

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Work Session – September 8, 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, Kali Stevens, Toni Glasscoe and Denise DuFort. **Board Members Absent:** Ashley Kuykendoll, Nicole Shannon and Matt Oppenheim. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Nicole Freels, Melissa Mazzola, Allyson McCaan and Kim Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. SUPERINTENDENT’S PERFORMANCE UPDATE – E. INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Superintendent Barnes presented current initiatives and evidence for each of the performance areas including Performance Evaluation System, Building Level Leadership, Staff Development, School Improvement, Curriculum, Instruction, Student Voice, Support for Students, and Professional Knowledge.

B. STATE BUDGET UPDATE

Superintendent Barnes shared information regarding the status of the State Budget noting that at present, the State legislature has not met their obligation to have a K-12 budget in place by July 1st and they are quickly approaching their next deadline of September 30th. He wants to ensure the board and community understand this could quickly become an issue as public school districts are expecting to receive their first state aid payment at the end of October. While we are in good financial standing due to our strong fiscal operational structure and have enough money set aside to pay our bills and our staff in the event we do not receive our October state aid payment, we do not have enough to sustain the district. He shared a message from all local superintendents will be going out to all of our families tomorrow explaining the state budget process and encouraging people to reach out to their local legislators urging them to get a budget in place. He further explained that it takes time to implement a budget and get payment to school districts. If we start to get into November with no payment from the State, things could get dicey. He again noted he wants to ensure people are aware that we expect a state aid payment at the end of October and if that doesn’t come, we will have to look closely on what that means and how long we can operate effectively.

ACTION ITEMS

A. AUGUST 25, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Meeting Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 2025-2026 STUDENT HANDBOOKS, UPDATED GLPS CURRICULUM GUIDE & ESSENTIAL LEARNINGS

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2025-2026 Distance Learning, Comet Academy and Athletic Student Handbooks, the Updated Grand Ledge High School Curriculum Guide and the K-12 Essential Learnings, as presented.

Dr. Barnes noted that transparency is very important to him reminding everyone the board approved several handbooks at their last meeting. However, there were a couple handbooks, the Distance Learning, Comet Academy and Athletic Student Handbooks that were missed, along with an omission in the Grand Ledge High School Curriculum Guide and the High School Essential Learnings were not on the website. Tonight's vote will bring everything in line and up-to-date. He advised that distance learning is only offered for 7th – 12th grade as it became apparent after the pandemic that elementary students did not learn well in the online environment and the numbers in those lower grade levels quickly dwindled, while 7-12 numbers went up.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. STAFF HANDBOOKS

Motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Updated 2025-2026 Support Staff Handbooks and the 2025-2026 Transportation Staff Handbook, as presented.

Again, Dr. Barnes noted that following the board's approval of the Central Office Support Staff Handbook, we found that a couple of positions were missing from the list covered in the handbook. In addition, our Transportation Department implemented a handbook for their staff as well. So we are bringing back the Support Staff Handbook and bringing forward the Transportation Staff Handbook.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve moving the Athletic Director, Bond Supervisor and Little Comets/Adventure Club Supervisor from the Supervisor Handbook to contract positions of Athletic Director, Bond, Sinking Fund and Capital Projects Director and Early Childhood and After Care Programming Director, as presented.

Dr. Barnes noted in June, the board approved the administrators' contracts. With the new structure three positions moved out of the handbook and into contract positions. It doesn't change anything other than their titles and it fits into the pay scale structure the board approved. He noted the three positions are different from supervisory positions and they need a contract. These three new contract positions will be part of the annual renewal process every June. In closing he noted that the board is responsible for identifying administrative positions and by this motion tonight, it will bring everyone into the employee structure as it is support to be. He also noted this is a budget neutral change.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$112,030.00, as presented.

President DuFort noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward to the full board for consideration. This represents work at Holbrook and Neff.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$1,240,380.26, as presented.

President DuFort noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward to the full board for consideration. These invoices represent progress billing from Clark Construction and work at Neff, Delta Center, and the high school along with district copiers.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$1,682,470.81, as presented.

President DuFort noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward to the full board for consideration. These invoices represent progress billing from Clark Construction, furniture purchases for Willow Ridge and Hayes and work at Willow Ridge and the Operations building.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Dr. Bill Albrecht shared the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Guidelines we adopted can be found at udlguidelines.cast.org. Also, there is a new [How We Teach Literacy at GLPS](#) page under the Academic Services webpage and information on this new page will start going out this Friday.

Executive Director of Student Services Wendy Seida shared information on the 1st Annual Bus Pull that took place this past Sunday, noting \$15,600 was raised for the Area 8 Special Olympics. She shared all the money raised stays here in Eaton and Ingham Counties to support our students.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Steve Gabriel recognized and expressed his appreciation for the work of Pete Bucholtz and Nicole Freels on the Transportation Staff Handbook, and Steve Baker for the work on the Athletic Student Handbook.

Superintendent Barnes expressed his appreciation to all of our staff for getting the 2025-2026 school year off and running by getting 5500 students here, learning, and being fed noting we are very fortunate to have the staff we have here.

Mr. Holmes noted the start of his school year has gone great for his students and he is excited for an early homecoming and he is looking forward to this weekend.

Ms. Stevens suggested using attendance for extra-curricular as a PBIS tool in the Athletic Student Handbook. In closing she noted the board received an invitation today to The Ev Effect Breakfast Fundraiser and she wanted to share the information. [The Ev Effect](#) is a community-based nonprofit organization that is dedicated to nurturing a culture of kindness and acceptance, and it strives to enact [Everson Guild's Guide to Being Awesome](#). The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 4th at 9:00 a.m. at The Vue Country Hall in Dimondale. Tickets are \$40 and you can [purchase them by clicking here](#).

Dr. Glasscoe expressed her appreciation for the transparency regarding the handbooks and bringing them back to the board when missed items were noticed. She expressed her appreciation for the team doing the work on the handbooks noting it makes the board members' job much easier.

President DuFort noted she is looking forward to homecoming as well and recognized Lori VanHoesen who was just selected as the Michigan Council of Teachers of English's (MCTE) Teacher of the Year. She commented she is a phenomenal educator and congratulated her.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Denise DuFort, President