

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – September 23, 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, Sara Clark Pierson, Ben Cwayna, Denise DuFort and Patrick McKennon. ***Central Office Administrators***: Brian Metcalf, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth ***Others in Attendance***: Dave Logel, Sam Kuntzsch, Tyler McCready, Jill Mangrum, Amy Hirshman, Kaedyn Hirshman, Melissa Mazzola and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 23, 2019, 2018 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 23, 2019 Consent Agenda Item, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the meeting minutes of the August 26, 2019 Regular Meeting, the meeting minutes of the September 9, 2019 Work Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Audit Report - Zach Skrzyniarz from Maner, Costerisan provided the board with a detailed overview of the 2018-2019 Independent Audit his firm conducted. He noted consistent with previous years, Grand Ledge Public Schools has a clean audit.

He advised the district is paying down its debt faster than depreciating assets. He advised the district has a general fund - fund balance of \$6.7M or 12.1% which is a strong fund balance. He noted it is the opinion of the independent audit that Grand Ledge Public Schools complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirement that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ending June 30, 2019.

He reviewed the district's millage rates advising, even with the recent passage of two bond proposals, they are incredibly low. He reviewed the state continues to underfund the MiPSERS retirement system (Michigan Public School Employees Retirement Systems), which then creates an added cost to public school districts.

He provided an update with regard to the requirements of GASB84 that covers reporting of student and activity accounts, noting our Chief Financial Officer is already on top of these changes and GASB87 which turns leases into capitalized leases but does not feel this will impact school districts heavily unless we are leasing buses. However, GASB87 is still a couple years out.

Lastly, the district, based on federal expenditures, met the requirements to conduct a single audit and this year the child nutrition and Title I clusters were tested with no findings.

Mrs. Clark Pierson thanked Mr. Skrzyniarz and the Maner, Costerisan firm noting a clean audit is a big thing. It is not a random selection of accounts. They separately audit all the financial payments that come in and go out of the district. In closing she noted this is a thorough audit to ensure the fiscal integrity of the district.

- B. Capitol Connections Report** - Mr. Smith noted the House and Senate have agreed on a school aid budget, however, nothing has been approved and there is still no state-wide budget. He noted House Bill 4125 has just been introduced. This bill would restore funds earmarked in the school aid fund to its pre-2018 levels bringing back the funds that were redirected last year in order to put more revenue in the state's general fund.
- C. Eaton RESA Report** – Mrs. DuFort advised they received a presentation from Kim Bellison with Prevention Services on mental health services for our youth and sexual education and how it relates to the Eaton RESA and what it look like when it goes out to districts. She noted Relevant Academy has had their audit completed with no findings, the Automotive Program has received a donation of a 1963 Buick and the Annual Report, which will be shared with the local superintendents, was shared showing the funding provided to each district with regard to prevent services, early childhood, general education, special education and career and technical education.
- D. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report** – Mrs. DuFort noted the Foundation has decided to change the date of the Comet Chase so it will not align with Yankee Doodle Days. Next year's Comet Chase will take place on July 18, 2020. She advised GLEF is accepting applications for its annual teacher grants and there is approximately \$10,000 available to award. Information has been sent to all the teachers for those interested in applying. Grant applications will be reviewed on October.
- E. Bond Update** – Superintendent Metcalf advised the final review of the Holbrook project was conducted on September 12. Everything has been turned over to our Construction Manager to start the bid process. The final review of the Beagle project will take place on September 30 with the intent to turn this project over to the Construction Manager to start that bid process. He reminded everyone there are two upcoming Community Bond Presentations, Thursday, October 10 and Wednesday, October 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the

Administrative Conference Room. These Community Forums are to keep everyone updated on the progress of the bond proposals as we continue through the process. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Grand Ledge High School sophomore and Student Council member Kaedyn Hirshman advised homecoming week kicked off on Saturday with the FFL (Female Football League). This is a three-game tournament of flag football between all grade levels and was held at the Community Stadium. This year's winners, for the third year in a row, was the Junior class. Half the \$850 proceeds from the FFL game were donated to the Susan G. Coleman Foundation. In closing she noted homecoming activities will be taking place all week culminating with the Pep Assembly, 5:30 p.m. Homecoming Parade and 7:00 football game this Friday. The final event, the Homecoming dance will take place on Saturday.

