

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Work Session – September 14, 2026
MINUTES

President Kuykendoll 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***: Matt Oppenheim, Kali Stevens, Nicole Shannon, Denise DuFort, Coban Holmes, Toni Glasscoe and Ashley Kuykendoll. ***Board Members Absent***: None. ***Central Office Administrators***: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht and Mark Deschaine. ***Others in Attendance***: Becky Manore, Kevin Garthe and Kim Manning.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Garthe addressed the board regarding only having one public comment segment on the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. 2025-2026 Michigan Region VI Teacher of the Year
Grand Ledge High School Spanish teacher, Becky Manor presented highlights from her time serving as the Michigan Region VI Teacher of the Year including the selection process, responsibilities, presentations and the opportunities she was able to participate in throughout the year.
- B. Superintendent's Evaluation Update – Community Relations
Superintendent Barnes presented the board with current initiative and data information surrounding the Community Relations section of his evaluation including communication with community/parents, community-based committee involvement, community/parent input, media relations, district image and approachability.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 24, 2026 MEETING MINUTES
Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 24, 2026 Meeting and Closed Session Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. APPROVAL OF STAFF HANDBOOKS
Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2026-2027 Adventure Club and Little Comets Preschool Staff Handbooks, as presented.

A detailed discussion among the members regarding the Little Comets Preschool Staff Handbook touched on the use of certain language, inconsistency with other staff handbooks, inserting the district's non-discrimination language and ensuring accessibility by removing clip art.

Ms. Shannon offered a friendly amendment to her motion:

I move the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 Adventure club and Little Comets Preschool Staff Handbooks, with recommendations.

Mr. Oppenheim accepted the friendly amendment.

The motion carried 6-1.

C. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$66,501.20, as presented.

Ms. Stevens noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and represents the installation of the fence at Wacousta, work at Wacousta Commons and paving the district's portion of the parking lot at Boughton Field.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 4 INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$873,882.69, as presented.

Ms. Stevens noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and represents work on the Wacousta addition, work at the Morris property, and the Delta Center gym.

Ms. Shannon noted this also includes AV work for the Holbrook cafeteria and progress billing for Clark and GMB.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Bill Albrecht shared all of the district's K-8 programs will be hosting curriculum nights over the next couple of weeks. This is an opportunity for families and the community to come into our schools and see what is happening.

Executive Director of Student Services, Wendy Seida shared information on the second annual Area 8 Special Olympics Bus Pull that took place over the weekend sharing the event raised over \$20,000 for our student athletes.

Deputy Superintendent Steve Gabriel reminded everyone the Grand Ledge High School Athletic Hall of Fame will be inducting a new class during the September 25th football game.

Superintendent Barnes shared it has been a great start to the new year expressing his appreciation to our staff and leaders. He commented the district's enrollment continues to grow and we have handled that increase in enrollment well. He encouraged everyone to check out the [Bond 2026 webpage](#) to learn about the upcoming November ballot proposal noted he shared information in his most recent family message and sharing that some bond videos will be coming out in the coming weeks. He commented this is an important thing to pay attention to. He thanked Mr. Garthe for his public comment and shared the rationale on why the board went down to having only one public comment and highlighting the district publishes the board packet on Friday so people can review it and come prepared to share their views prior to the board making any decisions.

Trustee Oppenheim expressed he was very impressed and very proud to see Mrs. Manore's presentation and more so when her kids came up and gave shout outs to their teachers.

Trustee Stevens highlighted that September is Suicide Awareness month and shared information on the "It's OK to Say Suicide" resource from [The Jed Foundation](#).

Trustee Shannon commended everyone on the great start to the school year and expressed her appreciation for everyone's hard work. In closing she commented that she and Denise were on the board when the public comment portion of the agenda was changed.

Trustee DuFort thanked Dr. Albrecht for the folder of information he provided at the last meeting. She commended Mrs. Seida for the work she has done with regarding to funding for special populations expressing she saw the bus pull information on a segment of SchoolRules. She went on to share information about attending the Lansing Economic Club and see a presentation and sharing that she stopped by Hayes on her way back and was impressed with the smoothness of dismissal time as it pertains to bussing.

Secretary Holmes commented it has been an excellent start to the school and expressed his appreciation to all the staff. He also expressed his appreciation for all the work that went into creating the 2026 bond website commending the format and information included.

Vice President Dr. Glasscoe expressed her appreciation for the robust conversation during tonight's meeting noting the importance of every board member's perspective being brought to the table. In closing, she presented Dr. Barnes with his Advisory Council Member C3R Service Award on behalf of LCC.

Dr. Barnes thanked Dr. Glasscoe and expressed his appreciation for the work of C3R.

President Kuykendoll congratulated Dr. Barnes on his award and commended the start of a new school year. She reiterated her position that two or more things can be true at the same time noting she never wants to placate having hard or tough conversations. In closing she asked everyone to please be patient, please be kind and be aware sharing she almost witnessed an accident while in the pick-up line at Wacousta. She encouraged everyone to slow down and be patient.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Coban J. Holmes, Secretary

Ashley A. Kuykendoll, President

DRAFT