

## GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Committee of the Whole / Work Session – September 12, 2022

### MINUTES

President Shiflett 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 Present:** Jon Shiflett, Nicole Shannon, Jarrod Smith, Sara Clark Pierson, Denise DuFort, Ben Cwayna and Toni Glasscoe. **Board Members Absent:** None. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve, Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Ashley Kuykendoll, Cindy Zerbe, Nell Pizzo, Howard Pizzo, Melissa Mazzola, Ashley Oneil, Marlene Promer, Greg Stevens, Greg Almy, Tim Totten and Kim Manning

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Smith provided an overview for making public comment to the board.

Stacy Erwin Oakes addressed the board to clarify she is asking the board to write a letter of support for legislation to be introduced that would prohibit the collection of biometric information and expressing concerns regarding her recent Freedom of Information Requests.

Dawne Velianoff addressed the board questioning where we are with policies and expressing her concerns regarding the software system being used for history and social studies noting specific languages and terminology used.

Tim Totten addressed the board asking them to look at payment options for district events outside the Go Fan app.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### **A. Preliminary State Testing Results**

Superintendent Barnes shared There has been information this week about MSTEP scores being released, so I wanted to share ours with you. A special thanks goes to our instructional data specialist Barb Rooker for her quick turnaround to get his report to us. He noted while there is always room to grow, the reality is that GLPS is clearly one of the top school districts in mid-Michigan when it comes to student achievement. We will have some more in-depth presentations but shared a few highlights noting all cohorts made significant growth in math and ELA, with the exception of the 4th to 5th grade cohort in math. Our new instructional tool adoption of Reveal this year should help to fix that. Everyday Math, our old program, was not built to differentiate well; Reveal is much more geared toward meeting students where they are and moving them forward. With a few exceptions, most grade levels showed significant growth from last year to this year. Our average proficiency was higher than the state, ERESA, Ingham ISD, Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Holt, Lansing, and Waverly averages in all grades and all subjects. We were higher than East Lansing and DeWitt in some grades and subjects. Only Okemos in our area scored better than

us in all subjects. We have some of our grade levels/subjects back to or above pre-pandemic levels, which is outstanding. However, math seems to have taken the worst hit. Again, Reveal should address this issue. When it comes to the third-grade reading law, on average across the state, 5.8% of third graders scored below the threshold that triggers retention or an exception. At GLPS, only 2.6% scored in that range. In closing he noted there is additional work to do to drill down into our various groups of students to make sure all students are growing and achieving and that we are supporting them in doing so. We will also do some similar analysis of our SAT scores at the high school. But, given where we have been the last couple of years, this is cause for celebration.

Ms. Clark Pierson, Mrs. DuFort, Ms. Shannon and Dr. Glasscoe each expressed their appreciation for the work that has been done by all those involved, the staff, students, families and administrators, to ensure we are keeping the focus on student learning.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **A. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 22, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

President Shiflett noted that community member Kim Laforet reached out to the Superintendent's office and asked that her remarks noted in the minutes reflect that she was referencing a window in the coaches' room, not a door. This update has been made and the board will be approving the minutes with that change already being made and presented.

**Motion by Ms. Clark Pierson, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve August 22, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented.**

Ms. Clark Pierson noted while she wasn't at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, she did read the minutes and observed the pool issue about the diving boards, which was resolved, noting that Kim Laforet, a candidate running to serve on the school board, spread a rumor that the Mid Michigan Aquatics (MMA) Club pulled out completely and will not allow their swimmers here in Grand Ledge because of safety questions. She shared that she personally contacted Steve Ships who is the MMA coach and he expressed he is extremely disappointment this rumor is out and he was complete unaware of any issue with the diving board. Mr. Ships further clarified the only reason MMA is not at Grand Ledge is due to the number of kids between DeWitt and Grand Ledge did not allow them to run both programs but they are very much hoping to get back into Grand Ledge. Not asking for the minutes to be amended because that is what happened at that meeting but she wants it noted that this is a completely unfounded rumor.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **B. APPROVAL OF TEACHER LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the leave of absence for Lacy Schneider for the 2022-2023 school year, as requested. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **C. APPROVAL OF TEACHER HIRINGS**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the teacher hiring of Becky Manore, Jay Skeen, Gregory Stevens, Tori Sweet, Neha Chellury, Julie Shotwell, Sarah Young and Jennifer Pinckney, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – GLPS & EATON COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSION**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Maintenance Agreement between Grand Ledge Public Schools and the Eaton County Drain Commission, as presented, an authorize Superintendent Bill Barnes to execute the Agreement on behalf of the district.**

