

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
***Board of Education***

Committee of the Whole / Work Session – October 10, 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 Present:** Jon Shiflett, Nicole Shannon, Jarrod Smith, Denise DuFort and Ben Cwayna. **Board Members Absent:** Sara Clark Pierson and Toni Glasscoe. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve, Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Martez Warren and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Taylor Jackson, Snya Barlow, Lauren Evans, Kenny Eaton, Ashley Kuykendoll, Melissa Mazzola, D’Nita Tice, Jason Devenbaugh, Howard Pizzo, Nell Pizzo, Greg Almy, Marlene Promer and Kim Manning

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Smith provided an overview for making public comment to the board.

Stacy Erwin Oakes addressed the board commending the high school homecoming dance.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 22, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Meeting Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF CAPITAL FUNDS INVOICES**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Capital Funds Invoices in the amount of \$32,119.26, as presented.**

Mr. Smith noted the Board Bond Advisory Committee has met and reviewed all the items being brought for board action. He noted this reflects work at the Fine Arts addition at the High School that is eligible to be paid through Capital Funds thereby freeing up money under the Bond Proposals.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. APPROVE OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$21,568.81, as presented.**

Mr. Smith noted this represents invoices items not covered under the bond proposals and if for piping and a coil replacement. He noted the coil was ordered in March and was just received which continues to reflect the delay in obtaining parts.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$495,907.59, as presented.**

Mr. Smith noted this represents ongoing work at Delta Center and a clean -p payment to the architects for work at Beagle Middle School.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**E. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 1 BOND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$42,747.74 as presented.**

Mr. Smith noted this represents work at the pools at both the High School and Beagle and equipment for the track.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**F. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$605,815.11, as presented.**

Mr. Smith noted this represents work at the Fine Arts addition at the High School.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**G. WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP NEGOTIATIONS**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to authorize Superintendent Bill Barnes to begin negotiations with Watertown Township on the possible sale of the Wacousta Elementary School Building on behalf of the district.**

Superintendent Barnes advised under the current bond proposals; the district is slated to build a new Wacousta Elementary School. Under the bond, monies have been reserved for the demolition of the existing Wacousta Elementary School. Watertown Township reached out to us about this building and any potential for partnering to keep the building and allowing them to purchase it for their new township offices. He noted the Watertown Executive Director has done a walk-through of the facility and the Board recently authorized the Executive Director to begin negotiations. This will provide Superintendent Barnes with the authorization to begin these discussions on behalf of the district to actually sit down and talk about what this might look like. This also allows Dr. Barnes to bring in legal counsel and start a more official conversation. All conversations to date have been very preliminary but noting he believes this good thing for the district, the community and the township. Additionally, if an agreement can be reached, it will free up those funds set aside for demolition of the building currently slated in the bond proposal.

A detailed discussion among the members noted approximately \$400-\$500,000 is set aside for the demolition of the building and all that entails, there has been no discussion of any other potential use of the building, the initial plan following the demolition was to create more greenspace and parking but if this works out the site plan would change and we would work to create shared spaces, this would not impact the new construction as the new build site is well beyond the Dream Depot, nothing will happen to the Dream Depot and it will stay in its current place, there is potential for other organizations like the Grand Ledge Area District Library, to utilize space within the current Wacousta building but just having a northern outpost in the community for a variety of groups would be beneficial, and noting that no sale, or deal, would be made without input from the board and the district's legal counsel advising on the sale, again reiterating this just authorizes Superintendent Barnes to work with our attorneys and Watertown Township in a more formal process.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD**

Superintendent Barnes welcome Martez Warren, Director of Operations to the table noting that his voice and insight is an important part of the Central Office Leadership Team. He reminded everyone that October is Principal Appreciation Month and encouraged everyone to take a moment to thank the wonderful building leaders we have in the district. In closing he recognized the strength and cohesiveness of the Central Office Leadership Team and thanked them for everything they do every day.

Director of Communications John Ellsworth noted students from our sister school in Lohne Germany were in the Administrative Conference Room for their welcome potluck and encouraged the board members to stop by and welcome the students and teachers.

Mrs. DuFort reiterated Mrs. Erwin Oakes' public comment on the wonderful homecoming dance, noting the parade was a great opportunity for many of the board members to walk in support of our Grand Ledge teachers, the game was exciting even if it wasn't the outcome all had hoped, but it was a great night out for our community. She expressed her excitement and support for the new grading system Hayes in putting in place that focuses on learning that has occurred and supporting a growth mindset. In closing she noted she heard a great pod cast on e-sports and would love to see the district get involved.

Ms. Shannon noted she was happy to walk with the teachers in the homecoming parade and commenting on how important connections are and noting whether it be drama, sports, robotics or whatever we can do to support the community and assisting in making those connections. In closing she thanked the staff for making homecoming a great event again this year.

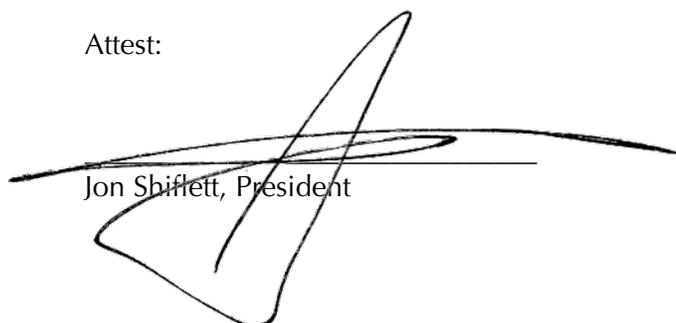
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Jarrod Smith, Secretary

Attest:

  
Jon Shiflett, President