

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Special Virtual Meeting– August 3, 2020

MINUTES

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Interim Superintendent Dave Chapin indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Denise DuFort, Jarrod Smith, Jon Shiflett, Sara Clark Pierson, Kim Mulvenna, Patrick McKennon and Ben Cwayna. **Central Office Administrators**: Dave Chapin, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance** Aaliyah Bauer, Abbey Schaefer, Abigail Burmeister, Ahren Tazsreak, Alexandra Schroeder, Alexandra Lezan, Alice Mills, Alisha Buehrer, Allie Shumate, Allison James, Allison Landry, Allison Wardlaw, Allison Zakerski, Alyssa Cummings, Amanda Helfer, Amanda Love, Amanda Carter, Amanda McNew, Amber Holm, amber Johnson, Amber Schwennesen, Amber Stiver, Amy Bowers, Amy Heriford, Amy McNamara, Ana Suasto, Andi Wilson, Andrea Beachnau, Andrea Dionise, Andrea Lawless, Anna Rosalin, Anne Chapman, Anne Guyett, Anne Patrick, Anthony Browning, Ashleigh Shepard, Ashley Burkett, Ashley Oneil, Ashley Parks, Barb Higbee, Becky Krawczyk, Becky Przedwojewski, Becky Thelen, Beth Aprill, Beth Johnston, Beth Leonard-Posey, Beth Schuchaskie, Bianca Blackwelder, Bill Albrecht, Bobby Baxter, Brandon Ray, Brenda Glinke, Brenda Hurless-Sensaliver, Brett McCartney, Brian McLaughlin, Brianna Johnson, Bri Dennis, Britney Becht, Brittaney Kirschke, Brittney Anderson, Brooke Ward, Caitlin Christenson, Caitlin Fenby, Brian Coates, Candace Karrer, Candace Marrison, Cara Pfund, Carla Agee, Carla Copeland-Joseph, Carly Gee, Carmen Karkau, Carmen Palmer, Carolyn Brokob, Carrie Caylor, Carrie Chance, Carrie Kornoelje, Carrie Long, Cathy Fox, Chancey Rathburn, Charles Holman, Charlotte Vinton, Chelsea Sheldon, Chelsey Martinez, Cheri Krapf-Haddock, Chris Groves, Christin Sandell, Christina Bentley, Christina Powell, Christine Morden, Christy Lobdell, Cindy Hoskins, Cindy Zerbe, CJ Chaitanya, Clifford Hurth, Colleen Austin, Colleen Price, Connor Wilton, Cortney Mena, Courtney Millbrook, Courtney Schamehorb, Craig Baxter, Crystal Hewitt, Daemion Smith, Damon Young, Dan Schaenzer, Daniel Thomas, Danielle Droste, Danielle Lundstrom, Danielle Richards, Danis Peck, Darin Wilson, Dawn Gibson, Dawne Velianoff, Dean Weber, Deb McCrumb, Debra Martinez, Denise Clarity, Denise Green, Dennis Tonk, Diane Davis, Diane Gernaat, Diane Lehr, Diane Windquist, Donna Oser, Doreen Earle, Doug Waldrop, Kent Yaney, Andrea Herrst, Eddie Shaw, Elissa Kedziorek, Elizabeth Thompson, Elizabeth Wilson, Ellie Darnell, Elyse Fox, Emily Rush,, Emily Vsetecka, Emily Williamson, Erica Ledesma, Erica Quealy, Erich Vedder, Erin Snyder, Erinn Barnes, Felicia Lutz, Frau Firtl, Gillian Eisenbraun, Greg Stevens, Halima El-Sulayman, Hayden Kass, Heather Hicks, Heather Howland, Heather

