



Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education

OCTOBER 26, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

**SAWDON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
BOARD ROOM
6:00 P.M.**

Grand Ledge Public Schools

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Please take notice that the Board of Education will hold a Regular Meeting on:

Date: Monday, October 26, 2026

Place: Sawdon Administration Building
Board Room
220 Lamson Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

***Once the meeting begins, it will be Live Streamed
at: [youtube.com/@GLPS21](https://www.youtube.com/@GLPS21) (click on Live)***

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Purpose: General Business

Phone: (517) 925-5400

Board minutes are located at the Board of Education office, 220 Lamson Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837



William A. Barnes, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

cc: Buildings
Board Members
Lansing State Journal
Melissa Mazzola, President, GLEA
Katie Grass, Vice-President, GLEA
Blake Wegenke, Co-President, GLPEA
Dave Kushman, Co-President, GLPEA
Jim Gee, Co-President, GLPEA
Sarah Hopper, President, MEA/NEA Unit I, Secretarial /Clerical
Denise Truman, President, MEA/NEA Unit III, Food Service
Allyson McCann, President, MEA/NEA Unit IV, Paraeducators, TA & Health Care Paraeducators
Sue Surateaux, President, IUOE Local 547, A, B, C, E & H AFL-CIO, Bus Drivers
Evan Sabin, Co-President, Building & Grounds Maintenance Association
Ron Bohnet, Co-President, Building & Grounds Maintenance Association
Keri Weir, President, IUOE Local 324, Custodial Association

Date of Posting: October 22, 2026

NOTE: Individuals may address the Board for up to three (3) minutes in the Public Comment segment of the meeting. Any person with a disability needing accommodations to attend a Board of Education meeting should contact Kim Manning at 925-5401 at least three (3) days prior to the date of the meeting he/she plans to attend.

Grand Ledge Public Schools
Board of Education
MEETING AGENDA
Monday, October 26, 2026
6:00 pm

- I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance.....Ashley Kuykendoll, President
- II. Roll Call.....Dr. Bill Barnes, Superintendent
- III. Approval of Agenda Items
- IV. Approval of Consent Agenda Items
 - A. October 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - B. October 19, 2026 Meeting and Closed Session Minutes
- V. Reports
 - A. Capitol Connections
 - B. Eaton RESA
 - C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation
 - D. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
 - E. Governance Committee
 - F. Bond Update
 - G. Superintendent
 - a. Community Bond Presentation
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Comments from Staff and Board
- VIII. Future Topics
 - A. DEI Committee – Monday, November 2, 2026, 5:30 pm, Superintendent’s Office
 - B. Governance Committee – Monday, November 2, 2026, 6:30 p.m., Superintendent’s Office
 - C. Bond & Sinking Fund Committee – Monday, November 9, 2026, 5:15 p.m., Sawdon Room 107
 - D. Regular Meeting – Monday, November 9, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Board Room*
- IX. Adjournment

***NOTE: Only one meeting in November**

NOTE: Individuals may address the Board for up to three (3) minutes in the Public Comment segment of the meeting. If any person with a disability needs accommodations at the Board of Education meeting, please contact Kim Manning at 925-5401 at least three (3) days prior to the date of the meeting he/she plans to attend.



CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Ashley Kuykendoll

"I pledge allegiance
to the Flag
of the United States of America,
and to the republic
for which it stands,
one Nation under God,
indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all."



ROLL CALL

Superintendent Dr. Bill Barnes



APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

PROPOSED MOTION: I move the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the October 26, 2026 Agenda Items, as presented.



APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- A. October 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- B. October 19, 2026 Meeting & Closed Session* Minutes

PROPOSED MOTION: I move the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the October 26, 2026 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

**Closed Session Minutes will be at member places for review and collected at the end of the meeting.*

**GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Work Session – October 12, 2026
MINUTES**

President Kuykendoll called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 and Ashley Kuykendoll. ***Board Members Absent***: Toni Glasscoe. ***Central Office Administrators***: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. ***Others in Attendance***: Kevin Garthe and Kim Manning.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Superintendent's Evaluation Update – Staff Relations

Superintendent Barnes presented the board with current initiative and data information surrounding the Staff Relations section of his evaluation including staff feedback, staff communication, personnel matters, delegation of duties, recruitment, labor relations (bargaining), and visibility in the district.

A discussion among the board covered data information that may be helpful in the future including but not limited to climate voice, retention data, staff feedback, exit surveys, stay surveys and possibly checking in with new staff who came from another district.

