

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – September 28, 2026
MINUTES

President Kuykendoll called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, Bill Albrecht, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones and Mark Deschaine. ***Others in Attendance***: Jan M. Seeger, Melissa Mazzola, Jon Ringlein, John Piper and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 28, 2026 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 28, 2026 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the August 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes and the teacher hiring of Lacy Jewell, Taryn McCarthy and Karen Marshall.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. 2025-2026 AUDIT

Jon Ringlein, Senior Manager from Maner Costerisan presented the 2025-2026 Audit findings with an unmodified opinion, noting no material weaknesses and no significant deficiencies in internal controls, that the district was in compliance for major programs with no findings related to federal awards, no identified issues in the governance letter or the management letter.

Mr. Ringlein answered questions from the board.

The board reminded everyone they do not rubber stamp the audit as the board finance committee meets to review the audit in depth prior to it being brought forward to the full board. The board also pointed out that the initial budget every year is a guess until

we get the final budget from the State of Michigan which is usually after the July 1 requirement for schools to have an approved budget.

B. CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

Mr. Holmes noted there is legislation that references the size of a flag if it is displayed in a classroom, but remarking this still needs to go through the Senate so nothing to concern ourselves with at this time. He also shared that he has a registration link for the MASB legislative priority setting meeting that is scheduled for Thursday if any of his colleagues would like to participate.

C. EATON RESA

There was no report.

D. GRAND LEDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Ms. Shannon shared information regarding the Foundation's grant application for this year is open and explaining a new "Impact Grant" this year that is a larger grant for a project that will have broader impact with collaboration between the district and community. She further shared the Night of Stars will be held in the board room this year on December 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Gabriel noted there are several other fundraising activities coming up as well.

E. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Ms. Stevens shared the committee went over the Little Comets Handbooks, talked about the Veterans Recognition Process, reviewed the Student Advisory Committee and revisited the Athletic and Community Rec Handbooks.

Dr. Barnes reminded everyone the Veterans Recognition Link is live on the website and encouraged people to make their nominations. He further shared that he has shared information with our high school students and parents regarding the Board approved formation of a Student Advisory Committee and has two informational meetings set up to review things with the students. The Board will review applicants in November and name the members in December.

F. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Holmes noted the committee spent their time reviewing the handbooks at their last meeting.

G. BOND UPDATE

Bond and Capital Projects Supervisor John Piper provided the board with updates on construction at the high school, the Wacousta classroom addition, the Morris Ag Building, and the Delta Center Gym.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Barnes gave a shout out to Bree Cleaves and her team, commenting they really did the work in updating her handbook and the Governance and DEI Committees will follow a similar process for the Athletics and Community Rec handbooks.

a. Superintendent's Evaluation Update – Instructional Leadership

Dr. Barnes presented current initiative and evidence with regard to performance evaluation system, building level leadership, staff development, school improvement, curriculum, instruction, student voice, support for students, professional knowledge, and providing an in-depth look at the district's professional learning plan.

Consensus among the members commended Dr. Barnes for his progress and applauded him and the leadership team for the many changes and implementations that have occurred in the short time since Dr. Barnes became superintendent. They expressed their appreciation for providing a detailed overview of the Portrait of a Learner.

Dr. Barnes pointed out that the one very logistical thing that make all of this possible is the school calendar; imbedding scheduled PD days into the calendar. The work of our One Team on the calendar was really important to allowing us to do this work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025-2026 AUDIT

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2025-2026 Audit, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. REVISED CENTRAL OFFICE HOURLY RATE SCHEDULE

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Revised Central Office Hourly Rate Schedule, as presented.

Dr. Barnes noted this is a necessary update to include the new substitute nurse and Auditorium Manager positions.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. 2026-2027 EATON COUNTY YOUTH FACILITY COURSE OFFERINGS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2026-2027 Eaton County Youth Facility Course Offerings, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Dr. Grabriel shared at last Friday's football game, 11 individuals and three teams were inducted into the Grand Ledge Athletics Hall of Fame and shared that Audrey VanderPloeg set a new school and pool dive record.

Dr. Barnes shared this is homecoming week that will culminate with the parade on Friday before the game. He further shared tomorrow is the first of two bond information open houses that will be hosted here at Central office noting that flyers went out and encouraged people to reach out with their questions either at the open house or using the bond2026@glcomets.net email.

Mr. Oppenheim shared observations and kudos from his visit to Mrs. Arbour's and Mrs. Houdek's classrooms at Holbrook and thanked Principal Farr for her hospitality.

Ms. Shannon reminded everyone the Band Exhibition is set for Wednesday, October 7th starting at 4:00 p.m. at the community stadium.

Mrs. DuFort expressed her appreciation for the bond information that was sent out. She also shared that Delta Township is considering a 384-unit apartment complex that will lead to continued growth within comet country. In closing she congratulated GLHS graduate Cooper Kim for his gold medal at the International Meet in Paris.

Dr. Glasscoe remarked the bond flyer was exactly what she needed and commented the website is very helpful. She noted that she currently has four email accounts she is monitoring and encouraged anyone who reaches out to her, if they haven't heard back from her, to "bump her". She thanked Dr. Barnes for attending her retirement celebration last week and expressed her appreciation for all the messages noting she is looking forward to being more involved.

President Kuykendoll congratulated our student athletes. She went on to share that Wacousta will be hosting a curriculum night at the school and encouraged families to attend to learn more about the curriculum that is being used with our young people. She expressed her appreciation for being able to receive the Childcare Champion award, alongside Rachael Therrian of the Wacousta Cooperative Preschool, for our innovation in repurposing Wacousta Commons. She gave kudos to Adrienne, Cassie and their team for another incredible audit. In closing she encouraged everyone to look over the bond information.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:49p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Coban J. Holmes, Secretary

Ashley A. Kuykendoll, President

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