

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Work Session – August 10, 2026
MINUTES

President Kuykendoll called the meeting to order at 6:00 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***: Matt Oppenheim, Kali Stevens, Nicole Shannon, Denise DuFort, Toni Glasscoe and Ashley Kuykendoll. ***Board Members Absent***: Coban Holmes. ***Central Office Administrators***: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Bill Albrecht, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. ***Others in Attendance***: Kat Farr, Kevin Garthe and Kim Manning.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF JULY 13, 2026 MEETING AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the July 13, 2026 Meeting and Closed Session Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF TEACHER HIRINGS

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the hiring of James Jenkins, Levi Oehlberg-Bogges, Anna Petrisko, Kristin Pontius, Avery Shedd and Jennifer Zimmerman, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

C. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO CALL THE REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION & AUTHORIZE BALLOT LANGUAGE

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution to Call the Regular School Election and Authorize the Bond Proposal Ballot Language, as presented.

Dr. Barnes noted considerable time was spent over the past year updated the district's facilities management plan. The district also conducted a Request for Proposals (RFP) to find construction management and architectural partners to work with to continue to move the district forward. The board previously approved the district's Prequalification Application that was sent to Treasury and the application has now been approved by Treasury. The ballot language included in this resolution was part of that application as "draft language". With Treasury's approval of the application, the next step is for the

Board to consider the Resolution to Call the Regular School Election on November 3, 2026 and to consider the bond proposal language for inclusion on the ballot. The bond proposal will allow the district to expand our facilities and to continue to provide great programs for kids. It would allow the district to expand classroom spaces as our student population continues to grow.

Communication Director John Ellsworth noted this is a zero mill increase over the current levy noting this is a great way for things to continue to progress and meeting the district's demand.

Chief Financial Officer Adrienne Barna expressed her appreciation for the planning process of the bond proposal and remarked it is a great way for us to continue to support the district's Facilities Management Plan and to keep moving the district forward.

Superintendent Barnes noted this was discussed in the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee noting that information will be shared extensively as work has already taken place to prepare materials for distribution. He noted this is a very well thought out plan routed in our facilities management plan remarking we are doing the right things in the right way.

Dr. Glasscoe asked and was assured that information will be provided to board members to ensure they have all the information they need to be able to answer any questions they may receive. There will also be information shared on the district's website.

Mrs. DuFort expressed she feels this is a very creative way to meet the district's needs remarking we have built our programming and we need to maintain that programming for the overall success of the district and to ensure we continue to be top notch. In closing she noted she will definitely be supporting the Resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>

President Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>

The motion carried unanimously.

D. 1ST READING OF REVISED BOARD POLICIES

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education receive Revised Board Policies 0167.5, 1422, 2260, 3122 and 4122 for first reading, with the policies to return for final consideration at a future scheduled meeting.

Superintendent Barnes noted the different language in the motion tonight for the first reading of the revised policies. He advised the Governance Committee in conjunction with the Board Parliamentarian, John Ellsworth, created the language to reflect the

reality that policies are not actually read, but are received for review and will be brought back for final consideration. He went on to note that Policies 1422, 2260, 3122 and 4122 were discovered to not have been updated with the board approved non-discrimination language during an audit of the district's policies. This revision bring these policies into compliance with the Board's approved language. Additionally, 0167.5 addresses the expectation for the new @glcomets.net email addresses that have been given to the board members.

Mrs. DuFort expressed she is happy to see the addition of Policy 0167.5.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$247,021.72, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and represents work on the Wacousta parking lot, fire alarm system at Wacousta Commons, re-shingling a couple of the outbuilding at the football stadium, doors at Wacousta Commons where the library is housed, progress billing for the rooftop units at Wacousta Commons, fire alarms at Wacousta Commons.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 3 INVOICES

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$600,332.54, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and represents the Arbitrage payment to the U.S. Department of Treasury closing out the Proposal 1, Series 3 bond.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 4 INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$677,618.80, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and represents work at Wacousta and Morris, progress bill for Clark and GMB, furniture for Wacousta elementary, wireless networking at Wacousta and Morris, access control and key fobs at Morris, noting most of the trades work is for Wacousta and Morris with a small portion for the gym at Delta Center.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Superintendent Barnes reminded everyone of the ribbon cutting ceremony for Wacousta Commons, primarily focused on the preschool, but also the library, will take place this Wednesday. He shared district programming is preparing to come in at Wacousta Commons. He also reminded everyone that next Tuesday, is the first day of 2026-2027 school year for staff and will be followed by building opening days and professional learning. He noted all new staff will be reporting this Thursday to Comet Lift Off where the district will provide with information about professional learning, learning the history of GLPS and taking a district tour. In closing he noted there is one more meeting before students return on August 25th.

Mr. Oppenheim shared he was able to participate in the Grand Ledge Chamber golf outing this past week noting it was a great way to connect with the greater Grand Ledge community. He expressed his appreciation for the work teachers have done over the summer, noting as a retired teacher, he understands what goes in to putting classrooms back together and preparing to welcome students.

Ms. Stevens wished everyone a happy back to school time, acknowledging this can be a stressful, anxious time for many which is totally normal and wishing everyone the best and expressing her excitement about the bond proposal.

Ms. Shannon expressed her excited about the bond proposal noting she believes that as a district, we have done our very best to listen to our students, family and community's input and remarking the district is very prudent with their tax dollars. She remarked the bond proposal is been very thoughtful and she is proud to be a part of a community that supports public education noting this proposal makes sense for our community, speaks to our needs and our budget.

Mrs. DuFort reflected on things she has missed during her absence including all the work that has taken place over the summer by the board, staff and administrators, expressing her appreciation to Kelly Jones and her team for the staff hires, the new contracts for the administrative team and employee groups, Adrienne Barna and her team for the budget, the excellent presentation by Athletic Director Steve Baker and Community Recreation Coordinator Jen Daly, the work done to bring the student advisory board to fruition, the student data review remarking she is interested to see how it will impact building goals and moving those into action plans expressing she is concerned with attendance at the high school level, and now with the bond proposal reiterating this is a zero mill increase. She thanked everyone for their work and noted she is extremely proud to be a comet.

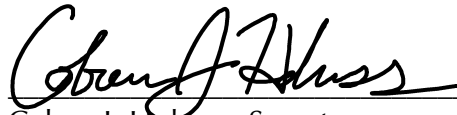
Dr. Glasscoe noted the C3R summit will be held on September 10th this year and more information will be coming out soon. She thanked Dr. Barnes for his continued commitment is serving on the Advisory Board. She remarked that while she is not a parent in the district, she is anxious and excited about starting school. She expressed her appreciation for everyone's hard work.

President Kuykendoll echoed everyone's comments but noted she is excited to get her kids back to school. She thanked everyone for the work they are doing and for the work we will be able to continue to do with the bond proposal. In closing she shared that former GLPS Superintendent Marcus Davenport has been named Superintendent for Oak Park Public Schools, wishing him all the best.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Coban J. Holmes, Secretary

Attest:


Ashley A. Kuykendoll, President