B. Welcome – Staff & Students from Lohne, German

The Board took a short recess at 6:19 p.m. to go over and welcome the staff and students visiting us from our sister school in Lohne, Germany.

The meeting reconvened at 6:33 p.m.

C. Portrait of a Learner

Superintendent Barnes led the board in the Portrait of a Learner activity that will help the district in its next phase of planning. He explained that he has conducted this activity with students, staff, and community members.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 18, 2026 Meeting, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF TMP PROPOSAL FOR MORRIS & WACOUSTA COMMONS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Proposal from TMP Architecture, Inc., as presented and authorize Superintendent Bill Barnes to execute the proposal on behalf of Grand Ledge Public Schools.

Dr. Barnes noted this is a culmination of finalizing items at Morris and working on the implementation of the culinary arts program at Wacousta Commons. He shared the district received a \$400,000 grant from MDE through 61B funds to help offset the costs of the culinary arts program implementation. He further noted that this contract is not tied to the 2026 bond proposal in any way.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$24,695.44, as presented.

Ms. Stevens noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and represents safety and security upgrades at Wacousta Commons.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 4 INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$623,000.95, as presented.

Ms. Stevens again noted this was reviewed by the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and represents purchases of projector and screens district-wide, Chromebooks and iPads cases for Morris, electrical updates at Holbrook, Willow Ridge and the High School and some other support items for expanded learning spaces and shelving units at Morris.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Director of Communications John Ellsworth commented he is proud to be a comet and shared numbers on why he is proud to be a comet: three years in a row Grand Ledge Public Schools has been voted the Lansing State Journal's community choice for public schools; families trust us with about 5,500 students, making us one of only 4 mid-Michigan schools at pre-pandemic enrollment; 175 is the number of years we have been teaching students; 7-0 GLHS varsity football team is undefeated and competing for a conference championship noting part of the reason he enjoys football is the community it brings together. In closing he noted Comet Country has a wonderful community and we have lots of great numbers to support that.

Executive Director of Technology Mark Deschaine reminded everyone that tickets for the upcoming production of Cinderella are on sale now and encouraged everyone to get their tickets.

Deputy Superintendent gave a shout out to Amy Firtl for her amazing work with the Lohne program noting this has been a part of this district for 40-years and commending the work that goes into making this program happen.

Dr. Barnes echoed what Dr. Gabriel said and thanking the board for taking a moment to go over and welcome our Lohne guests.

Trustee Oppenheim shared details from his most recent school building visit at Willow Ridge Elementary School. He commended the CKLA program and recognized the levels of classroom management that includes the hundred and thousands of decisions that are made every day by those professionals including before school, after school, and during the middle of the night. The daily operation of that work isn't fully engaged until you are doing it. In closing he commended the classroom management aspect.

Trustee Stevens gave a shout out to Holbrook teacher Kara Davis expressing her appreciation for her.

Trustee Shannon noted the Morris Ribbon Cutting on Friday Night was a great event with good turnout commenting the space is really impressing. She noted members of Dave and Betty Morris' family were able to join us for the event. In closing she commented teacher are enthusiastic and she is glad this is finally coming to fruition as it has been 25-years in the making.

Trustee Dufort commended the band invitational noting that while she was unable to attend this year, she has spoken with a lot of people who did attend and who really enjoyed the evening.

Secretary Holmes expressed he is really excited about the work we are doing at Morris and the culinary arts program expressing he thinks it is really important that we are allowing our students to engage in something that is not just a core academic program expressing he loves

the career focused education and agriscience. In closing he noted he is excited about the production of Cinderella and shared you can buy your tickets at glmusicals.net.

President Kuykendoll Ashley gave a shout out to Audrey Vanderploeg on breaking the school diving record. Reminder of how tremendous so many of our students are so many things happening with our student athletes noting Katie Blue and former GLHS athlete Cooper Kim who could be making his way to the Olympics. In closing she shared highlights from attending the NAACP 60th Freedom Fund Dinner on Sunday highlighting the Educator of the Year, Doris Kopage. In closing she noted her heart is really full tonight as the district doing impressive things for our kids across the district.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Coban J. Holmes, Secretary

Ashley A. Kuykendoll, President

**GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Special Meeting – October 19, 2026
MINUTES**

President Kuykendoll called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Denise DuFort, Coban Holmes and Ashley Kuykendoll. **Board Members Absent:** Nicole Shannon and Toni Glasscoe. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes. **Others in Attendance:** Kim Manning.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Superintendent's Evaluation Update – Student Growth & Data

Superintendent Barnes presented the board with current initiative and data information surrounding Student Growth, Progress Toward District-Wide Goals, Progress Toward his own Goals, and shared the results from a District Wide Staff Survey on Central Office and the BMEA Relational Climate Survey.

