

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**Board of Education**

Regular Meeting – May 22, 2023

MINUTES

President Smith called the meeting to order at. He led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Jarrod Smith, Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon, Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort, Ben Cwayna and Ashley Kuykendoll. **Board Members Absent**: None. **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine, Martez Warren and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance**: Kelly Smith, David Smith, Traci Gentilozzi, Frank Gentilozzi, Matt Pierson, Maryann Pierson, Joe Pierson, Erika Doerr, Scott Doerr, Gabriel Sanchez, Ashleigh Lore, Amy Heriford, Eli Heriford, Isaac Heriford, Aaron Eldred, Teresa Eldred, Ruth Arents, Sally Jo Nelton, James Hall, Maureen Hall, Bushong Family, Stevens Family, Dominic Zoglio, Zach McLaughlin, Alison Shumate, Jacque Cosgrove, Laura Heriford, Maci Garner, Garner Family, Amy Ellsworth, Jake Ellsworth, Erin Ries, Joe Gentilozzi, Erin Nimphie, Brian Nimphie, Mary Carlson, John Piper, Josh Hall, Jamie McKennon, Ben McKennon, Harsha Zinzuvadia, Anish Zinzuvadia, Greg Stevens, Jacob Kleinhenz, Sheree Ritchie, Zach Stevens, Emma Friestrom, Ken Wright, Brian McLaughlin, Allyson McCaan and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the May 22, 2023 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the May 22, 2023 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda were the May 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

GLHS CLASS OF 2023 – TOP 25 SCHOLARS

Grand Ledge High School Principal, Dr. Ken Wright, introduced the Grand Ledge High School Class of 2022 Top 25 Scholars: Jason Thieu, Zachary Stevens, Rowan Curran, Joshua Hall, James Parker, Jordan Roth, Leo Lake, Daniella Kasper, Robert Miller, Andrew Powers, Wesley Eldred, Tyler Wyatt, Joseph Pierson, Allison Morgan, Kaylah Higbee, Frank Gentilozzi, Logan Booher, Lindsay Walczak, Zachary McLaughlin, Jacob Ellsworth, Brenden Sullivan, Dominic Zoglio, Braidy Abbott, Kylee Bushong, and Emma Friestrom.

REPORTS

**A. Capitol Connections Report**

Dr. Glasscoe shared the consensus revenue released their budget predictions last week estimating a state funding shortfall of approximately \$2.7 Billion for next fiscal year. This

could result in per pupil funding being flat. She will continue to monitor this and hopes to be able to report on a final budget by the end of June.

**B. Eaton RESA Report**

Mrs. DuFort shared the RESA Board received a presentation from the Special Education Department. She recapped services Grand Ledge Public Schools received through the RESA. She shared the Board approved placing a special education millage on the 2024 ballot, approved the hiring for the new position of Literacy Leader which is being funded through a grant, approved expanding services of the Giving Eaton County Kids Opportunities (GECKO), program and signed a master agreement with Educational Support Personnel that runs from July 2023 – June 30, 2024. In closing she reviewed programs available to Grand Ledge Public Schools students through the Eaton RESA Career Prep Center.

**C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report**

Ms. Shannon advised the foundation board continues planning for their major fundraiser, the Josh Spalsbury Memorial 5K Comet Chase taking place in conjunction with Yankee Doodle Days on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. She advised participants will be done with the Chase in time to participate in the parade. She encouraged everyone to register early for a reduced entry fee and to ensure they receive a race t-shirt. She advised the funds raised are used to provide teacher grants that allow for many awesome things in the classroom that general fund dollars do not cover.

Dr. Glasscoe challenged her fellow board members, looking for 100% participation, and sharing that you also get a reduced registration fee if you donate above and beyond the registration fee.

**D. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Report**

Ms. Kuykendoll advised there has not been a meeting since the last report, but scheduling for a June meeting is in process.

**E. Governance Committee Report**

Ms. Shannon advised the committee has not met but they will be back soon with more policies for review.

**F. Bond Update**

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided an update with regard to bond construction projects including updates to the Beagle Pool, construction on the Pole Barn, still working on punch lists for the High School Fine Arts addition but occupancy has been given for the band room, and work at Delta Center continues.

