

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – May 23, 2022

MINUTES

President Shiflett called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. He led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Marcus Davenport indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Jon Shiflett, Nicole Shannon, Jarrod Smith, Denise DuFort, Toni Glasscoe. **Members Absent:** Sara Clark Pierson and Ben Cwayna. **Central Office Administrators:** Marcus Davenport, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Julie Waterbury, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Alice Mills, Ella Darnell, Duncan Darnell, John Vukovich, Kristy Churchill, Dr. Andrea Herrst, Ken Wright, Lise Mitchell, Teresa Dyer, Kyle Dymond, Sam Dymond, LeAnn Kirmann, Colson Currie, Jackson Raymond, Gabriel Brewer, Gary Brewer, Heather Brewer, Greg Scherer, Sonja Scherer, Ashley Kuykendoll, Cynthia Zerbe, Kylee Skutar, Joni Henretty, Jayden Roesch, Ashley Oneil, Nolan Jolley, Kim Laforet, Tara Kopietz, Howard Pizzo, Nell Pizzo, Melissa Mazzola, Alex Matthews, Angie Matthews, Sarah Lawrence, Darlene Matthews, Brian Matthews, Julie Lawrence, Jeff Lawrence, Jody Lyon, Tim Totten 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 May 23, 2022 Agenda Items, as amended.

The Board will have Delta Center provide their presentation included as part of the Superintendent's Report prior to the Bond Update under reports.

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the May 23, 2022 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda was the May 9, 2022 Work Session and May 14, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Grand Ledge High School Class of 2022 Top 25

Grand Ledge High School Principal, Dr. Ken Wright, introduced the Grand Ledge High School Class of 2022 Top 25 Scholars: Jade Friedlis, Alex Matthews, Isaac Hinshaw, Nolan Jolley, Jackson Raymond, Ellie Johnson, Craig Darnell, Madelyn Marsh, Austin Blackwell, Emily Crofut, Duncan Darnell, Luc Bennett, Jonathon Vukovich, Kylee Skutar, Olivia Buchweitz, Hunter Goodwin, Gabriel Brewer, Madelyn Prince, Molly Scherer, Brodie Tomal, Colason Currie, William Ether, William McNeilly, Reese Cordahl, and Sarah Lawrence.

B. Grand Ledge Area District Library Update

Library Director Lise Mitchell, Library Board Member Joni Henretty, and member of the Citizens for the Grand Ledge Area District Library Dr. Andrea Herrst, provided the board with a detailed overview of the many options available to students and community members alike, the many partnerships with the schools and sharing information regarding their upcoming library millage that will be included on the August 2022 ballot.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Dr. Glasscoe had no report. President Shiflett shared information from the Revenue Estimating Conference sharing there is more money in the school aid fund than previously expected but it remains to be seen what that will translate to in continuing to support public education.

B. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort shared information from the RESA's special meeting that approved a new two-year master agreement and the May 19, 2022 meeting where Alex Gonzales was appointed to fill a mid-term vacancy, many staff travel requests to attend conferences were approved, major donations received, the presentation of the final budget revision for 2021-2022, and the superintendent presented his self-assessment and evidence. She further shared that she and Dr. Glasscoe attending the Capitol Region Technical College Celebration noting there were five students from Grand Ledge Public Schools.

C. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

The committee has not met.

D. Grand Ledge Education Foundation

Ms. Shannon shared the Foundation is gearing up for the 18th Annual Josh Spalsbury Memorial 5K Comet Chase that will take place on Saturday, June 18, 2022 in conjunction with Yankee Doodle Day and encouraged people to register for the event.

E. Superintendent's Report – Delta Center Presentation

Superintendent Davenport introduced Delta Center Principal Teresa Dyer who thanked the board for their time and expressing there are many great things that happen and Delta Center every day. She then introduced Delta Center Teacher Alice Mills.

Ms. Mills provided the board with a detailed overview of some of the great things that have taken place at each grade level at Delta Center including field trips, meeting author Mo Willems, volunteers being back in the building, Abu their facility dogs, taking music classes outside noting Ms. Lore would not be able to do this without the generous support of the Grand Ledge Education Foundation that provided her with a Bluetooth speaker which she demonstrated, a 1st grade class getting a visit from a civil engineer and tying problem solving activities to civil engineering, mileage club, student art being displayed at the Grand Ledge Area District library, wrapping up mandatory testing season, a cultural picnic that allowed students, staff and families to learn about other cultures, students who SOAR (demonstrate safety, ownership, accountability and responsibility) every day and earn tickets to fill buckets to earn prizes for their classroom such as extra recess and lastly sharing upcoming fun including the carnival, SOAR day, field day and move-up day where the kids get to see where they will be next year.