Dr. Barnes answered questions from the board on the data presented regarding the scores on the Central Office survey and what may have / be contributing to those results, if there is a need for more help, the percentage of responses while noting it would be nice to have more participation but what is presented is standard, the many ways staff, students and families have to communicate with us, the drive to continue to build trust, the possibility of using a staff meeting or PD day to get more participation, and continuing to find ways to meet everyone's communication needs.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Trustee Oppenheim congratulated the football team on securing the conference championship.

Trustee DuFort shared that she was asked by a staff member about staff providing direct input for the Superintendent's Evaluation noting there are many ways in which staff can provide input including reaching out to board members directly, speaking during public comment or emailing the board through the website noting all members' email address are on the website.

Secretary Holmes commented the board relies on a lot of information provided by the Superintendent remarking the board welcomes any feedback and staff, students and community are welcome to talk with any member of the board directly.

President Kuykendoll noted the board is present in a lot of significant spaces for individuals who would like to have communication with the members.

Superintendent Barnes noted he would welcome that input whether it be positive or negative as this input helps him be a better superintendent.

President Kuykendoll congratulated the football team and noted a lot of our younger comets were able to attend the game. She also reminded everyone that it is getting colder and the mornings are quite chilly so coats and possibly even gloves are good for our little ones. In closing she reminded everyone to get their tickets for Cinderella. GLMusicals.net.

CLOSED SESSION – Superintendent’s Annual Evaluation

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of conducting the Superintendent’s Annual Evaluation, as per Section 8(1)(a) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Holmes	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>
President Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously at 6:47 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 8:44 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S COMPLETED EVALUATION

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools to adopt the completed year-end evaluation of Superintendent William A. Barnes with a rating of effective. The motion carried unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT’S ANNUAL EVALUATION STATEMENT

President Kuykendoll commented, “We have a consensus that Dr. Barnes has received an effective rating on his evaluation.”

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

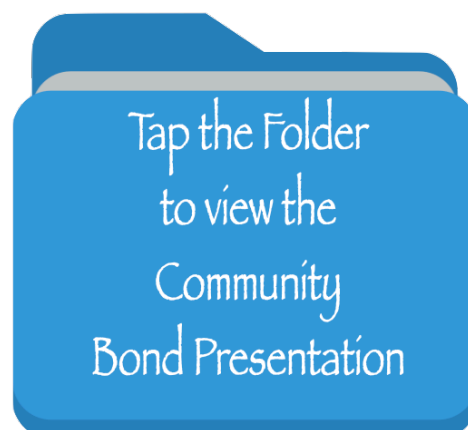
Coban J. Holmes, Secretary

Ashley A. Kuykendoll, President



REPORTS

- A. Capitol Connections
- B. Eaton RESA
- C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation
- D. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
- E. Governance Committee
- F. Bond Update
- G. Superintendent
 - a. Community Bond Presentation





PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons may address the board for up to three (3) minutes in the Public Comment segment of the meeting by providing your name and jurisdiction (City, Township / County) on one of the Public Comment forms provided at the sign in table and turning it in to the Superintendent's Assistant.

The meeting chair will use the Public Comment forms submitted to invite persons to come forward to make their public comment at the appropriate time.

Board Meetings are constructed to conduct necessary business of the board, while allowing time for the public to express concerns and opinions.

Out of respect for board members, students and staff, you will be interrupted if you:

- Personally attack a board member or district employee on issues unrelated to their job performance.
- Mention a student's name when discussing behavior or other incidents.
- Engage in discussion with other members of the audience.

You will be reminded when you are approaching the end of your three-minute limit so you can conclude with your strongest points.

The board will not respond to questions or comments during public comment but the Superintendent will do his best to answer questions at the end of the meeting. If immediate answers are not available, arrangements will be made to provide you with the information requested.



COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD



FUTURE TOPICS

- DEI Committee - Monday, November 2, 2026, 5:30 p.m., Superintendent's Office
- Governance Committee - Monday, November 2, 2026, 6:30 p.m., Superintendent's Office
- Bond & Sinking Fund Committee - Monday, November 9, 2026, 5:15 p.m., Sawdon Room 107
- Regular Meeting - Monday, November 9, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Board Room*

****NOTE: Only one meeting in November.***



ADJOURNMENT

Time: _____