
GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – May 22, 2017

MINUTES

President Mulvenna 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 Brian Metcalf indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Kim Mulvenna, Linda Wacyk, Jon Shiflett, Sara Clark Pierson, Denise DuFort and Patrick McKennon ***Central Office Administrators***: Brian Metcalf, Steve Gabriel, Mike Johnson, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Sutherland and Mark Deschaine. ***Others in Attendance***: Jacklyn Foreman, Steve & Patty Foreman, Adam Schmidt, Shawn Schmidt, Jay Gruber, Theresa Gruber, Emily Gruber, Cecilia Rivet, Sara Rivet, Christine Lee, Craig Williams, Jeanne Williams, Julie Tadgerson, Bill Pomaville, Marie Pomaville, Alexander Pomaville, Vincent Dong, Melissa Mazzola, Jill Mangrum, Jennifer Weston, Sharon Dietz, Nicole Babcock, Emily Babcock, Tracy Smith, Jarrod Smith, Toby Smith, Lauryn Moran, M. Miller, Josh Matson, Walter Martin, Even Martin, Renee Martin, Tricia Setnicky, Brent McCartney, Jennifer McCartney, Tyler McCartney, Alex Pomaville, Eric Thompson, Puneet Razdan, Donna Moran, Kailee Moran, Ben Flowerday, Jake Setnicky, Tom West, Blain Teahan, T. Miller and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Wacyk, seconded by Mrs. Winstanley for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the May 22, 2017 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the May 22, 2017 Consent Agenda Item, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the meeting minutes of the April 24, 2017 Regular Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Grand Ledge High School Principal Jill Mangrum presented the Class of 2016 Top 25 Scholars to the board of Education.

The board honored the scholars with certificates presented to them, individually, by Board Vice President Linda Wacyk and Superintendent Metcalf. They wished each of them well in all their future endeavors.

REPORTS

- A. Capitol Connections Report** – Mr. Shiflett advised the legislature is in the midst of budget season. One committee of interest is the Merit Curriculum Sub Committee of the Senate Education Committee questioning is there enough flexibility and rigor in the current merit curriculum. From testimony it appears there is. Not anticipated that anything big will come out of this committee. Were anticipating final budgets about June 8th, however that doesn't appear possible until they come to a resolution regarding closing the MPSERS and close out the public pension system. From the May Revenue estimating Conference – revenue is up once again in the school aid fund, but down in the general fund because of past decisions. So, it appears they will be raiding the school aid fund once again for higher education funding, which they have been doing since 2009 but is clearly not the intent of Proposal A, noting he doesn't see a time when those raids on the School Aid Fund will stop.
- B. Eaton RESA Report** – Deb Disbroe will act as board chair and secretary for the upcoming board election, but will resign her seat after the election. This seat will then need to be filled. The RESA is entering into a contract with Elite Auditing and Consulting, LLC for pupil accounting, which was previously done by the Genesee ISD. The RESA will be signing a new agreement for the 17-18 and 18-19 school year to provide support to Oneida SD 3 (Strange School) and Megan Weber of GL appointed to parent advisor. In closing, an overview of current open positions at the Eaton RESA was provided.
- C. Governance Committee Report** – Mrs. Wacyk advised the committee met for a short time last week to review the employee benefit packages and to review some of the financial details around the community stadium project and how the board might support the project.
- D. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report** – No report.
- E. Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Report** – Mr. McKennon noted the committee received the first quarter expense report and everything looked good. They reviewed the league grant noting the plan is to use these funds for bike racks, with an artistic spin, at three different parks. They also went over new volunteer waivers and the Michigan Municipal Risk Management's report on Oak Park noting the Community Recreation Department will now have to repair quite a bit of fencing at the Park as well as put up several more caution signs.
- F. Superintendent's Report** - Superintendent Metcalf advised this year Grand Ledge high Schools November 2016 production of Shrek the Musical was entered into The Excellence Awards and brought home seven awards in eight categories, provided an update on the Delta Mills project noting asbestos removal and demolition of the west end is almost complete, and the renovation of the east end is still projected to be completed on time.

Mrs. Clark Pierson asked the Superintendent to provide an overview of the rationale behind repurchasing this building and its potential use.