Storball, Heather Sullivan, Heather Vanderlaan, Heidi Ransom, Hillary Kohn, Hugh Potter, Inger Lanese, Jackie Fedewa, Jackie Post, Jacquelyn Fisher, Jaime Barger, Jain Carver, James Cotter, James Mcrae, Jamie Losch, Jamie McKennon, Jamie Pung, Jamie Viecelli, Janda Craig, Janelle Kenny, Jason Aten, Jason Perez, Jason Stevens, Jayne Kalbfleisch, Jayson Lerner, Jen Smith, Jenn Grantham, Jenn Morden, Jenna Coburn, Jenna Riekse, Jennifer Bernardin, Jennifer Haakenson, Jennifer Munoz, Jennifer Pattison, Jennifer Pinckney, Jennifer Short, Jenniofer Broadbent, Jenny Jarrard, Jenny Kish, Jenny Mead, Jeremy Babcock, Jerry Monroe, Jerry Avery, Jessi Zweering, Jessica Aker, Jessica Cornman, Jessica Fuentes, Jessica Kirby, Jessica Klatt, Jessica Lynch, Jessica VanderMoere, Jill Chapman, Jill Ford, Jill Rycus, Jim Kent, Jim Lischkge, Jim Wenson, Joann Waterman, JoAnn Ackerson, Jodi Joseph, Jodi Smitter, Jody Klaver, Joe Brya, Joel Carman, John Gollenhon, John Szczerowski, Jolee Hamlin, Jonathan Gensch, Joni Fuller Joseph Oren, Joy Marshall, Judy Hengesbach, Juliann Wright, Julie Boruta, Julie Kemp, Julie Lawrence, Julie Maher, Julie Melotti, Julie Schieding, Justin Heany, Kamie Young, Kara Christy, Karen Ackerson, Karen Batterham, Karen Bedard, Karen Dichoza, Karen Edlin, Karen Frisbie, Karlene Ketola, Kasey Henderson, Kasey Smith, Katelynne Turping, Katherine Staperfenne, Kathleen Decoster, Kathleen Mikulec, Kathryn Martin, Kathy Dietzel, Katie Dufresne, Katie Fox, Katie Grass, Katie Pontifex, Katie Westen, Kay Wyszynski, Kaylee Payne, Kelli Bohnet, Kelli Schaeig, Kelly Badra, Kelly Nevison, Kelly Smith, Kelsey Shoemaker, Ken Wright, Kerry Stensen, Keyonie James, Kim Abed, Kim Browning, Kim Klatt, Kim LaFond, Kim Schafer, Kimberly Kurth, Kimberly Shoup, Kristen Thompson, Kristen Hoard, Kristen Warner, Kristen Wren, Kristin Baker, Kristin Johnston, Kirstin Rich, Kristina Stroud, Kristy Welch, Lacy Sailer, Lakeyta Patterson, LaReicia McNeal, Laura Konen, Laura Roys, Laura Schroeder, Lauren Read, Leah Eberhard, Leanne Eschtruth, LeeAnn Dayton, Leesha Lee, Leo Blundell, Leslie Mohnke, Leslie Pittsley, Lillie Rapelje, Lindsay Weichlein, Lindsey Chemacki, Lindsey Fender, Lindsey Grostefon, Lindsey Nichols, Lisa McCarron, Lisa Schluckbier, Lisa Scholten, Live Hive, Liz Bliesener, Liz Jackman, Liz Underhill, Lizzie Maurer, Lori Fischer, Lori Friedlis, Lorrin Allbee, Lucas Terpstra, Lucinda Shier, Lynsee Phillips, Mandy Leik, Marcia Hamstra, Marcia Pogonchef, Margo Susnjar, Marie Shaw, Marisa Rozycki, Mark Sands, Marlene Promer, Marne Daggett, Marnee McClung, Mary Ann Schmedlen, Mary Carlson, Mary Openlander, Matthew Hemmes, Megan Spedoske, Megan Weber, Meghan Dennis, Meghan Vanderstelt, Melanie Kacynski, Melanie Wright, Melea Bullock, Melissa Himojosa, Melissa Mazzola, Melody Parsons, Melody Patterson, Meredith Johnson, Michael Cool, Michael Oakes, Michael Reynolds, Michael Rodgers, Michael Taylor, Michael White, Michele Hill, Michelle Cosby, Michelle Dinsmore, Michelle Hartman, Michelle Mabis, Michelle Mead, Michelle O'Meara, Michelle Rahl, Mick McCormic, Mikayla Parrott, Mindy Junker, Miranda Coburn, Molly Cool, Morgan Cross, Morgan Schlagenhauf, Dave Logel, James Campbell, Mustafa Hazime, Nancy Lonberger, Natalia Thomas, Nate Moore, Neisha Gabrysiak, Nevaeh Mosher, Nicole Cook, Nicole Leitch, Nicole Minney, Nichole Shannon, Nicole Throne, Nicole Nielsen, Nicole rich, Nola Cockroft, Christopher Chester, Paige Eacker, Parker Eacker, Parker Alverson, Pat St. George, Patricia Miller, Paul Ruvolo, Paul Stoddard, Paula Dunn, Paula Hoffman, Pauline Quagliata, Peggy Allen, Penny Warner, Pete Bucholtz, Philip Fent, Rachel Kuntzsch, Rachel Onore, Rachel VanDeven, Ranee DeRose, Ranjit Singh, Lisa Singh, Rachel Buffenbarger, Rebecca McElroy, Rebecca Scutt, Rene Brown, Renee Sommerlot, Rick

