

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – August 25, 2025
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 Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of ***Board Members:*** Coban Holmes, Matt Oppenheim, Kali Stevens, Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon, Ashley Kuykendoll and Denise DuFort. ***Board Members Absent:*** None. ***Central Office Administrators:*** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. ***Others in Attendance:*** Tim Totten, Dave Logel, John Piper and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 25, 2025 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 25, 2025 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the August 11, 2025 Work Session and Closed Session Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

Dr. Glasscoe shared word on the street is we may have a budget by Labor Day. She further noted there has been conversation surrounding if legislators who do not pass timely budgets should have their pay withheld for not complying with the Constitution. She expressed her deep concern that categoricals may be taken out of the budget and the Board should be prepared to review another district budget when the state budget is released.

Mr. Holmes noted his concern for the possibility of the elimination of free lunches and encouraged the district to continue open communication with families regarding the state budget.

President DuFort encouraged everyone to reach out to their legislators and state leadership.

B. EATON RESA

President DuFort noted there have been two meetings of the Eaton RESA Board since she last reported. At their meetings, the Board held its election of board officers, approved their meeting schedule and received a Strategic Plan progress update. Additionally, they approved piloting two school social worker specialist positions. They approved a contract with Positive Behavior Corporation noting this contract provides up to 20 hours of service per week to local districts to assist IEP teams. Signed CTE Program Agreements and approved their handbooks and approved revisions to the administrative salary schedules. She provided information on CRTEC and CTE credits received by Grand Ledge students saving Eaton County families \$1.2M noting there were 186 students enrolled. She noted in the Strategic Plan Update the RESA is on track to meet all of the goals established with the exception of one. In August they received a CRTEC presentation, noting there are 15 CRTEC programs, blending of career and technical education and early college, multiple pathways where students can receive up to 60 college credits, a certified or an Associate's Degree. Additionally, they committed to the Crosswinds Aviation Program, Davenport University, Olivet College, and Farm Bureau were all approved at the last meeting along with approving the Great Start Readiness Program and Meadowview Student Handbooks. She encouraged parents to visit the Eaton RESA website at www.eatonresa.org to see what opportunities are offered for students.

C. GRAND LEDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Ms. Shannon noted the Foundation board just met and is preparing to send out the teacher grant applications in the near future.

D. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Ms. Kuykendoll shared at their last meeting they took an opportunity to discussed the alignment of the committee to ensure continued support of the work of the district. She reminded everyone that all of the board subcommittees are idea makers but any action is required by the full board.

E. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Holmes noted the committee did not meet in August, but will be meeting in September.

F. BOND UPDATE

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided updates on construction work at the high school, Willow Ridge, Hayes, Neff, and sharing Wacousta classroom construction will begin this fall. In closing he noted design for the Morris property is still ongoing.

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Barnes shared the district is wrapping up the 3rd day with staff back in the building starting with new teacher orientation last week, our opening day with staff

last Wednesday and outstanding staff professional development. He noted President DuFort did a great job representing the board at opening day. He remarked it has been a very positive start to the year with great feedback from open houses, orientations and schedule pick-ups last week. He recognized the custodial staff for their flexibility in working around construction and noting our buildings are ready to go and we are ready for students tomorrow.

a. Assessing GLPS Facilities

Dr. Barnes explained as the district winds down the 2018 bond projects, it is important to understand the current state of district facilities. He commented many needs were met under the current bond and we continue to meet facility needs with our sinking fund but we need to continue to assess the state of our buildings while understanding funding streams, costs and priorities. He reviewed the current GLPS Facilities Management Plan shared information on the 2018 bond proposal and presentations. He reviewed the list of priorities and budget impact overview from November 14, 2022 along with the facilities upgrade priority update from December 9, 2024. He went on to share the status of the facility upgrade priority update as of today. He shared the highlights of the 2018 bond and future district needs along with funding considerations.

A detailed discussion among the members confirmed talks continue on the sale of the old Wacousta building to Watertown Township, where space can be allocated at Hayes to meet the needs of our student population, the planning for the Morris property, and how the decision-making process is handled through the Facilities Management Plan, the budget question process and using the Strategic Plan to drive all decisions. Further discussion emphasized that continued transparency in these decisions is pivotal for the continued support of the community noting it is important to understand that we have beautiful facilities and our community has been very supportive, but we are not done. In closing the discussion, Dr. Barnes shared we have thousands of people walking through our facilities every day and deferring maintenance needs does not make the issue go away, it just compounds it. We have to remember that while yes our facilities are beautiful, there are still pipes behind the walls, electrical, and things you can't see that have to be maintained and we have to be okay with spending money to keep our facilities in good standing for our students and community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

A. REVISED BOARD POLICIES

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve revised Board Policies 2340 and 8510, as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. CENTRAL OFFICE SALARY SCHEDULE

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Central Office Salary Schedule, as presented.