Superintendent Metcalf advised 54% of our student population comes from Delta Township, so when we see growth, a lot of it is coming from this area. Our Early Childhood Center at Holbrook has been wildly successful. Our Little Comets Preschool, along with Head Start, GSRP are housed in this building and we thought we could provide this same level of service on the east side of our district. In addition, there may come a time we need an additional elementary school in that area of the district.

Lastly, Superintendent Metcalf advised he asked Athletic Director Steve Baker, along with community members Craig and Jeanne Williams, who spearheaded the Turf Project to come and talk to the board about the project.

Mr. Baker began by noting 17 of the Top 25 students from the Class of 2017 were student athletes. He further advised 300 business & individuals have given to this project. He introduced Craig and Jeanne Williams noting Craig is the president of the Lacrosse Booster Club. Craig has been instrumental in his area of expertise and what he does for a living to help us in obtaining in-kind services. Craig has basically done it all. His wife Jeanne has great ideas and pushes us through. Julie Tadgerson who has worked very closely on the fundraising campaign and has been instrumental in coming up with great ideas and securing great spots for advertising the project including on WLNS. He advised he developed what the fall practice season would look like in the new stadium, which is approximately two and a half months, noting the new stadium will be used 67 days, wherein it is usually only used 10 days for the entire year on the grass field. He reviewed the increased accessibility for our students and community noting the GL Community Recreation Program had 368 Grand Ledge youths, grades K-3, who just participated in the Youth Soccer program. This will become their home stadium. Same for Flag Football: 177 kids, again K-3 that will call this field their home during the weekend. He boasted this venue provides great parking and handicap accessibility. He also noted conversations continue with several groups, including the MHSAA about hosting events and tournaments at the new stadium. And, the stadium will be able to be rented, which in turn will bring more people into our town and community and generate more revenue throughout. He also advised several promotional items going on with local venues, Hungry Howie's, Lickity Split, and Buffalo Wild Wings supporting the stadium project, with more to come and lots of things going forward. In closing, he noted he feels it is worth mentioning that last Thursday he received a call from Soccer Coach Scott Dane advising he didn't feel the field was safe for our Varsity and JV players. The girls were playing in the "Gold Cup" Semi-Finals at Okemos and our JV girls were already playing and one of our players had gotten hurt. They talked with officials who shut down the game and moved it to a new location mid-game. So, the players had to get on a bus and travel to Williamston to finish the tournament. This won't happen tomorrow night because our students, who are playing in the "Gold Cup" Championship, are playing at Lansing Catholic, who have installed the same turf we are looking at putting in to place in our stadium.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DISTRICT’S EATON RESA ELECTION REPRESENTATIVE**
Motion by Mrs. Winstanley, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Resolution designating *Jon Shiflett* as the district’s Eaton RESA Election Representative and *Linda Wacyk* as an alternate in the event Mr. Shiflett is unable to attend and directing said representative to cast votes for *Max Baxter, Mark Rushford, Jay Bennett and Jack Temsey.*

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Shiflett	<u>Yes</u>	McKennon	<u>Yes</u>
Wacyk	<u>Yes</u>	Clark Pierson	<u>Yes</u>
Mulvena	<u>Yes</u>	Winstanley	<u>Yes</u>

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. APPROVAL OF “BITZER PROPERTY” TIMBER SALE**
Motion by Ms. Wacyk, seconded by Mrs. Winstanley for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Timber Sale Offering as presented and authorize the Superintendent to Execute the Timber Purchase Agreement on behalf of the district.

Superintendent Metcalf advised this was initially discussed about a month ago. A forester has come out and completed an evaluation of the Bitzer Farm property noting that by harvesting the most mature trees it allows the smaller trees to grow and could generate approximately \$30,000-\$50,000 for the district. The forester has marked the trees to be removed by a third party contractor and this approval would allow us to move forward.

Mrs. Clark Pierson noted she is very supportive of this process as it promotes the growth of the younger trees by allowing sunlight in. It is a really good thing to do and makes the forest healthier. Very happy with doing this, and it doesn’t hurt we get some money for it.

The motion carried unanimously.

- C. APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY STADIUM PROJECT**
Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the use of \$200,000 from the Sinking Fund to support the Community Stadium Project, as presented.

