

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Regular Meeting – August 28, 2023

MINUTES

President Smith 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 Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Jarrod Smith, Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon and Ashley Kuykendoll. **Board Members Absent**: Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort and Ben Cwayna. **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine, Martez Warren and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance**: John Piper, Ashleigh Lore, Samuel DiMagio, Kim Laforet, Tim Totten, Melissa Mazzola, John Hubbard, Sally Jo Nelton and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 28, 2023 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 28, 2023 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the August 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes and the Teacher Hirings of Jade Bowhall, Kevin Ely, Gillian Kindl, Sarah Korff, Connie Larson, Tessa Marlatt, Brian Mishler, Katie Sanchez and Samantha Wolder-Dilno.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Dr. Glasscoe noted both the House of Representatives and the Senate are currently in recess. She shared that MASB has shared a list of their legislative priorities and she would like her fellow board members and Dr. Barnes provide her with feedback before the end of September regarding which of those bills she should focus her attention on.

B. Eaton RESA Report

No report is Mrs. DuFort absence.

C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report

Ms. Shannon shared GLEF continues to meet regularly working on administrative housekeeping as well as preparing for the 2023-2024 Teacher Grant process.

D. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Report

Ms. Kuykendoll advised there is no report but meetings have been scheduled for the school year.

E. Governance Committee Report

Ms. Shannon advised the committee has not met since the last board meeting but they continue to meet to work through the Neola Policies and a meeting schedule has been established.

F. Bond Update

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided an update with regard to bond projects throughout the district.

G. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Barnes sharing information regarding the recent storms and the impact they had on our staff opening day but noting the district is planning to move forward with bringing students in on Wednesday noting we can safely get kids to school and operate our building, we have network services and we can feed kids.

H. Ongoing Discussions

Superintendent Barnes reviewed the ongoing discussion items with Ms. Kuykendoll noting she does not believe a monthly update is necessary unless something has changed. President Smith and the other members agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

Samuel DiMaggio addressed the board regarding the top 30 High School, three minutes for public comment, not getting an email after his last public comment, and changing language in his substitute teaching file.

Kim Laforet addressed the board regarding Neola Policy 5310 and the student handbooks.

Tim Totten addressed the board regarding expressing his disapproval for all the "rainbow flags, gay, LGBTQ pins" in the high school counseling office.

John Hubbard addressed the board regarding a Title IX violation that Human Resources Director Kelly Jones is looking into.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF STAFF HANDBOOKS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe, for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Staff Handbooks, as presented.

A detailed discussion noted this is to outline conditions of employment, being good employers, adding the dates to the list of holidays, the probationary period, paid time off, sick time, carry over, ADA and FMLA, and the difference between at-will employees, supervisors and cabinet members from those under a collective bargaining agreement.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF 2023-2024 CURRICULUM / COURSE GUIDES AND ESSENTIAL LEARNINGS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2023-2024 Curriculum / Course Guides and Essential Learnings, as presented.

A detailed discussion noted any new curriculum must be board approved, this is information regarding electives offered and the essential learnings provide information on what we expect students to learn to be proficient, alignment with standardized testing timelines, and the implementation process for a new elective course.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF 2023-2024 STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2023-2024 Student Handbooks, as presented.

A detailed discussion noted the process used to bring these handbooks forward, noting the district will continue to work to ensure all student and staff handbooks will align with the Neola policies once the board implements, clarification for cell phones, adding information to expand on non-discrimination and harassment, training staff receive investigating incidents, expanding information on PDA and taking devices out of country.

The motion carried unanimously as amended.

D. APPROVAL OF COMET ACADEMY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Comet Academy Cooperative Agreement, as presented, pending any further negotiations with Relevant Academy.

A detailed discussion noted this is a great resource for students not on target to graduate, allows students to remain Grand Ledge Public Schools students, is a partnership with Relevant Academy, guidance was provided by district legal counsel, Relevant Academy is still reviewing, any language changes would be brought back, expansion of non-discrimination, this is a cost saving for the district and noting this is better for students.

President Smith offered a friendly amendment to allow the Superintendent to finalize the Agreement following Relevant Academy's review.

Ms. Shannon accepted the friendly amendment. Dr. Glasscoe withdrew her support of the motion with the friendly amendment.

Ms. Kuykendoll seconded Ms. Shannon's motion with President Smith's friendly amendment.

The motion failed 3-1.

Ms. Shannon moved her original motion, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. HEALTH CARE CENTER LOCATION AT GRAND LEDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education designate Room 118 for the Health Care Center at Grand ledge High School, as presented.

A detailed discussion noted there are many provisions of the health care grant, the district is engaged with our architects to upgrade the space, there is no class currently being held in this space, it is a big space that has sinks and outlets but would require designing a restroom in

the space, it is the old Home Economics room that is near the cafeteria and has an outside entrance and provides a level of privacy as it is situated in an alcove.

The motion carried unanimously as amended.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Mr. Ellsworth noted the first home football game is on Thursday and is our HERO night where we honor former alumni who lost their lives in service to our country.

Dr. Gabriel gave a shout out to all of our staff, our tremendous staff who are here ready to meet our kids on Wednesday.

Superintendent Barnes commented the district is staffed with outstanding people, addressed comments made during public comment reiterating there are many website that rank schools and noting our scores for the last two years are on our website in compliance with the law, he will look into concerned regarding the Neola policy, counselors and all district staff have a responsibility to serve all students and that includes LGBTQIA+ students, scheduling conflicts are always going to happen and the district does its best to accommodate whenever we can.

Ms. Kuykendoll commented her kids are looking forward to the start of school and she is looking forward to the school year.

Ms. Shannon noted this has been a hard time for our community and expressed her appreciation to all the staff coming together to make this school year start happen, remarked enrollment is high because Comets Welcome All and we make sure everyone feels welcome, and noted she is looking forward to another great school year.

Dr. Glasscoe commented on the excellent resumes of our new personnel, acknowledge the hard work of Dr. Barnes and our entire staff and noting she will be attending an assessment conference and will provide more details following the conference.

President Smith expressed his best wishes for a great school, acknowledged the efforts of everyone over the last several days to keep us on schedule, touched on our improved building and commented he does not accept that we are a struggling district and not improving every day noting we are providing students everything they need to advance. He remarked he is proud of this district and proud of we do. In closing he reiterated on the fall sports kicking off and encouraging everyone to stop out and catch a game, whether that be soccer or football.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Attest:



Jarrod Smith, President