

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education

Regular Meeting – September 26, 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**: Jon Shiflett, Nicole Shannon, Jarrod Smith, Sara Clark Pierson, Denise DuFort, Ben Cwayna and Toni Toni Glasscoe. **Members Absent**: None. **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance**: John Piper, Ashley Kuykendoll, Brittney Gonzales, Tim Totten, Lana Gallagher, Jan Wise, Mary Moore, Larry Johnson, Bernie Johnson, Ashley Oneil, Tara Kopietz, Kim Laforet, Nell Pizo, Melissa Mazzola, Jason Devenbaugh, Lynn Luttrell, Robert Luttrell, D’Nita Tice, Shally Jo Nelson, Karlee Ruedisale, Elyse Fox, Martha Hoffman, Marlene Promer, Julie Tadgerson, John Hubbard, Jack Hubbard, Jim Cotton, Dr. Linda Lee Tarver, Clinton Tarver, Greg Almy, Dawne Velianoff and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 26, 2022 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 26, 2022 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda was the September 12, 2022 Work Session and Closed Session Minutes.

Ms. Clark Pierson asked to amend the September 12, 2022 minutes to reflect that she named the candidate running to serve on the Board who spread the rumor about the MMA Club, which was completely unfounded as Kim Laforet. She requested that her name, Kim Laforet, be included and not just stating a candidate running for the Board.

Ms. Shannon supported Ms. Clark Pierson’s amendment. The amendment carried 6-1.

The original motion, noting the amendment carried 6-1.

REPORTS

A. Audit Report – Steven Piesko, CPA from Maner Costerisan.

Mr. Piesko provided a detailed overview of the district’s 2021-2022 Audit noting it was a clean audit with no findings.

B. Capitol Connections Report

Dr. Glasscoe noted she is happy to see the importance the State of Michigan put on funding public education and shared that she will be participating as a member of a task force looking into alternative revenue sources for schools.

President Shiflett reminded everyone this is the time when people who want to represent you in the legislature are most accessible and encouraging community members to take the time to discuss the importance of public education and ensuring appropriate funding.

C. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort noted the Board has not met since her last report.

D. Grand Ledge Education Foundation

Ms. Shannon noted the recent fundraiser through First Place Sports netted a donation to GLEF of approximately \$1000. She shared the 2022-2023 GLEF Teacher Grant Application is open and the Board will meet on October 13th to review the applications and award this year's grants. The Foundation will hold its Night of Stars on December 1 at Beagle Middle School to celebrate this year's awardees and have them share how they are putting their funds to use. In closing she shared planning for the next Comet Chase has already begun.

E. Governance Committee

Mr. Cwayna shared the committee met two weeks ago and began the process of reviewing the new Neola Policies. He advised the board, as a whole, will review the first batch of policies later in the agenda.

F. Bond Update

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided the board with an update on the status of the current construction projects and noting the district is still in the planning phase for Wacousta.

G. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Barnes thanked the staff and administration for their continued work ensuring a great start of school. He thanked families and the community for their continued support. He provided an update on enrollment numbers noting final numbers will be available after Count Day. He reviewed current class sizes BK-6. Dr. Barnes further shared that following his latest communication to families, he is happy to note the district has received multiple applications to fill adventure club positions and new drivers are in training, but noting these programs / departments are still not fully staffed and adjustments will be made accordingly noting he understands this is not a perfect system. He shared that in terms of teaching positions, we are mostly staffed and we continue to work on getting support staff positions filled. He shared preliminary results from the MSTEP noting growth and our scoring well above the state average but noting this is where the district will start to drill down to ensure our programming is equitable and inclusive and advising more information will be shared as a regular part of the district's presentations. In closing he thanked Mrs. Waterbury and the business office team for their work to ensure our fiduciary responsibility as highlighted in the Audit Report and expressed his appreciation to Maner Costerisan for their great partnership.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Smith read the rules for addressing the board.

Kim Laforet addressed the board regarding Ms. Clark Pierson, the removal of a substitute teacher, and the Metcalf Arbitration.

Brenton Bell addressed the board on the removal of a substitute teacher.

Dr. Linda Lee Tarver addressed the board noting she is a candidate for the Michigan Department of Education Board, noting a clean audit does not mean good stewardship, commenting Detroit Public Schools used their COVID money to increase salaries which is not sustainable, commenting on MSTEP stating 92% of black children cannot do arithmetic and it's time to get back to basics.

Lynne Luttrell addressed the board on the removal of a substitute teacher.

Dawne Velianoff addressed the board on the removal of a substitute teacher, commenting it is the board's job to support the community, she still doesn't have answers to her questions, removing the Black Lives Matter flags and the Metcalf needed to go.

John Hubbard addressed the board on his tree donation, expressing appreciation to Dr. Barnes for his communication with families, questioning why people are still wearing masks and blaming the board for "putting fear of masks in kids".