Whitten, Robert Batten, Ronda Mueller, Rufus Isaacs, Ruthann Jacqueline, Ryan Phillips, Rebecca Scutt, Ryan Snook, Sam Ortiz, Sandra Prince, Sandy Hubbard, Sara Gooley, Sara Herman, Sara Lerner, Sara Ostertag, Sara Taylor, Sara Zeko, Sarah Abfalter, Sarah Andritsis, Sarah Atkins, Sarah Behovitz, Sarah Coulon, Sarah Dymond, Sarah Gatewood, Sarah Hopper, Sarah Kovach, Sarah Mida, Sara Struthers, Sarah Sullivan, Sean Stevens, Shannon Guild, Shawn Roy, Shawne Stone, Shayna Green, Shelby Logel, Shelly Wiggins, Shirley Ries, Stacey Dohm, Stacy Nelson, Steph Keith, Stephanie Curtis, Stephanie Dewey, Stephanie Mayhew, Stephanie Pollock, Steve Binioris, Steve Hubbard, Steven Castle, Sue Horak, Susan Borgman, Susan Burm, Sweta Srivastava, Sydney Adams, Sylvia Chemacki, Tamara Lipsey, Tamela Jones, Tammy Shiflett, Tammy Musolff, Tammy Rosales, Tammy Szydlowski, Tara Barnhill, Tara Kopietz, Tasha Rios-Thomas, TC Walters, Teresa Dyer, Teresa House, Teresa Miller, Teresa Reed, Teri Mulder, Terri Pollack, Theresa Abed, Thomas Schaefer, Tim Kwast, Tim Johnson, Tom Flammer, Traci Gentilozzi, Tracy Clark, Tracy Jo Devereaux, Tracy Richey, Tricia Brentar, Trina Myers, Trisha Sharma, Trisha Warner, Troy Stroud, Tyler Hubert, Tyneil Johnson, Ursula Averill, Vicki Kebler, Vicki Wenslick, Vince Hanson, Wendy Dill, Whitney Craig, Zack Zulewski and Kim Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Secretary Shiflett read the rules for the addressing the board.

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF JULY 20, 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the July 20, 2020 Virtual Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

President DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF THE 2020-2021 RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

The Board asked for the plan to be presented prior to the motion being offered.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Chapin began the presentation providing information on how we got to this point including reviewing the MI Safe School: Michigan’s 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap established by Governor Whitmer and the required safety protocols, strong recommendations and recommendations included in the roadmap including 6’ social distancing, masks, screening of students and hygiene. He provided details to the work of the administrative team, faculty and staff. Dr. Chapin noted lots of different aspects were considered in reaching the decision to provide online only learning, K-12, for the first trimester

of the 2020-2021 school year. He referenced his July 14th letter to staff, parents and students made it very clear the health and safety of our students and staff would be most important as well as working in accord with the Barry-Eaton health Department, Center for Disease Control and State Government while working in unison with other school districts in the region. In closing his portion of the presentation, he noted our students need us to be ready, helpful and prepared. Our teachers need to adapt their vast skill set to new conditions and our administrators need to find new ways to lead.

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Dr. Bill Barnes presented the board with the planning timeline that started in early May and continues to this day. He noted off-site learning is the safest way to educate our students during this pandemic with a focus on new, essential learnings that will help students succeed in their current grade levels, future grades, and standardized assessments. He advised this will not be the same experience we had in April and May. Dr. Barnes reviewed the expectations in this new online format for students, parents, teachers and the district as a whole. He further reviewed the curriculum and resources and teacher training.

