

## GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Work Session – August 13, 2018

### MINUTES

President Jon 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 Metcalf indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Ben Cwayna, Denise DuFort, Kim Mulvenna, Patrick McKennon, and Jon Shiflett. **Central Office Administrators:** Steve Gabriel, Mike Johnson, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Sutherland, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Michelle Kost and Kim Manning.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### **A. SEPTEMBER AS ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH - PROCLAMATION**

Superintendent Metcalf advised this proclamation was brought forward by Harriett Dean who works with the district on student truancy. It is just another means of conveying the board's message that attendance does matter.

Mrs. Mulvenna expressed concern with language regarding children of color and asked that it be removed.

Mr. McKennon and Mrs. DuFort both expressed this resolution might be better presented in January, rather than the first month students return to school.

Consensus of the board was to bring the Proclamation back with the revision requested by Mrs. Mulvenna.

#### ACTION ITEMS

##### **A. APPROVAL OF TEACHER LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the teacher leave of absence for Sarah Crowell, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

##### **B. APPROVAL OF TEACHER HIRINGS**

**Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Teacher Hirings, as presented.**

This includes the hiring of: Lauren Read, Heidi Hahn, Michelle Kost, Ross Richard, Elizabeth Kramer and Napoleon Watts.

New hire Michelle Kost thanked the board and expressed how excited she was to be joining the Grand Ledge Public Schools team.

Mrs. DuFort asked how positions within the district were posted? Are moves within buildings posted to our staff?

Dr. Johnson noted most of our positions are posted through several different means including sending the notices out to all staff via our email system. He advised our posted positions receive a lot of interest for a great pool of candidates. At this late juncture we want to ensure we have teachers in classrooms to start our schools and have taken the opportunity to pull from the pool of candidates who have already interviewed.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$13,993.85, as presented.**

President Shiflett advised this total is the result of three invoices covering concrete work at Sawdon, Hayes, Wacousta and the Community Stadium along with one invoice for the initial construction design of the M-43 access road. All invoices were reviewed by the Board Bond Advisory Committee prior to being brought to the full board.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. REVISED SCHOOL CODE SECTION 380.1250**

**Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve and authorize the Superintendent to determine and administer performance compensation, of not more than 2.5% of annual salary, for all district employees in accordance with Section 380.1250 of the Revised School Code.  
The motion carried unanimously.**

**E. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO CALL NOVEMBER 6, 2018 ELECTION**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution Calling a November 6, 2018 Election.**

A detailed discussion among the members noted a bond has not been passed in this district since 2007, the aging infrastructure of the buildings and noting the two, stand-alone bond proposals were developed from input received through focus groups comprised of parents, students and staff and followed up by a district-wide community survey.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>
President Shiflett	<u>YES</u>		

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment.

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD**

Mrs. Mulvenna welcomed all the new employees.

Mrs. DuFort noted she is excited about the bond proposals. She stressed the importance of strong communications to alleviate anyone from saying they don't understand or didn't know about it.

Mr. Cwayna agreed with Mrs. DuFort on the need for strong communication but noted it can't fall solely on the shoulders of new Communications Director, John Ellsworth and the board must do their part to help get the word out.

Mrs. Mulvenna expressed she thinks it is a good idea to get the members talking points to ensure everyone is speaking in the same voice

Superintendent Metcalf advised Mr. Ellsworth has been hard at work since July and that he (Dr. Metcalf) has published a couple of articles in the Grand Ledge Independent that have laid the ground work and provided the community with information from the survey. He also noted that last Tuesday about 94% of the Sinking Fund and Bond Proposals that were on the August primary ballot passed.

Further discussion among the members included using social media to get the message and information out about the two, stand-alone bond proposals, but noting that social media cannot be the only means for communicating information.

Mr. Deschaine noted the secretarial professional development was very positive.

Dr. Gabriel noted the new teacher orientation was a great opportunity to work with and get to know all of our new teachers.

Mrs. DuFort remarked she is excited to see where all of the new employees are coming from and loves the diversity we are seeing.

Dr. Metcalf advised our student enrollment numbers are solid noting predictions were we would be down in student count. He noted we have about 260 kindergarten students with in nine sections making our class sizes about 29 students per section. He advised the district has opted to add a Begindergarten class at Wacousta thereby allowing another section opening for Kindergarten at Neff and bringing our class size down. There is still room for one more section of Kindergarten at Neff, if need be. In addition, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade section was added at Willow Ridge. In closing he reminded everyone while our numbers are solid, we may still have students who have moved out of the district and we just have not received their records request yet.

Further discussion among the members noted a desire to eliminate participating in Schools of Choice if the district's enrollment leveled out and keeping class sizes, especially at the lower K-2 grade levels.

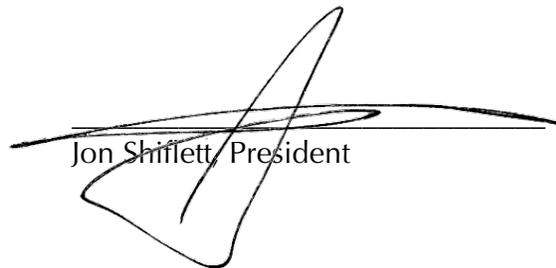
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

  
Patrick McKennon, Secretary

  
Jon Shiflett, President