Grand Ledge High School Junior Sam Kuntzsch and Senior Tyler McCready advised they are part of the video production class that puts on the Comet TV. They are the new collaboration between the video production and student council. They thanked teacher Tracy Clark for her incredible support and teacher David Logel who is their leadership advisor. They advised the goal of the news is to promote events and activities the students can participate in and provide key information for students, parents and staff, for instance the upcoming musical, where to buy your comet gear and as you may have seen, last Friday, we teamed up with Waverly to support suicide prevention. The students shared this class have provided them with the opportunity to hone their skills in public speaking, being in front of camera and not being nervous, learning time management and just overall growth in knowledge that will help them in their future opportunities. You can view their news report on YouTube: gl_council

OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of 2018-2019 Audit

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded Mr. Cwayna by for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2018-2019 Audit, as presented.

Ms. Clark Pierson commended the Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rasinske and the business office staff for the work they have done. Great job.

Mr. Shiflett advised not every audit looks like this. He noted this is his 7th audit as a member of this board and they have all been clean. He remarked as a board member is in nice to know the district's fiscal vitality is in good hands. He expressed his appreciation to Nancy and her staff for their hard work and diligence.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Board of Operations Policy FM414 – Bond Decision Making

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Operations Policy FM414 – Bond Decision Making, as amended.

Ms. Clark Pierson advised this is still a high number. Would like it amended to state when a change order between \$50,000-\$100,000 that the Superintendent will seek verbal approval from two of the three board members serving on the Board Bond Advisory Committee to move forward.

The motion carried unanimously as amended.

C. Approval of Board of Operations Policy PER908 – Disciplinary Policy Prohibiting Abortion Referrals

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Operations Policy PER908 – Disciplinary Policy Prohibiting Abortion Referrals, as presented.

Mrs. Clark Pierson noted this policy is required by state law.

Mr. Shiflett expressed his disdain for the manner in which the legislature is handling this situation. He noted the way this state handles budgeting for public education is to rewrite the school aid act each year. He believes whoever believes this policy is imperative needs to be a man, or woman, about it and put their name on it. The fact it is being tied to the school aid fund and penalizing us, or our employees, if we don't adopt their policy offends him. He remarked, "I'm disappointed, as a Republican and someone who is pro-life."

Mrs. Clark Pierson remarked the policy contains certain penalties for anyone who engages in the conduct, but the district is penalized \$100,000 from our state aid fund for not having a policy. So, we have to adopt what they have already adopted. It's state law and it is extremely annoying.

Mr. Smith noted we should be trusted. It is state law, but now you add penalties if we don't enact a policy. He remarked this language was slipped into an appropriations bill and he agrees with everything he is hearing noting he made this motion to stay in compliance with State Law but further noted he would support changing this policy at every meeting depending on how this shakes out in the legislature.

President McKennon summarized the members discussion noting that essentially when the board votes, they are voting to secure student funding, not adopt a policy we agree with.

Mr. Cwayna agreed the board is voting to keep money in the district as he would hate to see a nickel taken away from schools, regardless of what your politics are.

Mrs. DuFort noted she would hope we would revisit this issue if things change at the state level.

Mr. Shiflett advised we must comply with the law the way it is by the October 1 deadline.

The motion carried 5-1 with member DuFort voting against.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

GLEA member Melissa Mazzola commended the leadership students and video production class. She remarked the FFL games were awesome. She recognized the decision did not come lightly with regard to the new board policy just adopted. She noted she is appalled at this legislation that targets teachers. To punish teachers for being that “safe place” for our students. Compliance with the state is where it needs to end. She questions if the penalty is removed if the board will revoke the policy.

Mr. Cwayna advised that the potential amendment does change the penalty to the district, it in fact, increases it, but eliminates the penalty to the employee.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Ms. Clark Pierson noted the Relevant Academy Audit did concern her in that they have 20% excess revenue over expenses noting under spending is as bad as no spending and thought this should be explored a bit more.

Mrs. DuFort advised she doesn’t have the audit with her but she is happy to share it with the members for their review. She did comment the numbers have gone up.

Superintendent Metcalf thanks Mrs. Rasinske and her business office staff noting a \$60M budget, 700+ employees who need to be paid, bills, now adding the addition of the bond proposals. It is a lot. He further noted the business office had been a little short-handed for about 12-weeks but that Nancy pushed through with the staff on hand and made things work. He commended her on a job very well done.

Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rasinske noted the audit is not just her doing, noting we are a team and it takes the entire team to get to the end result.

President McKennon noted our high school students alluded to their suicide prevention segment in their report, but what they didn’t share is that our student section has themes for each of the home football games. Waverly recently suffered the loss of one of their students to suicide. So, at the last minute, our student section changed their theme to support Waverly and their message of suicide prevention awareness. While he assumes there were adults involved in making our students aware of this situation and setting the wheels in motion for the theme change, but not matter how it came about, this is what Comet Pride is.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:


Ben Cwayna, Secretary


Patrick McKennon, President