Dr. Barnes explained over the summer ORS issued a ruling that any employee who does not work under a collective bargaining agreement should have a board approved salary schedule. He noted the Central Office Salary schedule has been neglected over the last couple of years and over the summer he, along with Deputy Superintendent Steve Gabriel, CFO Adrienne Barna and HR Executive Director Kelly Jones put a lot of time into reworking the salary schedule for staff who do not fall under a collective bargaining agreement. He remarked this schedule brings real organization to the central office team ensuring job titles that match what people are doing and categories of positions that do like work. He ensured no one took a pay cut and this proposed schedule is budget neutral but better aligns to the way we do business and that the salary schedules now make sense.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. CENTRAL OFFICE HANDBOOKS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Central Office Handbooks, as presented.

Dr. Barnes explained the salary schedules just approved are aligned with the Central Office Handbooks that define the expectations of each position. Everyone in central office is operating under one of these handbooks.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. 2025-2026 Curriculum Guides & Essential Learnings

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2025-2026 Curriculum Guides and Essential Learnings, as presented.

Dr. Barnes noted he discovered an oversight in the High School Curriculum Guide and he will address this with Dr. Wright and will bring back a revision to the September 11th meeting along with the Essential Learnings. He noted there are no changes to the Essential Learning which are posted on the website.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. 2025-2026 Student Handbooks

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2025-2026 Student Handbooks, as presented.

Dr. Barnes noted the revisions to the student handbooks this year are minimal as the district prepares to take a deep dive into revising the handbooks for next year. He noted this will be a year-long process with feedback being sought from many stakeholders including parents, students and staff.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Director of Communications John Ellsworth shared the district received another award from the Lansing State Journal with the Community Stadium being voted the best football stadium. However, he noted the Community Stadium is not just for football and if you drive by on the weekend you will see kids of all ages on the field. He commended the district for maintaining community focus and community stewardship.

Executive Director of Student Services Wendy Seida shared the district will host the Area 8 Special Olympics fundraiser this Sunday at 10:30 a.m.; a bus pull. She noted she will share a flyer with the board further explaining that teams of 10 sign up to pull a Dean Transportation bus 15 feet. She noted all proceeds raised from this event stay right here in Area 8 Special Olympics. The funds are used to support our athletes to attend local and state Special Olympic events.

Deputy Superintendent Steve Gabriel complimented Mr. Piper and the Clark Construction crew noting there was a lot of work across the district this summer that needed to take place in a very short time. He commented some local districts were not able to get the work done, but we were. He noted Mr. Piper, Clark Construction and all of our contractors did an outstanding job ensuring our schools were ready for students. He took a moment to remind everyone that last year, we were unable to have high school students attend the first day of school due to the temperature of the building remarking this is what can happen when we don't maintain our facilities; we can't do the work we are here to do. He encouraged everyone to keep this in mind when we are having conversations moving forward.

Superintendent Barnes reminded everyone students will be in building tomorrow. This is why we do what we do, it's why we are all here and we're very excited to have students back.

Mr. Holmes expressed his appreciation to everyone who has put in the work to ensure the buildings are ready. He commended the schedule pick-ups, open houses and orientations remarking it was wonderful to see everyone there, everyone helping noting they were great events and it is exciting to see our schools come back to life.

Mr. Oppenheim noted he has colleagues, well former colleagues, who are now a part of the GLPS team. He remarked he believes all districts have issues/problems; some more, some less. But what he has heard is "Grand Ledge does things differently." He remarked it is great to see the district continue to push forward, commenting it is very rewarding to know that teachers

he values and the teachers he is getting to know here, are the teachers that his kids get to be a part of their classroom.

Ms. Stevens reiterated that Grand Ledge does things differently and commended the district for having cheerleaders and pom greeting the staff on opening day at the high school. She remarked it was a nice added touch for the excitement and morale.

Dr. Glasscoe commended Dr. Barnes on throwing out the first pitch at the Lugnuts Game during Grand Ledge Day remarking she “was so proud”. She reminded everyone that on October 23rd, LCC will be hosting their C3R Summit focusing on neurodiversity. In closing she remarked she feels it is really helpful to have parents of students who attend GLPS, or spouses of GLPS staff on this board commented what they bring to the table, things she wouldn’t know about, is great information for the board to use.

Ms. Shannon noted she has a fifth grader who keeps asking why school has to start so early and while she understands the explanation of the bus system, she still doesn’t like the answer.

Ms. Kuykendoll wished a happy first day to all our families.

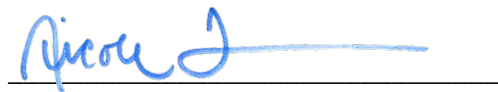
President DuFort noted it was a very positive experience for her to be able to be at Opening Day with staff remarking it was wonderful. She noted while some things seem minor – having the cheerleaders and pom teams there – it has a big impact. In closing she noted the date is set for the board retreat and she and Dr. Barnes are having conversations about what that day is going to look like noting more information will be forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Denise DuFort, President