when she returns home.

Elena Schoenheit from Germany introduced herself and thanked the board for the opportunity provided to her and 17 other exchange students. She noted being a foreign exchange student can be difficult. You are in a completely different county with a completely different culture. But she was up for the challenge. She thanked the board for allowing her to come here and make friends, family and of course, get a great education. She thanked her teachers for their support and expressed how much she liked her Spanish and Art classes. She thanked her host families noting they have made a huge impact on her life and provided her with love and support throughout the entire year. Important and

memorable part of her America high school experience has been being allowed to play tennis and be on the gymnastics team. This provided her with many friendships that will last forever. She gave a big thank you to Lorene Kapler noting she was always there for her and she helped make this experience unforgettable.

REPORTS

A. BOND UPDATE

Superintendent Metcalf advised the team continues to meet with the architects and construction manager. Most recently designs have been provided to Clark Construction Manager so they can provide cost estimates to ensure the projects come in on budget. He noted there is a meeting on Friday with the district's attorney, the architect and construction company to talk about specifics for their contracts that will run through the end of the bond process.

B. CAPITOL CONNECTIONS REPORT

Mr. Smith PA 5 & 6 – legislation was changing. PA 11 – signed into law. Snow day forgiveness. 4006 – tax on pension limits (not moved). – work keys elimination no movement since feb. 4269, 70-71 & 82 modifying curriculum level. HB 42714369 – school start dates. 4311 – lawful internet gaming act. Impact on school aid funds.

C. EATON RESA REPORT

Mr. McKennon advised the Eaton RESA conducted their County-Wide School Board Meeting on April 30th where Superintendent Cindy Anderson and Finance Officer Tina Monroe presented their 2019-2020 Career and Technical Education and General Education Budgets to the local district. Jay Bennett of MASB presented about opportunities for school board member learning.

Ms. Clark Pierson remarked the RESA has done of good job of being very transparent and has increased the budget by approximately \$10M in just a few year. She noted credit goes to Superintendent Anderson and her original CFO Janet Yachim advising they went through every transaction and were tireless about it. They brought in practices that leveraged federal money and they corrected the way in which that money is allocated to their locals which has dramatically improved the amount of money being received by Grand Ledge. She commended Dr. Metcalf for his ability to have the hard conversations with the RESA and forcing them to do better for us.

D. GRAND LEDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

Mrs. DuFort advised the Foundation is back to meeting monthly. They are has been back to meeting monthly, are finalizing their Amazon Smile and United Way fundraising opportunities while promoting those opportunities to community and staff through newsletters, working to update the website and continuing to raise funds for the Foundation. In closing she reminded everyone the Josh Spalsbury 5K Comet Chase is scheduled for June 22 and noting she has left sign up forms on the table at the entry door.

E. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

President McKennon noted the committee has reviewed the board goals for the Superintendent, is beginning to look at board policies for any updates that need to be made and is looking at data based professional development for staff.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Superintendent Metcalf

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NAMING DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE FOR JUNE 2019 EATON RESA ELECTION**
Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to name Patrick McKennon as the District's Representative and Jarrod Smith as the Alternate to vote in the June 2019 Eaton RESA Election and direct them to cast votes for Debbie Roberts, Denise DuFort and Jack Tempsey on behalf the Grand Ledge Public Schools District.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulenna	<u>YES</u>
President McKennon	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES**
Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$14, 486, as presented.

President McKennon advised this is for several invoices including Holbrook boundary & topographic survey, documents, bidding & permits, demolition of St. Joe Hwy and Spring Street properties, relocating electrical service on Spring Street, the City of Grand Ledge's review of capital improvement projects and topsoil & seeding with mulch between the high school and Beagle.

In accordance with MCL 380.4203, member Jarrod Smith abstained from the vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF BOND INVOICE**
Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of a Bond Invoice in the amount of \$16,950.20, as presented.

President McKennon advised this is for cameras for the new buses being purchased.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EATON RESA'S 2019-2020 CTE & GENERAL EDUCATION BUDGETS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution Supporting the Eaton RESA's Career and Technical Education and General Education Budgets, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>
President McKennon	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Mrs. Mulvenna thanked Mrs. Kapler for her years of service to the foreign exchange student program and thanked the students who came tonight to share their experience. She congratulated the Class of 2019 Top 25 Scholars noting she was impressed with the education the district has provided to them and commenting on how many of the students are pursuing degrees in the math and science fields.

Ms. Clark Pierson also mentioned the diversity and caliber of universities the students will be attending. She mentioned their courses of student and the balance these kids have established in their high school career noting they "do everything". She noted it is really something to see mentioning the students participating in "Calculus Club or Statistics Club" – math clubs. She mentioned over the years the district has increased our Advanced Placement course offerings and this has improved the chances for our students.

Mr. Shiflett also commended the Top 25. He noted these students would be find without the extra 13 days of instruction that were lost to weather, but there are kids who really need those 13 days of instruction. He reminded everyone who may plan a vacation close to the end of the school year that this is Michigan. While we plan to end the school year on a certain date, we still have to meet our requirements of the state with regard to hours of instruction.

Mr. Smith agreed with Mr. Shiflett noting his vacation starts on June 10th. But a lot can be learned in 13 days. He expressed his 2nd child in two years is one of the Top 25. Both of them had AP Calculus and they did great. He expressed he didn't put nearly the amount of time into high school as these kids are doing today. They are getting a lot of success and it is launching them to the next level without experiencing quite the shock.

Mr. Cwayna echoed Mr. Shiflett's and Mr. Smith's comments and expressed it would be nice to have those 13 days of instruction. He commended the Top 25 students, but also gave a

shout out to the staff and teachers and the parents. They should be commended and applauded as well.

Mrs. DuFort echoed the comments of her board colleagues noting the Top 25 is amazing. She noted lots of math and science and its helping the kids achieve what they are dreaming off. She noted the foreign exchange students and agreed with Katarina in that our students learn as much from them as they do from us. She thanked Lorene for her many years of dedication to this program. In closing she noted she will be unable to attend the Class of 2019 Commencement Ceremony and appreciates being able to honor the Top 25 tonight.

President McKennon noted this is his favorite board meeting. Like everyone has already said, this does not happen by accident. There is a lot of work put into this not only by the students, but staff and parents alike. With regard to the foreign exchange student program, he still remembers the foreign exchange students from his class in 1999 – John Paul.

Superintendent Metcalf also noted the Top 25 scholars are extremely impressive. He noted when he talks to parents who ask if they should move to Grand Ledge or parents who are contemplating participating in the Schools of Choice he tells them if their child comes to Grand Ledge, works hard and comes to participate, they can be anything they want. They can achieve it all. There is a solid foundation provided here. They can go beyond that next step. In closing he noted this is one of his favorite board meetings as well.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:


Ben Cwayna, Secretary


Patrick McKennon, President