F. Bond Update

Dr. Gabriel provided an in-depth update regarding the district bond projects reviewing the bond proposals as approved in 2018. He provided an overview of the projected completed in Phase 1, an update on the status of Phase 2 projects and a look ahead to projects currently slated for Phase 3. He provided a detailed overview of current and future challenges noting the impact the coronavirus pandemic is having on the U.S. construction industry with unprecedented increases in materials costs, supply-chain disruptions and an increasingly tight labor market. He shared that fuel prices have increased 60% and 69% for gas and diesel, respectively, since 2018 and the Producer Price Index for iron and steel has increased 63% since 2018. He shared the current supply chain delay realities and that the trade labor shortage is creating challenges in regard to quality of workmanship and meeting schedules. He reiterated that bond budgets were created in the reality that was 2018 and that reality no longer exists in 2022 so plans must change. They reviewed the major projects for Phase 3 of the Bond including improvements to Grand Ledge High School, Hayes Intermediate, Willow Ridge Elementary and Neff Early Childhood Center as well as building the Dave and Betty Morris Building. Dr. Gabriel shared that given the current issues of 2022, the \$3,000,000 allocated for the development of the Dave and Betty Morris Building will not be sufficient to do what we had hoped to do. He shared options that could be considered and noted the board will need to make a decision about the use of the Morris property. He recommends the Board Bond Advisory Committee begin meeting twice a month to ensure the committee, and the board, have updates on a timely basis and recommends that as the district considers filling vacancies and potentially restructuring the administrative team, he feels it will be vital to identify a person whose main job responsibility is to work directly with the bond projects.

Mr. Smith pointed out this is a national issue and it is impacting everyone and every project. He noted the money under the bond proposal has been borrowed and the bonds have been issued so the district must continue to move forward on the projects.

G. 2022-2023 Budget Update

Chief Financial Officer Julie Waterbury provided the board with an update on the 2022-2023 budget projections noting an anticipated fund of 6.18% under current attrition and 10.32% if we reach the projected attrition. She shared the information garnered from the Revenue Estimating Conference was good news but the district must still wait to see what it equals out to in the per pupil foundations. She shared she would like the board to go through the process of getting the district approved to borrow noting she is investigating to ensure the district would not incur any pre-payment penalties if we borrow and then do not need the funds. Information was shared on where the district is at in regard to Schools of Choice applications, but noting that applying does not mean the students will attend here but applications are still coming in steadily.

H. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Davenport acknowledge the many attributed Executive Director of Student Services Sara Holding has brought to the table and the many hats she has worn. He shared upon further review, the district does not need to enter into the Surveillance Agreement with the Eaton County Sheriff's office as the district already has an agreement with Eaton County 911. He thanked the many community members and parents who have reached out to him throughout the year, who have met with him individually or in a group setting expressing his hope is to implement the Dialogue with the Superintendent Meetings again.

He thanked everyone who participated in the Strategic Planning Session on Saturday, May 14th to help provide a foundation to continue moving the district forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Smith read the rules for addressing the board.

Ashley Kuykendoll congratulated the Top 25 Scholars and the entire Class of 2022, shared a conversation with a graduating senior including implementing more skilled trades opportunities, keeping our future student in mind and thanked Dr. Gabriel for his bond update reminding everyone to keep the focus on students while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Stacy Erwin Oakes reiterated her request for written authorization from parents before exposing their children to outside agencies, noting she has gained more understanding of the MASB input session but questioning why the February 14th meeting was not recorded when MASB presented their proposal.

Kim Laforet thanked the board for including her in the Strategic Planning Session on May 14th but stating she did not feel her voice was heard and she did not feel the group was inclusive of her voice.

Ashley Oneil thanked the board for including her in the Strategic Planning Session on May 14th noting she appreciated being included, felt it was a good conversation and looks forward to working with the board to put the plan in motion.

Dawne Velianoff questioned why the February 14th meeting wasn't recorded, questioning why policies are not on the agenda, lack of follow-up, questions why Dr. Gabriel presented the bond updated instead of Dr. Johnson, questioned why the district is not having conversation with the community who passed the bonds, and questioned why MASB is coordinating and creating the Strategic Plan.

LeAnn Kirmann questioned the district spending money to create a round-about stating that money could have gone to the teachers or the students, accused the board of misappropriating funds the voters gave them, stating a lot of people in Grand Ledge voted for the very people who are causing the inflation to go up while people are struggling to stay in their homes while energy costs, gas prices, and the cost of food and clothing go up.

Jeff McNeilly stated there are lots of problems that are coming up in business for people with the increases in fuel costs, construction materials, availability of material, and labor force noting he deals with it daily. He encouraged transparency. He questioned the district's Nixon Road property, stated the bond was passed for different reasons than what the district is using it for, giving a shout out to Wacousta secretary Cindy Zerbe and stating he wished everyone had the attitude Mrs. Zerbe has – love them and treat them like your own.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF INSTRUCTIONAL TOOLS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Instructional tools and adoption of Reveal Math, MyWorld and STEAMScopes, as presented.

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, Dr. Bill Barnes, provided the board with a detailed overview of the rationale and process that went in to bringing this recommendation forward including sharing information about each tool we piloted, including the rubrics, scores, staff feedback, and pilot team votes. He shared if the board approves to adopt Reveal, MyWorld and STEMScopes, the district will work with the vendors to get materials to teachers before they leave for the summer, set up training throughout the summer and into the fall and set up a parent night before the end of the school year, again in the fall, so parents can interact with the new materials.