Mr. Smith noted this item was discussed with the Board Bond Advisory committee and reflects other agreements the district has entered into with regard to drains and retention ponds. He further shared this will provide for the Michigan Avenue connection to Delta Center.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**E. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF CAPITAL FUNDS INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Capital Funds Invoices in the amount of \$250,736.82, as presented.**

Mr. Smith noted this represents payments for the Fine Arts at the High School that are eligible to be paid through this fund thereby freeing up money under the Bond Proposals.

**The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.**

**F. APPROVE OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$17,400.00, as presented.**

Mr. Smith noted this represents invoices for general maintenance to sidewalks and heat exchanges at district facilities.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**G. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$449,575.41, as presented.**

Mr. Smith noted this represents ongoing work at Beagle and beginning work at Delta Center. He shared that the Proposal 1, Series 1 Bond has been completed.

**The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.**

**H. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 1 BOND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$186,729.18 as presented.**

Mr. Smith noted this represents work at the pools at both the High School and Beagle and other athletic improvements.

**The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.**

- I. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES**  
**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$714,484.57, as presented.**

Mr. Smith noted this represents work at the Fine Arts portion of the High School.

**The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.**

#### **COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD**

Superintendent Barns thanked families, the board, administrative team and all of our staff for a great start to the school year; a positive start to the school year. Kids seem happy and there is lots to celebrate right now. He noted as was brought up in public comment about Social Studies, he reminded everyone that along with new math curriculum that was adopted in the Spring, we adopted a new Social Studies curriculum at 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade called My World Interactive and that hosted a parent night to share this with parents or anyone who wanted to learn about it. He noted the program currently being used at the elementary level is outdated so the district is looking at doing some pilots starting in October of this same program K-4 as the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade really like the curriculum because it is interactive and really engaging.

Mrs. DuFort shared her experience at this year's open houses and noting it was exciting to be in the building and you could feel the excitement of the students and families.

Mr. Smith expressed his concerns with regard to the Go Fan app and sharing there is a \$1 service fee for each ticket bought and encouraging the district looking at other payment options for district events.

Ms. Shannon expressed her confidence the district would look into the concerns regarding the Go Fan app. She thanked everyone for a great start noting she knows we have had some challenging times but thanks to the hard work by everyone, staff, faculty and our families, there is total enthusiasm.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of receiving Confidential Attorney / Client Privilege Communication, as per Section 8(1)(e) and Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976; Estate of Malachi Williams versus Grand Ledge Public Schools, File No. 99670, Metcalf Arbitration and Devenbaugh versus Grand Ledge Public Schools, Civil Rights Case #625144, respectively.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

President Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>		

**The motion carried unanimously at 6:39 p.m.**

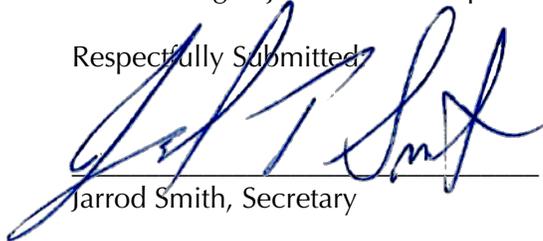
**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The board reconvened in Open Session at 7:29 p.m.

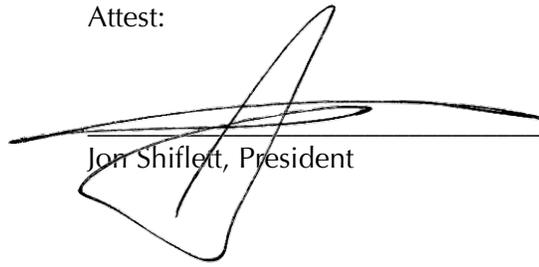
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jarrod Smith, Secretary

Attest:

  
Jon Shiflett, President