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Operations Dr. Steve Gabriel reviewed the impact on faculty and staff noting the district is striving to provide continued employment of school employees while redeploying staff to providing meaningful work in the context of this Return to School Plan. He further reviewed the specific impact on the Food Service Department in continuing to provide meals to our students who qualify, Transportation Department in establishing "special" runs, and Custodial / Ground & Maintenance Department in continuing to operate and maintain buildings and grounds including cleaning / sanitizing, supplies, personal protection equipment, signage and air quality.

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the off-site distance learning plan as presented by the administrative staff as the 2020-21 school year begins on September 8th through the end of the first trimester on December 4th; and furthermore approve the purchase of the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Hosted Enterprise License in the amount of \$393,750.

A detailed discussion among the members included providing information on the investigation and decision to purchase the Florida Virtual School Hosted Enterprise License instead of Michigan Virtual, the difference in the Spring shut down and not taking grades to what this new online learning experience will look like with grades, attendance and participation expected. Further conversation centered around supplies for those who may need it, computers, and internet access noting the district has increased its Wi-Fi to provide for internet service to those close to the building (parking lot) but noting the district continues to work to ensure we can provide services to those who might need it. Discussion on how schedules will work noted we are still working out all the details advising board approval is being requested strictly to provide the district with the authority to move forward with 100% online learning through December 4, 2020. There is still a lot of details that need to be worked out, noting the implementation teams but assuring the expectation would not be for a student to sit down at a computer from 9 am – 4 pm. Further discussion on cost savings from staff furloughs noted it is the goal of the district to keep our staff and work within the guidelines of employee contracts, but positions may look different and some staff have already opted not to return for

their own personal reasons. Same with class size. We will work within the guidelines of employee contracts. In closing the discussion among the members, it was noted the goal is to transition from off site to on site learning, following current guidelines set forth by the State of Michigan, county health agency and CDC. If the board approves this then the district can begin to put this in the hands of our teachers and building administrators to start developing class lists so they can reach out to the students and families.

Further discussion on participating in extra-curricular activities for the fall noted the district intends to follow the guidelines from the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) advising fall practices have started but a decision on competitions has not been determined. But again, the district must be able to meet the guidelines established safely. Also noted was the district providing Adventure Club and Preschool on a smaller scale over the summer due to decreased demand and adhering to safety guidelines and restrictions.

President DuFort opened the floor for public comment and Secretary Shiflett read the rules for addressing the board.

Ranjit & Lisa Singh expressed concerns with 100% online schooling and the impact on IEP's asking if guidance will be given to parents on how the district will meet those needs.

Rachel Buffenbarger thanked the administration for believing in science and keeping everyone safe and asked how materials will be provided to students.

Dawne Velianoff thanked the board and noted details are extremely important, parent/grandparent/daycare support is very important. She further asked about how this will impact schools of choice and if the district qualifies for any additional dollars that we didn't qualify for before this decision and noted the money being paid to Dr. Metcalf could be used to further this effort.

Tom Maher questioned how the board can pass something tonight when there are still so many questions specifically families that don't have access and questioned why we are not looking at other districts who are providing in person learning questioning the impact on the budget if students choose to leave to attend in person learning in another district.

Tiffany Floate thanked everyone for all that has been done but expressed concerns regarding support for working families, social/emotion impact on students, what online learning will look like for kindergarten and 1st grade

Eric Celebrezze noted online learning is hailed for the learn at your own pace and questioned how the district will handle accelerated learners versus those who need more time. He further questioned how the district would handle another shut down and the timeline or scope of the bond projects.

Joy Sullivan noted there is no guarantee people are going to follow the rules, but she believes there are ways for the schools to manage it and going back to school is doable and she questions starting on December 4th in the midst of flu season.

Lucinda Shier noted she is a single parent and staff member of the district and is concerned in how she will manage this with her student.

Bob Mitchell questioned if bussing would be provided for Eaton RESA and LCC programs.

Valerie Clewley noted she believed the district did a great job in the Spring given the short period of time to implement. She thanked the administration for making the difficult decision to bring this forward but knows there is no way her 1st and 3rd grader would wear a mask all day and not trade with someone else.

