

**GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
***Board of Education***  
**Regular Meeting – June 23, 2025**  
**MINUTES**

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, Nicole Shannon, Ashley Kuykendoll and Denise DuFort. ***Board Members Absent:*** None. ***Central Office Administrators:*** Bill Barnes, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones and Mark Deschaine. ***Others in Attendance:*** Tim Totten, Sally Jo Nelton, John Piper and Kim Manning

**TRUTH IN TAXATION / TRUTH IN BUDGETING HEARING**

**Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to Open the Truth in Taxation / Truth in Budgeting Hearing.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**The motion carried unanimously at 6:03 p.m.**

Dr. Barnes explained by law, the district must have an approved budget for the upcoming school year by June 30<sup>th</sup>. He also reminded the board and audience, the State of Michigan has not passed their budget and what is being represented for the 2025-2026 budget is a projection; a good projection based on the information we have, and confirming there will be budget amendments.

Chief Financial Officer Adrienne Barna CFO Adrienne Barna reviewed the General Fund noting the district will levy 18 mills on all non-homestead properties, .7921mills for the sinking fund and 5.63 mills on all homesteads within the boundaries of the Grand Ledge Public Schools district for the purpose of the general fund. She went on to review the proposed 2025-2026 foundation allowance and the district's blended student count. She then reviewed General Fund revenues for Fiscal Year 2026 are projected at \$75.6M, which is a decrease of approximately \$4.2M from Fiscal Year 2025. She highlighted the factors that contributed to the revenue projection including a decrease in the district's State revenue, the expiration of Federal ESSER funding, and decreases from the Eaton RESA for

Special Education reimbursement, removal of insurance claim proceeds, and a reduced transfer from the General Capital Projects fund. Ms. Barna went on to review the General Fund expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 at \$78M, which is an increase of approximately \$2.3M from Fiscal Year 2025. She highlighted the factors that contributed to the expenditure projection including employee compensation costs due to salary step increases, ORS retirement rate increases, employee insurance increases and two contract settlements. Additionally, the district added eight new teaching position, an additional Dean of Students at Hayes, an additional Reading Teacher and a technology support position. Increases are also noted for bus purchases and district infrastructure needs. Decreases in expenditures result from the removal of the retention bonuses and insurance claim expenditures. The Fiscal Year 2026 budget shows expenditures in excess of revenues of \$2.4M and a projected ending fund balance of \$10.7M as of June 30, 2026. This fund balance represents 14.15% of revenue. She reminded everyone this fund balance will certainly change when a state budget is finalized and noted the increase to fund balance in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget allowed the district to maintain programming for Fiscal Year 2026 even though a state budget is not yet finalized.

She went on to individually review the Community Education, Food Service, Student Activity, School Store, Debt Service, Sinking Fund, General Capital Projects, Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond, and Proposal 1, Series 4 Funds.

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to Close the Truth in Taxation / Truth in Budgeting Hearing. The motion carried unanimously at 6:36 p.m.**

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the June 23, 2025 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the June 23, 2025 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda were the June 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes, the Administrative Contract Renewal for Central Office and Building Administration, Administrative Hiring of Allyson Smith as Principal of Wacousta Elementary School and the teacher hiring of Ashley Allison, Holley Hunter, and Abigail Seal.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **REPORTS**

##### **A. CAPITOL CONNECTIONS**

Dr. Glasscoe reiterated we do not have a budget from the state. She noted there is a coalition of 9-11 organizations that have submitted a memo to the Governor, Senate Majority Leader and House Speaker concerning the requirement of K-12 schools having

to have an adopted budget without having a state budget. She is hopeful this will make an impact.

**B. EATON RESA**

President DuFort shared at the last meeting the RESA reviewed and approved their final 2024-2025 budget amendment and their 2025-2026 budgets for their General Fund, Special Education and Career & Technical Education. New board members were sworn in following the June 2, 2025 election, Eaton RESA Early-On Director Amy Lowry will be presenting at a national conference with fellow colleagues, and contracts with Dean Transportation and LCC were renewed. In closing she noted the Michigan Building Construction Trade Council has approved the Apprenticeship Program Walls in other districts across the state following a successful implementation at Grand Ledge High School.

**C. GRAND LEDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Ms. Shannon shared that while she was unable to attend or participate in the Foundation's 5K Comet Chase this past weekend, she heard universally wonderful things about the race. She gave kudos to Dr. Gabriel for a fantastic event that raised about \$9,000 for the Foundation. She shared this money is put right back into district classrooms. She expressed her thanks to everybody who participated, brought a friend or cheered from the sidelines.