Mr. Piper confirmed Delta Center will be ready before the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

**G. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Barnes welcome Hayes Intermediate School Principal Kelly Smith and Assistant Principal Scott Millbrook to celebrate Hayes with some of our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Mrs. Smith thanked the board for the opportunity to be here. She shared the students took it upon themselves to communicate with other students and created their own board editions of the Hayes Student Comet News and Hayes Happenings School News.

Hayes student Emerson Stevens presented on the forms of news at Hayes Intermediate, Lauren Nimphie presented on Specials and Enrichments, Brynn Efting shared information about Partner / Switch Teachers, Gabriel Sanchez shared information about lunch choices, Laura Heriford shared about the awesome Hayes library, Molly Ries shared about additional events and details including facility dog Sheldon, Choir, Chess Club, Girls Who Code, celebrating different holidays such as Holi and Diwali, lockers and popcorn Fridays.

Hayes student Ben McKennon introduced the Hayes Happenings Board Edition video and Anish Zinzuvadia thanked the board for watching. Alexis Shumway thanked the board for letting them share their amazing school and family. Maci Garner shared she and her fellow students have enjoyed being part of the Hayes Intermediate school and noting that even though the school year is coming to an end, there is still an open road in front of them.

Mr. Millbrook thanked the students who presented tonight, along with their families and staff members who came to support sharing the culture and community we have built at Hayes.

Dr. Barnes thanked Mrs. Smith, Mr. Millbrook and the students for the presentation commenting the students did a great job representing their school and the district. He commended Mrs. Smith and Mr. Millbrook reminding everyone Hayes Intermediate has only been open for less than two years. Huge credit to the staff in conjunction with Mrs. Smith and Mr. Millbrook with a special shout out to Mrs. Smith on her career here at Grand Ledge Public Schools and thanked her for everything she has done to get Hayes Intermediate up and running.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

Kelly Smith took a moment to thank the current board members, past board members, central office staff, students and their families and well as the community. She shared she would be retiring at the end of the year after 28 years in Grand Ledge noting she started at Willow Ridge teaching fourth grade for 21 years before moving into the Principalship at Neff Kindergarten Center and then transitioning to the Principal for Hayes Intermediate. She expressed her confidence in Mr. Leopold and Mr. Millbrook continuing to build the school. She shared her and her husband raised their two daughters here who are 2017 and 2020 graduates of Grand Ledge Public Schools. In closing she stated she is blessed to live and work in such a caring community and that she will take that with her and she hopes she made a difference for them as much as they did for her.

Joel Clark addressed the board to request the board look at adding a BCBA position to the district that would be able to train all the aids and assist in developing behavioral plans. In closing he thanked Dr. Barnes for his email response and remarked he hopes we can continue to work together.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DISTRICT’S ELECTORAL REPRESENTATIVE & FIRST BALLOT CANDIDATE CHOICE**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution designating Denise DuFort as the Representative of this Board to the electoral body, which body will elect two candidates to the vacancies on the ISD Board on Monday, June 5, 2023 and Toni Glasscoe as an Alternate in the event the Designated Representative is unable to attend and further direct the Elected Representative or Designee to cast a vote on behalf of this Board for Mark Rushford and Alex Gonzales.**

Ms. Kuykendoll asked how the decision was made to cast votes for the two candidates and was advised by Mrs. DuFort that as this board’s representative she has worked with Mr. Rushford and Mr. Gonzales and she knows their skills and what they bring to the table.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
President Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>		

**The motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. APPROVAL OF DELTA TOWNSHIP EASEMENT FOR PATHWAY**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Delta Township Easement for Pathway, as presented, and authorize Superintendent Bill Barnes to execute the Easement on behalf of the District.**

Dr. Barnes provided the board with background information noting this will create a non-motorized pathway that will run in front of Delta Mills Early Childhood Center. He shared this has been thoroughly reviewed by legal counsel and from his perspective this is a great community partnership opportunity. He noted it will not impact our day-to-day operations. He confirmed there is no cost to the district and all costs will be covered through a grant, which the district will write a letter of support for, and Delta Township.