Mrs. Clark Pierson remarked she feels these are well-designed fields; they require less maintenance and is a convergent of a lot of nice things. The community is really stepping forwarding and putting a lot of effort into this and she feels the district will recover its costs very quickly while at the same time broadening the access for the community as well as our students athletes and our band. She remarked that while people feel this is going to benefit

just the high school, which it's not, even if that was the case, this is proportionally in line with what the district has invested at other schools considering the high school houses in excess of 1,700 students. I am very grateful to the community who put this together and I think this is extremely beneficial to the district. Voting Yes.

Ms. Wacyk – I'm a YES also, for all the reason Sara gave, and the added opportunities for students is a big push for me too. One of our goals, which really encompasses a number of our goals is to create opportunities for kids and to help them be successful. And when we can take piece of property that we own and leverage it so we are expanding the opportunity so more kids can take advantage of it. And it also frees up our other fields we are using to do other things and then other kids can participate in activities on those fields. Not only is it a cost avoidance measure for the future, while we won't see it right away, we will see it eventually, it is also an expansion of opportunity for more kids to get more involved and the more involved they are, as you can see, the kids who are more involved in activities, do the best. So that is really my goal.

Mr. Shiflett – I'm a YES as well, for all the previous reasons mentioned. I do want to thank the "Just Turf It" committee. I think this typifies the type of public/private partnership that is going to be crucial moving forward, as we can't really rely on tax dollars to generate this kind of improvements and infrastructure in our community. This partnership, and this committee, the work you have done has really added so much value to the student's lives here and it is going to enrich the whole community, not just the students, in a way I think is going to be very profound. I'm definitely a YES.

Mrs. Winstanley – I also support the measure. I welcome the opportunity to expand the use of the field. I have always wondered by weren't able to utilize the field more and I think this will give the opportunity to expand the efficiency where other teams will have the opportunity to use it. And the stadium. I had a foreign student who played soccer, I think they all do. Been introduced to the soccer field and it is less than. Why should one team get better treatment than the other teams? This will give us more opportunities for more teams. So it is equitable right across the board. I also want to thank Craig, Jeanne and Julie for taking the lead on this and helping to expand the services that we provide to our students, but it also gives us an opportunity to expand Grand Ledge and help put it on the map. Always felt we could provide more services and welcome more people to our community. So I am a YES.

Mr. McKennon – I am a strong YES. For the same reasons everybody said. I thank the "Turf It" committee. The amount of work behind the scenes, having just worked with the Dream Depot Project, you guys are that times three. What a legacy to leave Grand Ledge. It will be one of the crown jewels here in mid Michigan. People will be flocking here because of it. As Mr. Baker noted, Grand Ledge will become that much more well known. But, that aside, the number of academic uses during the day with PE, boys and girls lacrosse, boys and girls soccer, band. We have been waiting for this for a long time and thank you for doing what you have done. Again, I'm a YES.

Kim – I'm also a YES vote. A few things stand out to me. Initially, I had my reservations. I remember when I was told there was a fundraising group who wanted to put turf on the field. I was amazed. It was kind of a wait and see. Questions started coming. Are we really going

to do this? But then, when I hear Mr. Baker tell me 17 of our Top 25 scholars were athletes, they participated in athletic events, that says a lot. We have had to cut our budget, significantly, because of funding issues, but we didn't cut our athletic and music programs. They are too important to this community to lose them, but a lot of district did. To see the higher utility we will get from this field. It is always empty except for a Friday night. So, I applaud your resources, I applaud your involvement and I am looking forward to seeing this project move forward. So, I am a YES.

The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Wacyk, seconded by Mrs. Winstanley for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$109,583.15, as presented.

Superintendent Metcalf reviewed the expenses are all in conjunction with the renovations at Delta Mills noting these have been reviewed by the Board Bond Advisory Committee. He also reviewed the fact that the district has realized about \$125,000 in savings, as we have been able to eliminate the need for Clark Construction Company as a construction management firm as it was bid as a general contract.

The motion carried unanimously.

B APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING THE EATON RESA'S 2017-2018 CTE & GENERAL ED BUDGETS

Motion by Mrs. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Winstanley for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolutions in Support of the Eaton RESA's 2017-2018 CTE and General Education Budgets, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Wacyk	<u>Yes</u>	Clark Pierson	<u>Yes</u>
Mulvenna	<u>Yes</u>	Winstanley	<u>Yes</u>
McKennon	<u>Yes</u>	Shiflett	<u>Yes</u>

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS

Grand Ledge staff member Melissa Mazzola expressed she fully supports the funding of the turf project but expressed concerns that she doesn't feel the community understands everything and urging the board to get information out. She remarked she continues to see negative comments from the community and thinks this could hurt any future bond attempts. But again, the board needs to make an effort to make this project understood by all and that the funds are coming from

the sinking fund and not the general fund. They need to understand that by using sinking fund dollars it is freeing up general education dollars.

Craig Williams addressed the board to thank them for their support of the turf project noting it has been a year and a half journey, but with the board's support they are going to push on in their fundraising efforts noting they still have a little ways to go. The board's support closes the gap and they are committed to getting this done and ready for the first football game this fall. He advised it is his hope this will take some things off the boards' plate and that the board has to be concerned with and hopefully the next time a bond proposal is presented the negativity out there will be gone. In closing, he expressed his thanks along with that of his wife, Jeanne and Julie Tadgerson and the rest of the committee.

Ron Maguire apologized for being late, but express his thanks to the board for supporting the turf project noting as a local businessman and as the Varsity Assistant girl's coach. I believe we are the only ones who got to play on the turf you picked out. It's really awesome. The girl's really liked it. As a local businessman, huge asset. I was at a CACC meeting and Okemos is going to get theirs in 2019. So, we beat them to it. Again, thank you. Girls are really looking forward to playing on it next Spring.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF

Superintendent Metcalf congratulated the Top 25. Amazing what they are garnering from the education we provide. Getting better and better. Not just student athletes, they are involved with everything, school wide, civic groups, and community groups. Second, I would like to say thank you to the committee, Jeanne and Craig have really stepped up. Garnering up \$600,000 but they are knocking on the door of getting this done. Confident they are going to get this done. Julie thank you as well, appreciate the support, on camera interviews were great.

Assistant Superintendent Steve Gabriel echoed the Superintendent's remarks noting that when he was principal it was always the highlight of my year, coming to present the Top 25 to the board. The student's tonight would have been Sophomores in his my last year at the high school and it is tribute to them, to our high school and to our teachers and staff. Congratulations to everyone involved with the turf it project. As someone who has spent most of my life in this community I have heard comments both for and again, but I believe this will bring benefits to the community and I am excited for it and look forward to it.

Mr. McKennon noted this is a fun time of year, and he wanted to mention the all student run spring production of, "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown". It was a great production. But again, this is a fund time of year, the madrigals are out visiting schools, students taking field trips, it is just a fun time of year and it is great to see our high school students interacting with our elementary students.

Mrs. Winstanley expressed her thanks to our excellent staff that support the students. Sometimes in the turmoil of everything we forget these success stories. Thank you to the staff and teachers at the GLHS.

Mrs. Clark Pierson asked if she was the only one who didn't know there was a Statistics Club, or a Calculus Club, or a Trig Club? She noted she loves it when it says, "the student loves statistic and

baking". She remarked her high school career was nothing like theirs and their accomplishments are the result of dedicating themselves to excellence. She commented this is not something that just happens, you have to want it. She believes the graduates of the Class of 2017 will be wonderful citizens for this country and have wonderful lives.

Mr. Shiflett expressed his thanks to our students' parents for their commitment and told the students, they should thank their parents too.

Ms. Wacyk remarked that while the board got to hear about the many clubs and activities our students participate in, but we need to remember for every one of those clubs or activities it takes two or three adults to lead those clubs and activities. So, to all the more than 400 students who will be graduating as the Class of 2017, no matter what they had to go through to get to graduation, she congratulated. And, she thanked all those many adults who played a role in getting the students to this point.

Mrs. Mulvenna expressed how impressed she is with the many accomplishments of our students and she is confident they will become good citizens who are actively involved in their communities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Jon Shiflett, Secretary

Attest:



Kim Mulvenna, President