Mr. Holmes noted it was warm, but he still doesn't think it was as warm as it was last year. He noted it was a great event, he enjoyed the course change and remarked it was fun to be out there.

Dr. Barnes noted Central Office / Board of Education won the Staff Participation Award again this year and shared we will be adding another plaque to our wall in the near future.

Mr. Oppenheim noted he was unable to attend, but he did send his "surrogates" and on behalf of them he thanked everyone for all the work that went into planning and preparing for the event.

Ms. Shannon gave a shout out to GLEF President Erica Ledesma, who gives so much of her time and energy to volunteerism remarking she is an "unstoppable force of nature" along with all the Foundation Board Members: Dr. Glasscoe, Dr. Gabriel, Dean DuFort, Tony Bechtal, and April Welton; along with herself.

President DuFort thanked everyone who was involved, especially Dr. Gabriel. She shared that a race participant from outside the Grand Ledge Community approached her at the end of the race and shared that her and her daughter chose to participate in this race because of where the race funds are used and noted she was thrilled with everything, impressed with the facilities and remarking on the friendliness of everyone involved. President DuFort was grateful she shared with her.

**D. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

Vice President Kuykendoll noted there was no meeting.

**E. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Holmes noted we did meet, but we needed more information as we still need to get together and review all the board policies.

**F. BOND UPDATE**

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided updates on construction work at the high school, Willow Ridge, Hayes and the Operations Building. Work will start on the secure entry for Neff on July 7<sup>th</sup> with a projected completion on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Wacousta Classrooms design meetings are ongoing with bids going out the end of June. Morris Property design meetings are still on going.

**G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Barnes remarked he wanted to take this opportunity to share what summer looks like at Central Office. He noted a number of the things we have heard about tonight is the result of the work of the Central Office Leadership Team (COLT); Mr. Deschaine is revamping the Technology Department, Mrs. Jones is hiring all our new staff, he, Dr. Albrecht and Mrs. Seida spent the day planning professional development for the upcoming school year, Ms. Barna has put a ton of work into closing out last year's budget and preparing the 2025-2026 budget, the work Dr. Gabriel put into the race, along with all the work he and Mr. Piper have done for the operations of the district, the signed in the parking lots regarding no fireworks is the result of Mr. Ellsworth and all the central office support staff, all the way around. He remarked he wanted to elevate the work that happens here noting that while summer may have a little different pace, there is still a lot of work going on.

Ms. Stevens asked about a new sign she saw at Delta Mills and Dr. Barnes explained these new signs will be up at all of our locations that quote our board policies addressing safety protocols and expectations when you are on GLPS properties. Ms. Stevens expressed her appreciation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. FINAL 2024-2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION**

**Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Final 2024-2025 Budget Amendment Resolution, as presented.**

Chief Financial Officer Adrienne Barna reviewed the final amendments for the Fiscal year 2025 General Fund noting an ending fund balance of 16.44% of revenues.

Ms. Shannon recognized how fortunate the district is to be in this financial position.

Superintendent Barnes noted Fiscal Year 2025 was thought of as a two-year budget as we are putting money in right now, but it will come out next year. He echoed Ms. Shannon noting he knows a lot of his colleagues are not having the same discussion with their board.

Dr. Glasscoe expressed her appreciation to Dr. Barnes for his leadership and expressing confidence is our Chief Financial Officer and her team. She commended being able to align the budgets with the district’s Strategic Plan noting we are “putting our money where our vision and mission is” and “everything is tied to who we say we are”. She expressed her appreciation of the fact that the budget focuses on teaching and learning and our building show that. She thanked Ms. Barna for making the budget so plain so everyone can understand it.

Ms. Barna went on to individually review the Community Education, Food Service, Student Activity, School Store, Debt Service, Sinking Fund, General Capital Projects, Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Fund (closing June 30, 2025), Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Fund (closing June 30, 2025), Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Fund, and Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Fund.

President DuFort thanked Ms. Barna for an excellent presentation and noting the breakdown is very user-friendly.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

The motion carried unanimously.

