

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
***Board of Education***

Work Session – September 9, 2019

MINUTES

President McKennon 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:*** Jarrod Smith, Jon Shiflett, Kim Mulvenna, Sara Clark Pierson, Ben Cwayna, Denise DuFort and Patrick McKennon. ***Central Office Administrators in Attendance:*** Brian Metcalf, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. ***Others in Attendance:*** Melissa Mazzola and Kim Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEM

**A. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1 BOND INVOICE**

**Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve payment of a Proposal 1 Bond Invoice in the amount of \$103,668, as presented.**

President McKennon advised this represents two invoices from Driesenga and Associates, Inc. in the amounts of \$7,600 and \$11,800 for Geotechnical Engineering Services at Holbrook and Beagle, respectively and an invoice from GMB Architects for professional services in the amount of \$84,268. He advised the Board Bond Advisory Committee reviewed all invoices and approved them being brought forward for full board approval.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$14,885.70, as presented.**

President McKennon advised this includes invoices from GMB Architects in the amount of \$1,072.50 for professional services for the high school parking lot, Driesenga and Associations in the amount of \$2,260 for Geotechnical Engineering Services with regard to the High School Parking Lot, Edwards Industrial Sales in the amount of \$2,798.96 for a bypass drive for the Neff Chiller and an invoice from Myers Plumbing & Heating in the

amount of \$8,754.24 for installation of a new compressor at Wacousta Elementary School noting the Board Bond Advisory Committee reviewed these invoices and approved them to be brought forward for full board approval.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. APPROVAL OF BOND DECISION MAKING PROCESS**

**Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Bond Decision Making Process, as presented.**

Mrs. Mulvena advised this was discussed at the Board Bond Advisory Committee Meeting and she expressed concerns with the amount of approval on the change orders noting this could lead to inclusion of things not included in the scope of the bond.

Superintendent Metcalf advised a change order cannot change the scope of the project or add to the scope of the project. It is simply in place to cover unforeseen circumstances. It is only to meet the scope of the project as contracted in the bid.

Further discussion noted change order is a broad term and the need to better defined this.

Final consensus of the members noted the amount of approval was fine if the clarification is made.

Superintendent Metcalf noted he will revise the process to further clarify a change order and bring it back to the board at their next meeting.

**This item was tabled to the September 23, 2019 Meeting for final approval following language changes.**

**D. BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATIONS POLICY PER908 – DISCIPLINARY POLICY PROHIBITING ABORTION REFERRALS – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

Superintendent Metcalf advised Thrun Law Firm has recommended a policy that would satisfy a state law; Section 166 of the State School Aid Act. Specifically, this policy would include disciplinary action for any district employee, board member, contracted service provider, visitor or volunteer who refers a student for an abortion, or assists a student in obtaining an abortion while on school property or acting within the scope of their respective board duties, employment, contracted services or volunteerism in accordance with the Revision School Code Section 1507. The district has until October 1, 2019 to implement the policy or is subject to a \$100,000 state aid deduction.

A detailed discussion among the members stressed this is a state law and not something the district is implementing at its own discretion. Further discussion clarified that under the realm of our sex education courses, teachers know they cannot assist or guide a student with regard to abortion. The need to ensure this policy is accurately communicated to staff, substitutes, contracted employees and substitute employees was discussed.

The need for a second reading of the policy was brought into question noting this policy is strictly to keep us in compliance with state law and to ensure the stability of our foundation allowance. Several members stressed they felt it was important to have the second reading to further assist in communicating how and why this policy is being implemented.

Board Parliamentarian Sara Clark Pierson advised a first reading is not something required for a motion to pass. She requested the initial motion be amended and the board waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the policy. A concern of not having a quorum at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting was mentioned, thus a suggestion to approve the policy was made.

**Motion by Ms. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to waive the bylaw requirement of a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Operations Policy PER908 – Disciplinary Policy Prohibiting Abortion Referral and approve the policy, as presented.**

**The motion failed 4:3.**

Board Parliamentarian Sara Clark Pierson requested a polling of the Board.

President McKennon polled the board showing Mr. Shiflett, Ms. Clark Pierson and Mr. Cwayna in support; and Mrs. DuFort, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Mulvenna and President McKennon opposed to the motion.

The policy will be brought back for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and subsequent action at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **A. MME Update**

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Bill Barnes provided the board with an overview of the district's M-STEP math and ELA data in comparison to the County and State noting the district's strong showing. He further shared PSAT and SAT scores for 2019. He reviewed the success of the district and also showed areas where the district will focus efforts through professional development, using available data to drive instruction and focusing on alignment and systems thinking throughout the district.

Superintendent Metcalf pointed out that while the data shows the district versus county versus state, it is important to note Dr. Barnes did not pull the district scoring out of the county numbers so our success drastically brought up the scores at the county level.

Dr. Barnes noted that while Grand Ledge Public Schools well out-performed our counter parts, there is still room for improvement for the district.

A detailed discussion among the board yielded that several things the district has been doing over the past several years helped with improving student scores such as the implementation of the Journeys curriculum, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade reading requirements and really beginning to use the data to drive instruction.

Dr. Barnes expressed the leadership team is very driven and he has experienced great collaborations across the district.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

District Employee and GLEA Representative Melissa Mazzola addressed the board in reference to the Operations Policy and read the specific language of 1507 noting she does not believe there needs to be a policy, but sees this more as a training issue.

Dr. Metcalf clarified this policy is a direct result of MCL 388.1766 and he has every confidence Thrun Law Firm would not tell us to implement a policy if we didn't need to. Mr. Shiflett went on to share the specifics of MCL 388.1766 with Ms. Mazzola.

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD**

President McKennon advised Dr. Barnes he has heard great things about the work he is doing and the manner in which he has joined the district.

Mrs. DuFort piggy backed on President McKennon's comments and noted she was impressed to learn through her role on the Eaton RESA Board that Dr. Barnes is the Vice President of CAPCAN (Capital Area College Access Network) and thanked him for his presentation.

Mrs. Mulvenna expressed concerns regarding the number of school districts that are not prepared if a continuation budget is implemented by the state.

Dr. Metcalf noted he believes the legislature will be successful in implementing a budget as the Governor has conceded the repair to roads will have be attacked in a different manner.

Mr. Shiflett cautioned everyone with regard to the budget noting while they are working together, things change by the minute.

In closing, Superintendent Metcalf shared the district will be hosting another Capturing Kids Hearts Training tomorrow and Wednesday noting we partnered with Potterville and DeWitt.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

  
Ben Conway, Secretary

  
Patrick McKennon, President