Jason Higgins noted he did not get a good answer on how working families are going to handle this.

Jessica Fuentes advised her child has a phenomenal experience in the spring and the teachers did the best they could. She supports remote learning at this time and understands there will not be a right answer for everyone. She supports this decision noting she believes the main concern is the safety of the students and staff.

Kelsey Bort echoed her student had a great experience this spring and the teacher was amazing. She expressed concerns for working parents while noting there is no right answer for the awful situation noting she is nervous about being able to meet her child's needs.

Angie Dalton asked if the district would consider providing specific grade level objectives to parents so they know what is expected for their student to move into the next grade level, moving the elementary teachers to the next grade level so they move with the students they had last spring as they have an understanding of the child's learning, using bus drivers to deliver supplies to families instead of making parents come to pick things up at a location.

Matthew Hemmes noted his students attend the district under the schools of choice noting they are considering sending their younger children to parochial school for one year but wondered if their places would still be available to come back next year.

Tasha Rios-Thomas is a district employee who expressed her appreciation for all the work that has been put in to this plan. She expressed concerns asking if teachers would be given leeway for teachers to use their own created content for learning or if they would have to adhere to the FLVS template.

Board President DuFort called for a five-minute recess at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

LeeAnn Dayton expressed concerns from the grandparent perspective and others who are helping out their children noting her husband has never used a computer and she is still working. She believes the children would benefit from being back in the classroom and asked if there was consideration for bringing small groups of students back into the school or maybe just elementary and leaving secondary to do online.

Rachel VanDeven is a parent and Eaton RESA employee expressed concerns on how she will manage monitoring her student's online learning while continuing to work outside the home noting she believes we should be able to bring students back to school as our public health officials are recommending.

Kreg Wager expressed concerns with students being 100% online when he is a single-working parent household.

Greg Stevens expressed appreciation for the position the district is in and expressed concerns for children's welfare, single parent household, two parent working households and noting he has no confidence in this plan until more details are brought forward.

Lucas Terpstra expressed his appreciation for the decision that has to be made especially with regard to social distancing and safety precautions noting it would be very hard for the elementary students. He believes we should go with this plan knowing the details will work themselves out.

Erica Ledesma expressed her appreciation for laying out this was not an easy decision, for involving staff members in the decision-making, for bringing this plan forward with 5-weeks to plan and noted she knows the concerns expressed tonight will be considered as the actual implementation process begins

Addie Hayes expressed concerns specific to her student with an IEP and noting she does not have family available to help mentor during the day. She knows it is hard for everybody, but for the kids that are already struggling, she is very concerned and hopes there will be some opportunity for in-person instruction for these struggling students.

Nic Violante noted he has four students across grade levels and suggested any required class be recorded so students will be able to watch the video and be counted as attending the class. He understands the decision to go online is based on everyone's safety, but requested some flexibility. He further noted he has two students who will be freshman and it would be most appropriate if they would have the same assignments so they can work in the same groups, with their friends who are also in the same grade.

Donna Oser thanked the board and administration for their service but encouraged them to rethink their plan to better align with the American Academy of Pediatrics noting the AAP suggests children and adolescents are less likely to spread the disease. She expressed concerns with regard to the online learning experience from the Spring and wonders how this will be different.

Adam Post expressed his thanks to Grand Ledge Public Schools, noted the district did a great job with the limited amount of time to implement the Spring online learning, but questions who will be available to support his student with an IEP. He suggested splitting the day in half, 7th grade in the morning, 8th grade in the morning.

Jill Huisken expressed her concerns with virtual learning and the impact on her senior for getting the specific classes he needs/wants to take and applying to college. She noted she respects the choice, but she needs to know the details so she can make decisions for her student now.

Nicole Nielsen noted her child has an IEP and while she appreciates the difficult decision, but she wants assurance if her child falls behind, resources will be available to get caught back up.

Michelle Hartman thanked everyone here noting her appreciation for the topics being brought up. She asked if students would be able to work on homework while attending Adventure Club. She asked the district to share expectations for each grade level / building, can the parents see the FLVS curriculum, how soon will the teachers see that curriculum, and if the lessons will be synchronized.