**Mr. Cwayna offered a friendly amendment to include, “and authorize Superintendent Bill Barnes to execute the Easement, and any other necessary documents, on behalf of the district.”**

**Mr. Shiflett accepted the friendly amendment.**

A question was raised regarding naming rights clarifying the district still owns the property so we can put a sign or bench anywhere on the property we so choose. Additionally, it was noted this will not impact student drop off or pick up. This is a non-motorized pathway for biking or walking and we do not anticipate a steady stream of traffic, it just allows the township to connect the two ends.

**The motion carried unanimously and amended.**

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD**

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services recognized the Top 25 scholars, recognized the Hayes group for their presentation and congratulated Kelly Smith on her impending retirement noting she is a colleague and a friend and she has made a huge difference.

Dr. Barnes echoed Dr. Gabriel's comments. He further shared he participated in the Beagle Career Day today that brought in all sorts of varied careers and provided students to learn about many different career options. He recognized Dr. Gabriel and Mrs. Abbie Burmeister for the professional development hosted at Sawdon today for more than 200 of our teachers. And, in conjunction with that professional development he commented this room had to be flipped pretty quickly to be ready for the board meeting thanking and recognizing the efforts of our maintenance and custodial team. He noted we are filling positions thanks to Kelly, Julie and our principals. In closing he again congratulated Mrs. Smith on her retirement and commending her for the community that has been created there is two short years since its opening commenting it is impressive to have been able to create an environment where kids want to go to school sharing his daughter is having an outstanding experience at Hayes and thanking her for all she has done for the district over the course of her career.

Ms. Kuykendoll passed on commenting noting she would just reiterate what has been said.

Mr. Cwayna congratulated and thanked Mrs. Smith. He wished the Top 25 Scholars good luck noting this was a good meeting.

Mrs. DuFort noted she is always impressed by the Top 25 noting she always wonders what they do after graduation and would love for them to come back. She commended the Beagle STEAM (art) Showcase noting how impressed she was with Mrs. Fredericks. She further noted we held the state track finals at our new track last Friday and it was great to see so many people from outside the community come into our community. In closing she shared with worked with Kelly as a fellow staff member and knows she has impacted many, many students. She noted her calm, professional and respectful manner and commended her on everything she has accomplished, especially in the last couple of years.

President Smith shared Mrs. DuFort's interest in what our graduates do after graduation noting that he, himself, started at MSU in biochemistry and he loved it so much he became a lawyer.

Mr. Shiflett shared a similar experience noting he went to college to get into politics and ended up in hotel and restaurant management before returning to the political arena. He congratulated the Top 25 noting he has no doubt they, and all of our graduates, will do fantastic things. He thanked Mrs. Smith for devoting so much of her time to the district expressing his appreciation.

Ms. Shannon thanked Mrs. Smith for building a part of this community and noting that as a direct descendent of Erastus Ingersoll, he would be delighted with the easement so everyone can enjoy the pathway.

Dr. Glasscoe noted she has only gotten to know Mrs. Smith in her short time on the board but she was very impressed from the start. She commented she is so proud to be a Comet noting she is

proud of our students, our superintendent and so many other things we have to be proud of. She gave a shout out to the Hayes students who presented noting there are students in college who struggle with public speaking and to see those students come and speak; we are preparing them for the world.

President Smith congratulated the Top 25 noting it is quite a list of accomplishments and he can't imagine having to keep up that pace. He congratulated Mrs. Smith on her retirement offering her best wishes on her next journey. He thanked Mr. Clark for his advocacy and in closing noted he hopes the Lacrosse team is doing well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

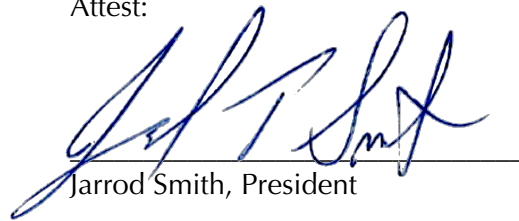
The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Jarrod Smith, President