Dr. Barnes also noted there are additional curricular needs in the district and we will be working with vendors to set up additional pilots in science and social studies (k-4), as well as look ahead to additional potential social studies pilots at the secondary level and continue pursuing new high school science curriculum.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF MOBILE SURVEILLANCE PURCHASE

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the use of ESSER II Formula Grant Funds in the amount of \$86,969.52 for the purchase of the AngelTrax Mobile Surveillance System and related accessories, as presented.

It was noted this is for new camera systems on all buses in the fleet. It will provide high-definition cameras along with the ability for the bus garage to be able to view the internal activity on any given bus. It will continue to provide information on stop-arm violators.

Mr. Smith noted this is using ESSER II funds which have limited use, are not coming out of the general fund and are approved by the State of Michigan.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF GLPS/CITY OF GL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Agreement between Grand Ledge Pubic Schools and the City of Grand Ledge for the continued assignment of a School Resource Officer and authorize Superintendent Marcus Davenport to execute the Agreement, as presented, on behalf of the district.

It was noted the district will look into grant opportunities to assist in offsetting the cost of the School Resource Officer (SRO), the SRO may be reassigned during the summer recess but will be available during summer school and other school activities and if the district implements a second SRO, that could would be the responsibility of the district.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT AGREEMENT

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Food Service Management Contract with Chartwells, as presented.

It was noted the district has a good relationship with Chartwells and commending the onsite staff for the work they do every day to ensure our students are well fed.

The motion carried unanimously.

- E. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION – EATON RESA 2022-2023 GENERAL EDUCATION BUDGET**
Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution in support of the 2022-2023 Eaton RESA General Education Budget, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- F. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION – EATON RESA 2022-2023 CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION BUDGET**
Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution in support of the 2022-2023 Eaton RESA Career & Technical Education Budget, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Executive Director of Technology Mark Deschaine advised the board the upgrades to the board room will not take place until September or October due to supply chain timelines.

Ms. Shannon noted until recently, Board Work Sessions were conducted in the Administrative Conference room and not recorded. In continuing efforts to provide transparency and more access, President Shiflett modified the meetings to all being conducted in the Board Room and recorded. It was also noted the district is moving to live streaming the meetings in conjunction with the upgrades shared by Mr. Deschaine. Ms. Shannon thanked Mrs. Zerbe and congratulated the entire Class of 2022.

Dr. Glasscoe noted she is proud of the students and very proud of Grand Ledge for offering such diverse educational options. She remarked we have many stellar students, some of whom were recognized tonight, but many Grand Ledge students participated in LCC commencement for Early College Completion and the Eaton RESA Awards Night, which is a testament to what the district is doing in providing students with options to reach their goals.

Mrs. DuFort thanked Dr. Gabriel for the bond update to help everyone understand the circumstances beyond anyone's control. She noted she is impressed with our students year and year and expressed her appreciation for everyone's hard work.

Mr. Smith reminded everyone the round-about was not the district's choice noting that decision was made by the Michigan Department of Transportation. He reminded everyone the use of bond funds is limited to capital improvements and cannot be used for salaries. He shared that prior to the pandemic and the crazy increases in costs, the district bond projects had healthy contingency funds and we were meeting plans under the bond proposal to a tee. He noted now things have changed but the district has construction managers, the board bond advisory committee, along with Chief Financial Officer Mrs. Waterbury on top of it.

Dr Davenport recapped the concerns from audience and the board members noting some of the questions were addressed by the board member comments but he will work to address the other unanswered questioned but noting that Dr. Gabriel did share that he presented the bond update due to some sort of draw between him and Dr. Johnson and he got the short end of the stick. He further commended our school nurses and Mrs. Holding for working with our nurses in light of the pandemic to ensure the district is up-to-date on the numbers.

CLOSED SESSION – ATTORNEY / CLIENT PRIVILEGE

Motion by, seconded for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of receiving confidential Attorney / Client communication regarding the Metcalf Arbitration, as per Section 8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

President Shiflett YES
Ms. Shannon YES
Mr. Smith YES

Mrs. DuFort YES
Dr. Glasscoe YES

The motion carried unanimously at 8:55 p.m.

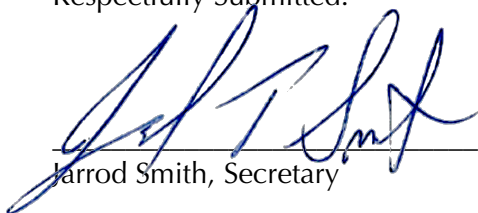
RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 9:14 p.m.

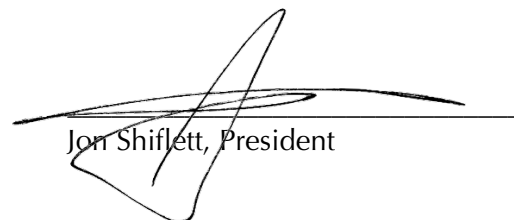
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Jarrod Smith, Secretary

Attest:


Jon Shiflett, President