Bob Luttrell addressed the board on the removal of a substitute teacher.

Stacy Erwin Oakes addressed the board regarding her FOIA request.

Mary Moore addressed the board regarding the Smith-Mund Act of 2012, a political flyer she received in the mail referring to it as propaganda and lies and noting she is sad by how different things are.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Naming New Facilities

Ms. Shannon noted that she, along with Mrs. DuFort and Dr. Glasscoe were tasked with pursuing the naming of new facilities and wanted to bring the full board up to date on the matter. A detailed discussion reviewed the reimplementation of the Grand Ledge Sports Hall of Fame which is a separate issue recognition from Naming of Facilities, the lack of a process, ensuring community input, getting names on newly constructed facilities in a timely manner, recognizing people outside of sports (arts, academics, etc.), and sharing this is still work to be done. Continued updates will be forthcoming.

NEW BUSINESS

A. ACCEPTANCE OF 2021-2022 AUDIT

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to accept the 2021-2022 Audit, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. NEOLA BOARD POLICIES: 0000 BYLAWS – 1ST READING

Motion by Ms. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to waive the 1st reading of NEOLA Policies 0000 Bylaws. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith noted the Governance Committee met and reviewed the first batch of Neola policies which are not before the full board for discussion. He noted the committee will continue to meet to work through the policies and bring each individual section back to the full board for review and consideration. After the board has made it through all of the policies, the full board will vote on implementing the new Neola Policies.

A detailed discussion among the members addressed questions, concerns, or suggestions brought forward by members. The Governance Committee will meet to ensure all matters discussed are appropriately addressed before the final approval.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Superintendent Barnes reminded everyone information on our policies and regarding FOIA are on our website. He shared questions out the district's use of ESSER funds is answered on the newly implemented FAQ on the Superintendent's Page of the website. He took a moment to remind everyone of the new Vision and Mission of the district under the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Gabriel extended condolences to the family of Mayor Thom Sowle commenting Mayor Sowle served in many rolls, noting he was previously a member of the Board of Education, spearheaded the district's energy conservation measures, served on the Grand Ledge Education Foundation Board noting he was the ultimate supporter, fan, cheerleader not just of Grand Ledge Public Schools but the entire Grand Ledge community. His passing leaves a large hole.

Mr. Smith applauded the Audit Report and commented it is absolutely a sign of wonderful stewardship and reflects the great team we have and shows how protective we have been of our fund balance and our policies. He commented when things don't always improve, one of the first things this team always says is we are going to find a way to help them improve. He noted he takes offense to someone who would show up and cast doubt in that noting everyone at this table has a vested interest in everyone here.

Ms. Shannon echoed Dr. Gabriel's comments regarding Mayor Sowle and thanking the district administration for working with the family and city to ensure a location for his Celebration of Life in the event of inclement weather. She thanked Mrs. Jones for her work with regard to Adventure Club interviews noting this is so in demand for our families.

President Shiflett expressed his condolences to Madame Sowle and her family noting the loss of Mayor Sowle is a huge loss to our community. He recognized the board doesn't often get the chance to deliberate in a policy-based format and thanked everyone for their commitment to tonight's discussion.

CLOSED SESSION – Attorney / Client Privilege

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 Privileged Communication, as per Section 8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.

Roll Call Vote:

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>	President Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried at 8:57 p.m.

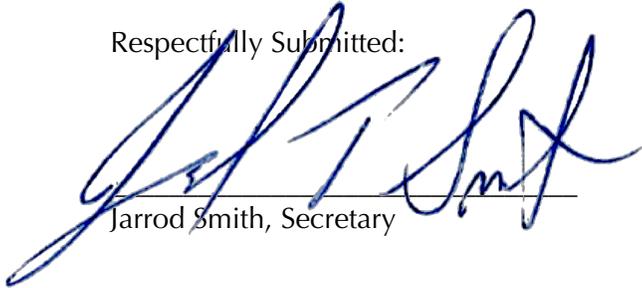
RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

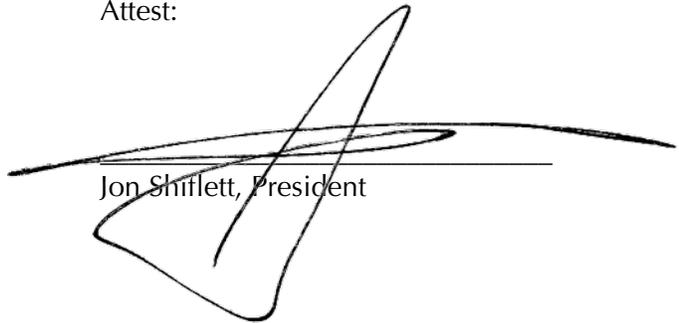
The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Jarrod Smith, Secretary

Attest:



Jon Shiflett, President