

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Virtual Meeting– September 28, 2020

MINUTES

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Interim Superintendent Dave Chapin indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Denise DuFort, Jarrod Smith, Jon Shiflett, Sara Clark Pierson, Kim Mulvenna, Patrick McKennon and Ben Cwayna. **Central Office Administrators**: Dave Chapin, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance** Adrienne Burns, Ashley Simon, Casey Brassington, Cassidy Chandler, Chelsea VanWagner, Christina Powell, Cory Petersen, Dan Cwayna, Dawne Velianoff, Denise Clarity, Mike Johnson, Eddie Bentley, Ellie Darnell, Eric Lopez, Erin Ries, Gerry Overmyer, Jace Barraclough, Jamie McKennon, Jeff Sewick, Jeremy Babcock, Jessica Cornman, Jill Fillingham, Joni Fuller, Kasey Henderson, Katie Westen, Kelly Horton, Kelly Smith, Kim Abed, Lara Hubbard, Laura Wright, Laura Mauren, LeeAnn Dayton, Lucinda Shier, Margo Susnjar, Matt Junak, Melissa Graeser, Melissa Mazzola, Nic Violante, Nicole Shannon, Pat Whiting, Rachel Vandeven, Raymone Gude, Shirley Ries, Stephanie Phillips, Tammy Musolff, Tim Marsh, Todd Marsh, Traci Gentilozzi, Tracy Clark and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 28, 2020 Agenda Items, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	President DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>
Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 28, 2020 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the Meeting Minutes of the September 14, 2020 Virtual Meeting and Closed Session.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	President DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>
Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Mr. Smith noted the budget that was passed by both houses has not been signed by the Governor as of yet noting the budget maintains the per pupil foundation allowance at the 2019-2020 level. He advised the Governor has issued executive orders with regard to wearing face coverings and reporting of cases in schools. He went on to review Senate Bill 1108 that would expand the open meetings act to allow this format of meetings (virtual) on a more permanent basis and House Bill 5482 requires the inclusion of the Suicide Prevention Hotline number on all student ID cards and lastly, Senate Bill 171, which is now Pubic Act 158 which addresses the allowance of career and technical education credit can be used in place of the foreign language requirement to graduate.

B. Eaton RESA Report

President DuFort noted the RESA held a special meeting to talk about the renewal of their Strategic Plan. She will be serving as a member on the steering committee that was established. During their regular meeting, they received their annual report and individual district analysis, which she noted has been shared with all the members of this board expressing the one-page analysis for Grand Ledge has a lot of good data specific to Grand Ledge. She noted the board approved a variety of contracts and discussed receipt of funding from the CDC to work with adolescence. In closing she advised the board, much like Grand Ledge, is addressing their Extended COVID-19 plan.

C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report

President DuFort noted Teacher Grant Applications will be going out by the end of the week. The deadline for submission is October 16th. The Board will then meet to review the applications and notify every one of their grant statuses. She noted grant winners will be recognized during their Night of Stars in November.

D. Governance Committee Report

Mr. McKennon advised as discussed at the last meeting, updates to GP 206, which will be discussed later in the agenda, is just "housekeeping" updates to ensure the policy aligns with current practice. He noted the committee has not met recently but he put himself in charge of getting a meeting scheduled with the other members so work can continue on reviewing current board policies to ensure alignment with practice and update as necessary.

E. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Ms. Clark Pierson advised the committee is currently accepting applications for the larger steering committee. The application is open through September 30th. They are hoping to have 20-25 people on the committee and when last check, there were 30 applications submitted. She encouraged people to submit an application noting it is a very simple application. The committee will meet on October 6th to review the applications. The application can be found on the district website under the Board of Education.