Philip Fent noted he understands the safety of the children and staff is the priority but it is hard not to have in school learning noting he is concerned what is going to happen in December if the decision is made to not return to in person learning then.

Steven Castle noted this is not easy and there is no right answer. He expressed kids not being vectors of this virus has been proven wrong. He further stated there are a lot of unknown variables and believes if we are in a more positive light in December, we must still look at an endorsed pod system. He supports trying to alleviate the some of the burden on working families.

Alan Vanderstelt commended teacher Elyse Fox for the amazing job she did connecting with them during the Spring. He noted there is no choice that is going to cover everyone's situations but believes things are being thought through as best as possible expressing he doesn't know how you plan for something like this.

Beth Jones noted they are a full-time working family with four children each in a different school. She expressed concerns about having enough devices for her children. She asked why families are not being provided an option.

Sara Hayes noted there will be trauma for students having to work from home or being in school and having to wear a mask all day when they are young. She noted Adventure Club has been open and asked if they have had to shut down at all and what types of preparations were made to open. She asked the district to be proactive versus reactive.

Teresa House thanked everyone for taking the time to listen and expressed concerns over 100% online learning asking how the district is going to guarantee parent involvement and how the district will take responsibility of her students. Parents should not be expected to be present every day for six-hours. What happens if a student has technical difficulty, who do they contact? She further noted if eMails should be read by parents, they should be sent directly to the parent. She believes the original plan of offering both options was the ideal situation.

Trisha Warner asked the board to vote no on the 100% online option noting she liked the option of choice. She noted the science about kids getting COVID and having difficulties because is a small portion and she is willing to take the risk and send him to school.

Courtney Schamehorb thanked everyone for taking so much time to listen to concerns. She asked if we have looked at a split option noting taking options away from parents is difficult. She is concerned about the lack of communication and asked if maybe weekly agendas can be shared that would allow the parents to track what needs to be completed in the week.

Lindsey Chemacki thanked all who worked to put this plan together. She noted it was a difficult decision even when two options were offered. She noted she can't think of a more pertinent time the phrase "it takes a village" has been applicable. She encouraged the administration to consider that each student in the same grade receive the same lesson plan to allow parents to network and work together. She noted we all need to work hand in hand to give our students the best experience.

Jason Stevens expressed it might be a good way to utilize staff to help ensure students are staying on track and doing well with the online experience. He questioned if the district would be providing Chromebook and what sort of support the kids will have if they have an issue. He addressed sports and noted the NCAA has their athletes tested every day and those go through Sparrow which is why there is a backlog.

Aaron Hoeksema noted his student will be attending Kindergarten this fall so he is new to the school system. He advised his student did attend Little Comets Preschool and noted the benefit of attending school for smaller children is to teach them about the pandemic, the proper hand washing techniques, and not sharing things.

Jackie Post asked how this district would provide the kids who need the one on one the one on one? How will elective classes work? She noted her student needs the one on one and she wanted to be in school with her peers.

Casey Brassington expressed her thanks and recognized the amount of time put in, just in sitting here for hours listening to everyone's concerns. She thanked everyone for putting science first noting this is unprecedented; a first-time experience. She noted we can't ask this board to solve a global health crisis noting all we can ask is to look at the facts and make the best decision moving forward. She expressed it is not just the kids who are at risk and must be considered. She noted this is a problem for parents, educators, everybody. Not a one size fits all. How do we make this work? Figure out how we help each other.

Marne Daggett has three children at three grade levels and while she appreciates all the thought and consideration, she is pro giving parents the choice noting she is more concerned about her child being socialized than getting COVID expressing each parent knows what is best for their situation. She asked about having bus drivers ensure parents fill out questionnaire before the kids get on the bus, then scan student for their temperature and check for a mask.

Jacqueline Freeman noted she understand the time and effort that has gone in to thinking about all the different scenarios. She asked about planning for college for her senior and wondered if there would be a conference call or meeting to specifically address concerns for students headed off to college. She expressed concerns for the emotional health of teenagers who are wired to connect with each other. She asked about learning pods, kids connecting online, interactive exchange and guarding against inappropriate content on Zoom.

Robert Batten expressed his thanks for a tough job noting health and safety should come first. Kids won't keep their masks on. He expressed his understanding that statistics show kids under a certain age are less susceptible, but a 9-year old just died from COVID and asked if parents were willing to let that possibility be their child then at the very least the school should consider the option of in person or online school and let the parent decide.

