

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – June 27, 2022

MINUTES

President Shiflett 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 Marcus Davenport indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Jon Shiflett, Nicole Shannon, Jarrod Smith, Sara Clark Pierson, Denise DuFort, Ben Cwayna and Toni Glasscoe. **Members Absent:** None. **Central Office Administrators:** Marcus Davenport, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, and Julie Waterbury. **Others in Attendance:** Melissa Mazzola, Martez Warren, Jr., Sally Jo Nelton, Alison Walczak, Howard Pizzo, Nell Pizzo, Ashley Kuykendoll, Kyle Dymond, Ashley Oneil, Kim Laforet, Shari Kissane, Tim Totten, Mark Laforet, Joan Nelson, Dawne Velianoff and Kim Manning

OPEN – TRUTH IN TAXATION/TRUTH IN BUDGETING HEARING

Motion by Ms. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to OPEN the Truth in Taxation/Truth in Budgeting Hearing.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously at 6:01 p.m.

Chief Financial Officer Julie Waterbury provided the board with a detailed overview of the 2022-2023 proposed budgets for Debt Service, Food Service, Community Education, School Store, Student Activities, Capital Improvement, Technology Capital Projects, 2019 Capital Projects Proposal 2, 2021 Capital Projects Proposal 1, 2021 Capital Projects Proposal 2 and General Fund noting a projected ending fund balance of 6.28% below the Board’s recommended 8%. She reviewed expenditure projections and cost savings through attrition.

A detailed discussion among the members noted the district had a healthy fund balance going into the 2021-2022 school year and understood this would be a deficit year because of all the challenges and ensuring we are providing services to catch everyone up, reminding everyone the 2021-2022 budget was adopted prior to Dr. Davenport’s hiring, complimenting Dr. Davenport and Mrs. Waterbury and everyone for working to keep everyone informed, staying transparent and ensuring we continue to move the district forward. Further discussion referenced public schools having to adopt a budget without having a budget from the State of Michigan noting it is anticipated a budget will be brought forward later this week, expressing concern over the district having to provide costs for a resource officer when it is local law enforcements job to ensure public safety, reviewing schools of choice numbers while noting that until the students are actually here we cannot officially consider them students, concerns about not filling positions and

noting these decisions will continue to be monitored to ensure appropriate staffing levels and advising this will be a busy summer with the summer school program, continued bond construction, continued work on improving and heightening safety and security at our buildings and monitoring student enrollment.

CLOSE – TRUTH IN TAXATION/TRUTH IN BUDGETING HEARING

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith to CLOSE the Truth in Taxation/Truth in Budgeting Hearing. The motion carried unanimously at 6:26 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the June 27, 2022 Agenda Items, as amended to add an Item 9B Superintendent's Bonus. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Davenport noted that he appreciates the board's consideration of adding this agenda item, but in the face of potential financial hurdles for the next year he would rather not take a bonus this year. He noted he believes in leading by example and didn't take this position based on finances but based on the challenge to continue moving the district forward. He thanked the board for their consideration of bringing this forward as it was noted in his contract and reiterating, he will forgo a bonus in light of the district's current financial position.

Discussion among the members recognized Dr. Davenport's commitment and noting this item would be reconsidered during his next evaluation.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the June 27, 2022 Consent Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Included on the Consent Agenda was the June 13, 2022 Work Session Minutes, Administrative Contract Renewals, the Administrative Hirings of Kelly Jones as Director of Human Resources and Martez Warren, Jr. and Director of Operations and the Teacher Hiring of Kimberly Wheat as a 3rd grade teacher at Delta Center Elementary.

Discussion among the members noted Congress has recently put forth legislation that was signed by President Biden to extend the free lunch program for all students.

Dr. Davenport noted the two new administrative hires were in attendance welcoming them to the district and sharing that there was not an over-abundance of people applying for positions at this time and sharing both Ms. Jones and Mr. Warren bring a positive energy to the district and have great experience they are bringing with them.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Dr. Glasscoe reiterated everyone is cautiously optimistic there will be a state aid budget approved later this week but she is also under the understanding there is potential if the education funding portion of the legislation cannot be agreed to, it could be pulled out as a separate budget.

B. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort shared the Eaton RESA conducted their Truth in Taxation / Truth in Budgeting hearing and approved their 2022-2023 budget and received a presentation from Kim Thalison, Prevention Program Services Director sharing the programs they provide and the partners they work with. She noted the presentations are available on the Eaton RESA website if anyone is interested in reviewing them. She further noted they received information on the Michigan Profile for Health Youths, commonly known as the MIPhy Survey. This is a survey given to students in grades 7, 9 and 11 every two years to project risky behavior in youth and track trends.

C. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Mrs. DuFort noted the original EDI Committee that was formed two years ago met to review where things stand with regard to the report that was accepted by the Board of Education noting there were four focus areas. She advised the administration has been looking at how that might be presented to our students at the different levels.

It was noted the Board has accepted the report, but it has not been adopted.

D. Grand Ledge Education Foundation

Ms. Shannon shared information from the 18th Annual Josh Spalsbury 5K Comet Chase that the Foundation held in conjunction with Yankee Doodle Day on June 18 noting this was the best turnout in the 18 years since the inception of this fundraiser and she looks forward to the foundation continuing to support “extras” for our teachers outside what is available through district dollars.

E. Bond Update

Dr. Johnson provided the board with an update on the additional work tied to the Beagle Pool that will address the installation of basketball courts, improving the bus loop and providing parking noting this work had to wait until students were done with school as the current bus loop was utilized throughout the year. He noted the high school track is finishing up with punch list items and the concession stand is awaiting Health Department approval. He noted the high school fine arts and athletic facility is taking shape with the second story now being constructed. He advised the theatrical lighting system for the auditorium is delayed due to a supply issue with the dimming package so this will not be completed until next summer. However, the sound system will be installed this summer. The high school pool, becoming the community pool should be complete mid to late July and shared that pre-bid work at Delta Center will be discussed by the board later in their agenda and noting that bids for construction at Delta Center will be due July 19th for the board to award bids in August. New construction at Wacousta is awaiting the design budget to determine next steps in the planning process.

F. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Davenport expressed his thanks to the board for their leadership and guidance, acknowledged this is Dr. Gabriel’s final board meeting and commending him for the professionalism he has shown throughout the year and thanking him for his partnership commenting he is “one of a kind”. He reiterated this will be a working summer ensuring we are ready for students next year while finalizing the new NEOLA policies for the board’s consideration, ensuring security and safety remains in the forefront and noting

administration will be visible at summer school and finding creative ways to help offset our budget. He then turned it over to Dr. Barnes for a Summer School Update.

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Dr. Barnes shared Summer School starts tomorrow. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Holding and Mrs. Brentar for the integral part in getting summer school up and ready for students. He shared there are currently 419 K-8 students and approximately 70 high school students signed up to participate, over 100 staff members involved from all employee groups (food service, secretaries, deans, bus drivers, custodial, teachers, teacher aids, etc.). He noted the summer school program is being provided free of charge for all enrolled students based on federal funds that were set aside. He noted he and Mrs. Waterbury had a meeting with the State of Michigan to review the program and it was noted Grand Ledge is a model of what the state had envisioned for a summer school program and noted Grand Ledge really wrapped their heads around this program to create flexibility. He noted everyone is welcome to visit and sharing that staff will be wearing blue shirt this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Smith read the rules for addressing the board.

Dawne Velianoff questioned the district's participation in School of Choice and advising she was unable to find where the board took action to participate, referenced the budget noting the ratio has stayed the same for the past five years but if the dollars are looking funny something is not right, questioning why we are doing a cap for open enrollment when we don't have policies that address bullying and anarchy signs are being painted on our buildings, and concerns that are never brought back up or answered.

Alison Walczak questioned how the EDI Committee members were selected, what it means to accept the report but not adopt it, and asking if there is any way for someone to join the committee now.

Ashley Oneil expressed concerns regarding unlocked doors during the school day and asking what is being done and how it is being addressed encouraging something be put in place prior to the upcoming school year. She noted it would be good for everyone to see, and know, in general, what is being done.

Kim Laforet thanked the board for putting comment after the main thing in the meeting and questioned how the current lawsuits will affect the budget and if there are grants available that could offset the cost of the school resource officer.

OLD BUSINESS

A. 2ND READING & APPROVAL OF OPERATIONS POLICIES

- a. **FM415 – FOOD SERVICE – MEAL CHARGES**
- b. **FM416 – FOOD SERVICE – UNCOLLECTABLE DEBT**

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Operations Policy FM415 – Food Service – Meal Charges and FM416 – Food Service – Uncollectable Debt, as presented.