**B. 2025-2026 BUDGET RESOLUTION**

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2025-2026 General Fund, Community Education, Food Service, Student Activity, School Store, Debt Service, Sinking Fund, General Capital Projects, 2023 Capita Projects Fund Proposal 1 and 2024 Capital Projects Fund Proposal 1 Budget Resolution, as presented.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- C. 2025 TAX RATE REQUEST FORM (L-4029) FOR CLINTON, EATON & IONIA COUNTIES**  
Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2025 Tax Rate Request Form (L-4029) for Clinton, Eaton and Ionia Counties, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. 2025 TAX RATE REQUEST FORM (L-4029) FOR DELTA TOWNSHIP & THE CITY OF GRAND LEDGE**  
Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2025 Tax Rate Request Form (L-4029) for Delta Township and the City of Grand Ledge, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. CHANGE ORDER – OPERATIONS/TRANSPORTATION BUS PARKING LANE**  
Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Change Order addressing the Operations/Transportation Bus Parking Lane using Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Funds, as presented.

Dr. Barnes noted this was discussed in the last Bond and Sinking Fund Committee meeting with thoughts of the additional funds coming out of the Sinking Fund. However, as they were looking over the budgets and the projects, it was determined to use funds from Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Funds. He noted this is a change order, which is expanding the scope of work for a contractor who is already approved and doing the project. This is brought to the board as the cost exceeds the amount that either Bond Supervisor or the Superintendent can authorize without board approval. It was noted it is less expensive to do it this way and the asphalt being replaced has been in place since 1996, so this is a great investment.

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. LIMITED SCHOOLS OF CHOICE WINDOW**  
Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Participation in Section 105 and 105(c) Schools of Choice on a Limited Basis for Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade for the 2025-2026 School Year, as presented.

We approved unlimited SOC for a small number of grade levels back in early Spring. He advised this will open all grade levels up on a limited basis for a specific period of time. He explained the processes available for a student to enroll in a public school including resident, non-resident release and Schools of Choice. He explained under a non-resident release enrollment, each year the student's home school must approve the release of the student and then then he must accept the student. He noted this window would allow for those non-resident release students, who have been attending GLPS, to transition over to Schools of Choice enrollment eliminating the annual need for

release from their resident district. In closing he noted that all schools of choice rules apply and if there are more applications than spots available, a lottery drawing will be conducted.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD**

Dr. Albrecht congratulated the success of the GLEF 5K Comet Chase, welcomed the new teachers hired tonight as well as new Wacousta Principal, Allyson Smith and sharing he is looking forward to working with all of them and remarking Ms. Smith will be a great addition to the Building Administrative Team.

Ms. Barna thanked the Board, Dr. Barnes and the members of COLT for their support expressing she feels good about the budgets we have presented as they represent fiscal responsibility and maintain programming.

Superintendent Barnes thanked Dr. Gabriel and GLEF for a wonderful 5K Comet Chase remarking it was a fun event and he had “a great time”. He remarked it was a great way to kick off Yankee Doodle Day, celebrate the district, our students and staff and the funds raised not only support our students but our district as a whole.

Mr. Holmes expressed his appreciation for where the district is, the budget presentation remarking with a new CFO he did not feel any growing pains commending Ms. Barnes and the team around her, and again commending GLEF’s 5K and the support it provides to our students and district.

Mr. Oppenheim shared his classroom visit experience from May 19, 2025 when he visited Ms. Shepard, Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Gibson’s classrooms at Delta Center. He thanked Principal Dyer for the building tour. He thanked everyone for allowing him to visit classrooms throughout the district noting he likes to see where the money is going, what is being talked about, what is being taught. In closing he noted this is what he enjoys most.

Ms. Stevens thanked everyone here, especially Ms. Barna. She recognized the thoughtful and appropriate handling of the Schools of Choice option and recognized what is going on behind the scenes to ensure we’re ready for the next school year.

Dr. Glasscoe acknowledged the many Juneteenth celebrations around the area. She thanked everyone who participated and attended the 5K. She remarked that young people are always engaged when they know people care about them and the resources are going directly where they are needed – the classrooms. In closing she remarked she is proud to be a part of this community.

Ms. Kuykendoll echoed what has already been shared but noted that Yankee Doodle Day always coincides with Juneteenth, and families sometimes have to make a choice which to attend. She remarked she would love to see some thought put into this. In closing she noted she is thankful for all the work that happens during the summer to prepare us for the next school year.

President DuFort expressed her appreciation for all the board members comments, perspectives and how the members are all engaging with things. In closing she reviewed the application and certification process that school counselor Kelsey Burzinski has taken up to achieve RAMP certification.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations Strategies, as per Section 8(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**The motion carried unanimously 7:57.**

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 9:20 p.m.

**EMPLOYEE CONTRACT – Building and Grounds Maintenance Association**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Employee Contract between Grand Ledge Public Schools and the Building and Grounds Maintenance Association, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:21p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

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Nicole Shannon, Secretary

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Denise DuFort, President