F. Interim-Superintendent's Report

Dr. Chapin assured the board and community the administrative team is not resting on their laurels or the critique of their work. He noted the administration wants to be accountable but wants to ensure everyone knows there is a lot going on and really understands what's going on. He shared he has commissioned an advisory group to address the 20-21 Next Steps noting this is a diverse group of people with the first meeting scheduled for Thursday. He reviewed the district's positive COVID reporting noting the district had its first in-district positive case which was reported to the health department and the school community. He advised the school nurse, Cindy Brummett is on point and will be tracking all active cases within the district. He referenced it is his understanding the Governor will sign the budget early this week but cautioned he also believes the state may be representing a picture that is more positive than what it really is. He reassured all that he and the administrative team understand this has been a very challenging time for our students, parents, staff, faculty and administrators. He is hopeful the 20-21 Next Steps advisory group will engage in this conversation and help steer a dialogue and bring about a recommendation to the board on how to move forward. However, it was made very clear to the group the final decision will be made by the board. In closing he remarked he has encountered many good people in Grand Ledge, all trying to do the right thing. He noted the administration makes no apologies for sharing the positives from this year and while they don't completely understand all the challenges, they do understand there are challenges.

G. Academic Services Update

Dr. Barnes noted we are entering our 4th week of school, and he recognized the hard work of everyone in our district to make this thing go. He further commended the efforts and support that our families and student have provided over these weeks noting it is incredible to watch our families and students dig into this and learn in a new environment. He reiterated Dr. Chapin in noting we know there are families who are struggling, still trying to manage the schedule and manage the timeframe, and we continue to work on that. He reminded parents and students to reach out to their teachers and the principals in the building when they encounter difficulties noting a lot of issues can be resolved between with the teacher and/or building administrator.

Dr. Barnes further noted an item on the agenda seeking board approval of the district's Extended COVID-19 Plan and authorizing Dr. Chapin to execute the plan on behalf of the district. This will kick start the portion of PA145 that requires monthly updates to the board on where we, or our students, are at with regard to participation and engagement rates, setting district-wide achievement goals and basically providing the board with a monthly snapshot of the districts academic standing. The plan will be shared on the district website under the Transparency Reporting page. He advised the administrative team continues to problem solve with our families and the advisory group beginning to look at what is working, what's not, and what our next steps are to move forward. He noted the district has had a lot of success, and some struggles still, but we have been fortunate in our learning has been continual in this format. In closing he noted the district is still building routines in what is still a very fluid situation.

H. Human Resources & Operations Update

Dr. Gabriel noted hiring has slowed down with regard to teaching positions, but the district still has immediate needs for paraprofessionals and custodians. He advised the board's negotiating team has been meeting with the maintenance group to finalize a contract noting this is the lone contract for this year that will be brought to the board for final approval. With regard to operations he noted his attention has been focused on the day-to-day operations of the buildings and looking forward to bringing students and staff back to in-person learning in the safest possible manner. Additionally, he noted the district has not lost sight of the fact that at the end of this year, and starting next year, we will be restructuring our district. All the work continues with regard to the bond projects and over the course of the next 6-12 months there will be a lot of irons in the first with each one having many variables to it, but noting the administrative team is on point.

I. Bond Update Report

Dr. Johnson provided the board with a detailed update and timeline on the construction work at Holbrook, Beagle. He noted the Michigan Department of Transportation approved the roundabout for M-43 believing this is the safest option for access to Saginaw Highway. He advised the construction team will meet with MDOT later this week and is planning to hold public forums on October 19 and 22. In closing he noted all projects are on schedule advising the bid awards on the tonight's agenda came in under bid.

Mrs. Mulvenna asked if there were any renderings available for the pool and Dr. Johnson noted he would forward them to the members tomorrow.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Secretary Shiflett read the rules for addressing the board.

Community member Tim Marsh expressed his concerns regarding the pool and that none of the board members have seen the plans, the proposed M-43 roundabout and how much the school district has budgeting for this, questioned where the music suite is located. He expressed concerns regarding meeting minutes stating that he cannot tell, as a taxpayer, what the board has voted to spend money on.