It was reiterated that Congress has recently enacted legislation signed by President Biden to extend the free lunch program and advising the bulk of the uncollectable debt had been paid off by private donations.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF FINAL 2021-2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Final 2021-2022 Budget Amendment Resolution, noting a projected General Fund balance below the Board's recommended 8%, as presented.

Chief Financial Officer Julie Waterbury shared a detailed overview of the 2021-2022 Final Budget Amendment Resolution reviewing the individual budgets, expenditure increases due to the payment of additional compensation under various employee contracts, tax repayments to various municipalities for board of review or tax tribunal tax adjustments, the purchase of classroom technology items under ESSER funding and the increase in fuel, utility and supply costs.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>	President Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>NO</u>		

The motion carried 6-1.

C. APPROVAL OF 2022-2023 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2022-2023 Debt Service, Food Service, Community Education, School Store, Student Activities, Capital Improvement, Technology Capital Projects, 2019 Capital Projects Proposal 2, 2021 Capital Projects Proposal 1, 2021 Capital Projects Proposal 2 and General Fund Budget Resolution noting a projected General Fund balance below the Board's recommended 8%, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>	President Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>NO</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>
Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried 6-1.

D. APPROVAL OF 2022 TAX RATE REQUEST FORM (L-4029) FOR EATON, CLINTON & IONIA COUNTIES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2022 Tax Rate Request Form (L-4029) for Eaton, Clinton and Ionia Counties, as presented.

Chief Financial Officer Julie Waterbury provided information on the Tax Rate Request Form advising this notified the counties to collect the tax on behalf of the district.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF 2022 TAX RATE REQUEST FORM (L-4029) FOR CITY OF GRAND LEDGE AND DELTA TOWNSHIP

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2022 Tax Rate Request Form (L-4029) for the City of Grand Ledge and Delta Township, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. PRE-BOND WORK AT DELTA CENTER DISCUSSION

A detailed discussion provided the board with information regarding three main activities that must take place this summer prior to the start of construction at Delta Center Elementary School this fall including relocating the main electrical transformer, relocating the fiber optic line serving the facility and extended the existing sanitary line from inside the school out to the exterior. Construction documents are to be available on June 30, 2022 with bids due on July 19, 2022 for board approval of contract awards at the August 8, 2022 meeting. However, this presents only two weeks prior to staff reporting back to school and does not provide enough time to accomplish these tasks. Clark Construction is recommended the district enter into contact agreements at their July meeting to allow for the completion of these three main activities prior to the full construction bid awards.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Ms. Clark Pierson thanked Dr. Gabriel for his service.

Mr. Cwayna commented the EDIC Report needs to be brought up for discussion and the board should discuss the potential adoption of the report. Further discussion among the members clarified the process by which the EDI Committee members were selected through an application process, clarifying the report was accepted and the committee tasked the administration with creating possible steps for implementation to provide the board with more information on how things might look, confirming a delay in the process while the board developed its goals under the Strategic Plan and consensus that this matter needs to be discussed at the next board meeting to provide everyone with an update on how things are progressing and possible board action to adopt the report and next steps.

Mrs. DuFort expressed her excitement with the number of students participating in the summer school program and personally thanking Dr. Gabriel for his many years of service stating she knows how hard he has worked on behalf of the district, that his leadership will be missed and wishing him nothing but the best in the future.

Dr. Glasscoe noted she and Dr. Gabriel go way back noting he was so welcoming and she enjoyed their conversations as she moved through different assignments at LCC stating he was very helpful. She advised Dr. Barnes he would be seeing her at the summer school program. She thanked Dr. Davenport for leading by example and leading by what he does and not what he says. She noted Grand Ledge is full of resources and she looks forward to rolling up our sleeves to address what needs to be addressed.

President Shiflett noted he has served on the board for 10 years and thanked Dr. Gabriel for his level of patience with someone who thought they knew more than they did noting that while he was not always polite and as wonderful as he should have been, Dr. Gabriel was always professional and delicate allowing him to grow and learn in this space. He commented he doesn't

believe Dr. Gabriel understands that he will miss him greatly and he wishes him great luck in whatever his future holds.

CLOSED SESSION – MATERIAL EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Material Exempt from Disclosure, as per Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously at 7:33 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 8:39 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Jarrod Smith, Secretary

Attest:


Jon Shiflett, President