

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Board Retreat – September 29, 2025

MINUTES

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Coban Holmes, Matt Oppenheim, Kali Stevens, Nicole Shannon, Ashley Kuykendoll and Denise DuFort. **Board Members Absent:** None. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes. **Others in Attendance:** Scott Morrell and Kim Manning

OPENING & TEAM BUILDING A – District Trivia

Dr. Barnes led the board in a district trivia game revolving around the history of Grand Ledge Public Schools.

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT

Scott Morrell with MASB led the board in reviewing their self-assessment.

TEAM BUILDING B – Share a story about a teacher who had an impact on you

Each of the Board members shared a story about a teacher who had an impact on them.

TEAM BUILDING C – Compass Activity

Dr. Barnes led the board in a team building activity that provided input into board personalities.

DISCUSSIONS

A. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

A detailed discussion on implementing a student board member showed support from the board to move forward with having the Governance Committee work to draft procedures for the full board's discussion and consideration.

B. MINI SERVICE PROJECT (RELATED TO MISSION)

Ms. Stevens brought the idea of Student for a Day for discussion. Other ideas brought to light included adopt-a-school, board members attending instructional rounds with the administrative team, and having board members make presentations to staff in their areas of expertise. Superintendent Barnes will look into these things further and bring it back to the board for further discussion and consideration.

C. CONFERENCE & TRAININGS

A detailed discussion around board members attending conferences and trainings noted there is not a process in place. With members now engaging in professional learning, consensus was that it is important to put a process in place that would have members reporting to the full board following their attendance to encourage board growth. This was assigned to the Governance Committee to create the structure and process for further discussion and consideration of the full board.

D. WORK OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A detailed discussion regarding the work of the board subcommittee brought to light the potential need to create a Curriculum and Instruction subcommittee. Superintendent Barnes noted he was to ensure board subcommittees are meeting the needs of the board. Further discussion and consideration of board subcommittees will be discussed and considered during the Organizational Meeting in January.

SCENARIO PLANNING

A. OLD WACOSTA

Dr. Barnes noted with Watertown no longer having an interest in purchasing the old Wacousta Elementary School, it could open great opportunities for the district. He advised he would be meeting with legal counsel to discuss the matter further, but wanted to keep the board informed.

B. ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Dr. Barnes noted with the continued enrollment growth in the district, it is important for the board to keep this in mind as we move forward.

C. FUNDING CONSTRAINTS

Dr. Barnes shared we are still waiting on a final budget from the state and ensuring the board continues to monitor this along with the district.

D. DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS

A detailed discussion noted the demographic shifts in the district. Change is difficult for some people but this is not the same Grand Ledge of old. The board needs to remain aware of this. This is a large district that includes small town, suburban townships and urban populations.

E. POLITICAL CLIMATE

A detailed discussion regarding the political climate ensued noting that Grand Ledge Public Schools is not immune from things that happen outside the district or on a national level.

All of these items require discussion and were put on the agenda to keep them in the minds of all the members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Denise DuFort, President