Vice President Smith noted this is a difficult decision. He asked if there were a no vote tonight, what that would do to our administration.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Chapin advised a no vote would be the board telling the administration you want to bring student back. We have shared our concerns about bringing students back. He noted everyone on the administration team has been taking notes and themes have developed tonight. He understands there are questions but moving forward allows the district to begin developing class lists and planning for how we can help the families who need it. He noted he lobbies for a yes vote to put this into the hands of our teachers, our principals. To embrace this public comment and see how we move forward. A no vote will set us back. It's another week of uncertainty and that is not our preference. We have listened carefully to all the comments, we know what we need to do. There is also the possibility in play that if we start, and we have to stop abruptly again, what that will do to the district. But there are so many examples of that in our state and in our country.

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Operations Steve Gabriel reminded everyone we have 800 staff members that can't be forgotten. This plan is the best for the health of everyone involved. He expressed great empathy for the parents that have spoken and the dilemma this creates.

Member Smith thanked Dr. Chapin and Gabriel for the clarification and noted he would be voting in favor of this proposal.

Member Clark Pierson noted the remarkable level of civility from the people who are worried and have concerns. She noted this is wrenching but it's not just about the teachers, the aides, the or the parents, it is a truth public health issue; a deadly virus and we need to take precautions. She expressed this continues to be a fluid situation noting in the south where they have opened to quickly has turned very ugly. She noted she is going to support the proposal but there needs to be some flexibility and we can't just say it, we have to find ways to reach our struggling students and families.

Member Cwayna noted the plan set for by the administration is exceptional and thanked everyone for their involvement. He thanked everyone for their comments. He noted he will not support a 100% online only option noting the State of Michigan is allowing us to proceed

with in school learning and we need to offer a choice and allow the parent to make the decision for their own kids and their family.

Member McKennon thanked everyone for joining the meeting noting we are strong community because of the voice of our citizens. He agreed "it takes a village" and this is going to. He noted moving forward he is disappointed, but not discouraged. He noted after talking with Dr. Barnes and realizing every aspect of face-to-face learning had been exhausted, he will support this plan. He expressed his full truth in Dr. Chapin, Dr. Barnes and Dr. Gabriel to make sure every student is supported. He noted this is a board decision and asked if people disagree with this decision to not hold our teachers and administrators accountable and asked everyone to move forward with civility and kindness noting we will get through this together and come out stronger.

Member Mulvenna noted this is not an either-or decision. This is a motion to approve off-site distance learning. We have heard the feedback and there are a lot of great minds working on this and working toward bringing our students back. She noted she will support the proposal.

Member Shiflett noted he believes we will finish the year online. He believes moving back to phase 3 is the more real possibility than moving to phase 5. He noted he has concerns about the online plan and understands we will probably lose some students. He noted he will be voting for the proposal but has great concern about the 1% of our students.

President DuFort noted she too has great concerns and this is not a simple decision for anyone. She advised this is something we have never seen before. Our students and staff are at risk. In a situation where we have so many variables, we strongly believe we cannot support the guidelines of the State Roadmap, the Health Department and the CDC. She noted the social / emotional components are huge. She expressed she believes everyone on the board and administrative team would like to have the students back under normal circumstances, but it will not look like school, it will be different. She expressed there is no simple solution but she will be supporting the proposal.

Dr. Chapin assured the board and all those still attending that the administration has heard the concerns, notes have been made. The team will begin to really develop a viable action plan that will work for our students and families this fall. He noted this is a committed group that wants to make this right. We are asking the board to approve the plan for 100% online learning, but we as an administrative team, know we need to figure out accommodations and work to create those accommodations. Will we meet the needs of everyone, probably not, but we will do our best.

President DuFort reread the motion:

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the off-site distance learning plan as presented by the administrative staff as the 2020-21 school year begins on September 8th through the end of the first trimester on December 4th; and furthermore approve the purchase of the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Hosted Enterprise License in the amount of \$393,750.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>	President DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>NO</u>		

The motion carried 6-1.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

President DuFort thanked everyone for their participation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Jon Shiflett, Secretary



Denise DuFort, President