OLD BUSINESS

A. GOVERNANCE POLICY 206 (BOARD MEETING AGENDA) – 1ST READING

Mr. McKennon provided a detailed overview of the proposed changes noting this is strictly for housekeeping purposes as mentioned at the last meeting. It clarified the board will take Public Comment on Agenda Items first on the agenda to ensure the board has community input and/or feedback to items they will be discussing at the meeting and then moves Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items to the second opportunity to the public to address the board on items not on the agenda. The amendments further clarify the district does not maintain “tapes” any longer and board meetings are shared on district website under the Board of Education meeting schedule noting this provides much easier access to meeting recordings. He further clarified the language read at meetings by Secretary Shiflett is a synopsis of the actual policy language the governs public comment and does not represent the full text contained in the policy. In closing he noted without objection from the members, this policy update will be brought back for approval at the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of & Authorization to Execute the GLPS Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Grand Ledge Public Schools Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, as presented and authorize Interim Superintendent Dr. David Chapin to execute the Plan on behalf of the district.

Mr. McKennon noting this is a plan that every school district has to put in place, is a continuation of the process started in August and it is not extending virtual learning, expressing it is everyone desire to get kids back in school.

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Dr. Bill Barnes agreed with Mr. McKennon noting everything in this plan has come before the board previously, except for the goals. He noted state organizations have done a great job in guiding district’s through this process. This is simply clarifying the reporting to the board that is necessary and required under Public Act 145 with data driven goals. He clarified the district will continue to use NWEA as one of the reporting assessments, but there is additional data that will be reported on as well. He also noted the Read by Grade 3 law is still effect.

Roll Call Vote

Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>
Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
President DuFort	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Proposal 1 Bid Awards – Music Suite Addition

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Proposal 1 Music Suite Addition Bond Project Bid Awards to Proline Concrete in the amount of \$45,000 and \$59,424 for Concrete Foundations and Concrete Floors respectively, to Delta Steel in the amount of \$75,000 for Structural Steel, to Mall City Mechanical in the amount of \$40,000 and \$300,000 for Plumbing and Heating & Cooling, respectively, and to Town and Country Group in the amount of \$127,200 for Electrical with a construction contingency of \$45,264 and general conditions of \$12,932 for a total bid award of \$704,820, as presented.

Clarification was provided noting the Music Suite is at Beagle.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
President DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>		

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

Mrs. Mulvenna noted this project came in under budget.

Mr. McKennon noted the board was aware of this project months ago so this is not something new to the members.

C. Approval of Proposal 2 Bid Awards - Pool

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Proposal 2 Pool Bond Project Bid Awards to Proline Concrete in the amount of \$549,278 and \$244,166 for Concrete Foundations & Concrete Flatwork, respectively, to Delta Steel in the amount of \$952,700 for Structural Steel, to Barruzini Construction, LLC in the amount of \$3,078, 284 for the Swimming Pool, to Mall City Mechanical in the amount of \$660,000 and \$1,242,000 for Plumbing and Heating & Cooling, respectively and to Town and Country Group in the amount of \$769,150 for Electrical with a construction contingency of \$524,690 and general conditions of \$149,911 for a total bid award of \$8,170,179, as presented.

Clarification was provided this is for the competition pool at Beagle.

Discussion among the members noted support to Mr. Marsh’s concerns and encouraged going forward information be included in member packets and then posting on the district website to ensure transparency with the community that support the bond proposals. Further discussion among the members noted the members had seen initial renderings but the price tag was too high and was sent back for redesign.

Dr. Chapin noted the members concerns and moving forward will provide further detailed information for the members and then the community at large.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
President DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>ABSTAIN</u>		

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON - AGENDA ITEMS

Community member and parent Shirley Reis expressed the positive experience her Wacousta student has had with online learning and commended the staff of Wacousta. On the other hand, she expressed concern with the online learning experience for her sophomore noting he is struggling mightily, having to navigate between teachers and platforms. She referenced while some teachers are “knocking it out of the park”, others are just adding “0”. She asked for patience and grace to be extended to the students as parents and students are extending to the district.

Community Member and parent Dawne Velianoff thanked President DuFort and Trustee Clark Pierson for their responsiveness over the last few months. She thanked Dr. Chapin for taking time to meet with her in person, advising masks were worn and social distances was adhered to. She noted she shares some of the concerns with the previous speaker, but won’t rehash them. Her concerns tonight are with regard to support services, social work and counseling. She questioned what the district is doing with regard to the opioid epidemic, mental health and plans for that. What has the district put in place?

