
GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – August 24, 2015

MINUTES

President Winstanley 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 Brian Metcalf indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Beverly Winstanley, Kim Mulvenna, Sara Clark Pierson, Brody Boucher, Jay Bennett and Jon Shiflett
Central Office Administrators: Brian Metcalf, Andy George, Norma Schutzki, Mark Deschaine and Nancy Rasinske
Others in Attendance: Greg Almy, Joni Henretty, Nancy Nowak, Shelby Logel, Candace Karrer, Stacey Dohm, Susan Sowle, Jennifer Bouck, Mike Lane, Jenny Kish, Francie Skarritt, Lisa Klingbiel, Steve Sharland, Carly Sharland, MaryAnn Schmedlen, Jeanine Cull, Denise Green, Mary Carlson, Dana Schueller, Beth Johnston, Lisa Scholten, Kevin Skarritt, Denise DuFort, Jenn Pippen, Gail Schafer, Kelly Smith, Meghan Joseph, Julie Alexander, Erin Marsh, Kellee Auge, John Ellsworth, Courtney Smith, Tony Heriford, Amy Heriford, Kelly Rodriguez, Tonya Rice, Jamie McKennon, MaryJo Barrons, Annette Kelly, Rachel Parish, Marcee Laudick, and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 24, 2015 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 24, 2015 Consent Agenda Item, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the meeting minutes of the July 13, 2015 Regular Meeting, the July 13, 2015 Closed Session, the August 10, 2015 Work Session and the August 10, 2015 Closed. Also included was the hiring teachers Ashley Howe (Spanish, GLHS) and Mike Snyder (2nd Grade, Beagle).

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

- A. Capitol Connections Report** - Mr. Bennett reported on legislation impacting 3rd grade reading, noting the Governor has expressed his support. He advised no agreement has been reached regarding road funding and that the Speaker of the House has appointed a special committee to investigate the allegation that two members of the House of Representatives misappropriated funds to cover up their misconduct. Both members have refused to resign.
- B. Eaton RESA Report** – Ms. Clark Pierson provided a detailed update regarding the Eaton RESA noting they continue to work on several issues, mostly dealing with accounting issues. She advised the RESA has contracted with MASB to conduct the search for the next Superintendent of the RESA advising that only two organizations submitted proposals to conduct the search and Michigan Leadership Institute backed out at the last minute, leaving only MASB. It is hoped to have a new Superintendent named before November.
- C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report** – There was no report.
- D. Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation** – Mrs. Mulvena advised that the City of Grand Ledge and the school have reached a tentative agreement that will have the district administering the parks and recreation program for the city beginning January 1, 2016. She expressed her belief that this is a great partnership and that the district can build a vastly improved program from what it has been.
- E. Superintendent’s Report** – Superintendent Metcalf reported the Dream Depot play structure at Wacousta is down. The district had postponed the removal of the structure after being approached by parents requesting time for the company who built the structure to provide an estimated cost to bring the structure up to code. Leathers (the company), has been out and has advised that it would cost upwards of \$150,000 to renovate the structure. And that is if we have community members do the work. The \$150,000 is just an estimate for materials and design. After meeting with the parent group, there was 100% consensus to not invest that money into a 25-year old structure. He advised the district will continue to keep this parent group involved as the district works to develop a structure to replace the Dream Depot. He noted he continues to watch enrollment numbers noting enrollment is strong. He noted staff will return on September 1 and students will return on September 8. He commended the custodial maintenance employees for the work they did over the summer to prepare our facilities for the start of the school year. He also remarked that it is important to remember that our custodial staff went to a four day work week over the summer, which saved the district about \$40,000. This represents about a 20% reduction in each custodial employee’s paycheck, weekly.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Former employee Jessica Fuentes read a prepared statement expressing her concerns regarding the requirement for teachers to teach on their planning time.

District employee Greg Almy thanked the board for their time and service and provided each members with a letter asking that they consider the content.

President Winstanley thanked everyone for attending and sharing their feedback with the board.

OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF FINAL 2015-2016 STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2015-2016 Student Handbooks, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF ECFY CONTRACT RENEWAL

Motion by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Bennett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the renewal of the Agreement between Grand Ledge Public Schools, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and the Eaton County 56th Circuit Court for the district to provide educational services to the students who are placed in the Eaton County Youth Facility, as presented.

Superintendent Metcalf reported this relationship began last year and is going well. The employee turn over does create some work for our Human Resources Department as we provide all the staff for the facility. These are difficult positions but the contract provides the district with 25 additional student FTE's which in turn adds to our General Fund. He also notes that we work with several of the parochial schools in the area to provide "shared partnership" staff, which also brings revenue to the district.

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF

Mr. George advised that a teacher teaching on their planning period has been in the contract for 20 years, but at a rate of 17% of their salary. Last year, the assignment and rate of pay changed. We asked for volunteers and if we didn't get the volunteers we needed, we assigned teachers. He noted our teachers do an amazing job, noting many of them have taught his children. We have to continue to work through the collective bargaining agreement but the position the state has put us in with regard to funding makes things difficult. But we will continue to work to hire great, quality teachers; just like the ones we currently have on staff.

Vice President Mulvenna expressed the board wishes there was a way to give a raise to every one every year. The unfortunate truth is this district is operating on \$4M less than it was when she first started on the board and the retirement rate paid to the state has increased exponentially. We have closed buildings, redistricted and eliminated our Sawdon High School program to save costs. Now the early warning legislation comes into play from the legislature that requires any public school district in the State of Michigan with a fund balance of 5% or less to submit a financial plan. They will scrutinize us further. Grand Ledge Public Schools used to have an 8% fund balance, which is what the board required. But we haven't been there for a while and this past year we ended just above 5%. There are a lot of challenges. She expressed her understanding of the teachers' position, commenting she know they work hard and she sees what they produce, but if you want to see a change, the past to march is the Capitol. She closed remarking she wished there was something the board could do, but the Capitol is who can make the change.

Superintendent Metcalf noted the district is always looking for ways we can improve student achievement and he is hopeful that students make progress every year. This is something the district has focused on for quite a while and he doesn't believe that goal will be abandoned.

CLOSED SESSION - Negotiations

Motion by Shiflett, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson 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(c) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

A ROLL CALL VOTE:

President Winstanley	<u>Yes</u>	Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<u>Yes</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Bennett	<u>Yes</u>	Mr. Boucher	<u>Yes</u>

The motion carried unanimously at 6:40 pm.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in open session at 6:53 pm.

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE CONTRACT

Motion by Ms. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mr. Boucher for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the contract with the Grand Ledge Administrators' Educational Association, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Linda Wacyk, Secretary

Beverly Winstanley, President