Community member and parent Todd Marsh expressed his appreciation to the district and teachers noting her understands it has been a challenge and not the same experience for everyone. He noted he is proud of his four kids for being able to step up and make it happen. He also expressed his appreciation for his wife, who is a teacher in the district. He went on to express his concern with the board approving millions of dollars in contracts without seeing the final plans referencing the current high school pool and not being able to host large meets. He noted he has reached out to Mr. Baker, but hasn’t heard back from him in over a week. He noted the district has community members who are experts, noting he has been around

swimming for 34 years having been a swimmer and serving as a swim coach. He encouraged the board to share information to make sure the money is well spent.

Community Member Tim Marsh expressed his appreciation for the efforts from all the staff to make the virtual learning happen. He believes the consistency Grand Ledge has been able to offer its students has been of value to all the students, especially with not having to stop and restart. He thanked the board members for the efforts they put forth over the course of the summer and fall and the hearing last week noting he knows none of the members ran for office expecting that. He asked the board, over the course of the next 8.5 years of the bond, they work diligently to create an atmosphere of transparency so the community knows how the \$168M is going to be spent.

Community Member LeAnn Dayton thanked everyone for reaching out to her today noting she has three grandchildren in three different grades and she is trying to navigate their learning to assist them. She is having difficulty but will continue plugging away at it. She expressed wishful thinking hoping the kids go back to in school learning and asked if the buildings will be ready. In closing she asked if a stop light, instead of a roundabout was considered for M-43?

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Dr. Chapin advised he has taken notes from the comments and will add the pertinent information to follow and keep prominent. He advised Ms. Dayton he is confident the building will be ready and we want our building to be ready. With regard to a stop light at the M-43 intersection, the district does not have input and the directive is coming directly from the Michigan Department of Transportation. , taken notes tonight all that have spoken, really a good format in GL. White board a series of comments after Aug 3 board meeting, themes from public comment, we kept those prominent. He assure the Marshes their input was heard and received as were the concerns of Ms. Reis.

Dr. Gabriel reiterated the roundabout was not the district's choice but MDOT believes it is the safest alternative. In addressing the concerns with regard to the pool he noted Athletic Director Steve Baker has worked with the swim coaches and believes that one, or both, Tim and Todd were involved in the initial design and their input has been included. He will ask Mr. Baker to reach out. He supported the comments with regard to transparency and noted we need to do better.

Mrs. Mulvenna acknowledge all the hard work by not only the teachers but district administrators. She advised we continue to try to improve, but we are always concerned about the student(s) struggling. She encouraged parents who have a student who is struggling to reach out to their teacher, their building principal and then Dr. Barnes, in that order. By and large our teachers want to do the best job possible and sometimes working with the teacher or building administrator directly can remedy the problem.

Ms. Clark Pierson encouraged the district to strive for transparency in particular due to the size of the bond. She noted this is a long project and she want to ensure the community the district is being good financial stewards. She noted the roundabout has been discussed for 15-20 years

and is a culmination of many years of conversations with MDOT. We thought a stop light, but MDOT said no.

Mr. McKennon noted the board has received emails and had conversations wherein people are expressing their frustration with online learning. He understands there are concerns and the district is trying hard to address all the concerns. He understands people want to know the plans on returning to school, and the district is getting this rolling. He reminded everyone that no one has been through anything like this. Additionally, in dealing with everything over the last couple of months he believes the district is trying to be transparent, but this is just not the best-case scenario right now. But, we will continue to get better. He reassured the community the goal is to return to face-to-face learning, when we can, when it is safe.

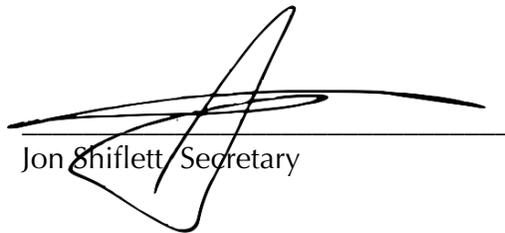
President DuFort supported all the comments of the other member and noted we will continue to do our best and continual improvement is evident. She noted it is the board's goal to be the best we can be and the board will continue to work with our community and expressed appreciation for everyone's input.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Jon Shiflett, Secretary



Denise DuFort, President