

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – October 27, 2025
MINUTES

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President DuFort recognized a moment of silence to honor the Beagle student lost last week.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Coban Holmes, Matt Oppenheim, Kali Stevens, Nicole Shannon, Toni Glasscoe, Ashley Kuykendoll and Denise DuFort. **Board Members Absent**: None. **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance**: John Piper, Scott Kemp, Kevin Garthe, Tim Marsh, Katie Grass, Tim Totten, Andy Bouck, Kim Spalsbury, Greg Stevens, Paul Mercieca, Karin Marcieca, Melissa Mazzola, Kathy Spalsbury, Fred Hutchinson, Patrick O'Keefe, Sr., Sandy Sipes, and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the October 27, 2025 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the October 27, 2025 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the October 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes and the teacher hiring of Andrea Hayes.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

Dr. Glasscoe recognized the State Aid Budget being passed and the increase in the per pupil funding for Michigan K-12 schools. She noted she is excited to see legislators in town and conducting town hall meetings commenting she is looking forward to more bi-partisan collaboration to get the federal government open. She reminded everyone there is still things that could impact K-12 education with the government shut down but at this time, Head Start has not been impacted.

Dr. Barnes clarified that while we have Head Start programming in our buildings, Grand Ledge Public Schools does not operate that programming and they rent space from the district.

B. EATON RESA

President DuFort highlighted the last two meeting of the Eaton RESA Board including noted the RESA received a very good Audit in October. She further highlighted services received by our students through the Eaton RESA.

C. GRAND LEDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Ms. Shannon shared the Foundation awarded their 2025-2026 Teacher Grants and shared that the Foundation will be hosting a DJ trivia night fundraiser on December 12th at Homebrew Table Top and encouraged everyone to sign up at GLEF.net.

Dr. Gabriel shared there will be another fundraiser coming that will provide an opportunity to buy “old-school” t-shirts highlighting the former school names, i.e., Greenwood Tigers, Mulliken Mustangs, etc.

D. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Ms. Kuykendoll noted the committee discussed opportunities for impacting community outreach ensuring the community knows who the members of the board are and how the board can be more helpful in the future.

E. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Holmes advised the committee has met twice and the results of those meetings are on later in the agenda. He also noted the committee began the discussion of board members having district email addresses and they will have a recommendation to present to the full board for discussion in the future.

F. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Kuykendoll reiterated the successful audit the district received at the last meeting commending Mrs. Barna and her team for their hard work. She advised she know there will be a couple of items the committee will need to review as it relates to finance in the coming months.

G. BOND UPDATE

Bond and Capital Projects Director John Piper provided updates on construction work at the Wacousta, Neff, High School.

H. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Barnes expressed his appreciation to the board, Eaton RESA and the community for the support provided to Beagle last Friday. He advised the district is working to debrief on how we can do even better in the future. He recognized the many employee groups that participated in the Bridge Street Trick or Treat last Friday.

In closing, he recognized that after Public Comment, there are a couple of Facility Naming Resolutions in alignment with Board Policy 7250 that dictates how we name facilities in the district highlighting the process and thanking the district and community members who made up the Naming Facility Committee including Tim Marsh, Scott Kemp, Sandy Sipes, Steve Gabriel, Steve Baker and Kim Manning and commending the board on having policies that work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Secretary Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

Tim Totten addressed the board expressing his concerns for Board Policy 2266.

Greg Stevens addressed the board in support of naming the Track and Field Complex in honor of Jim Brandt and Kim Spalsbury.

Fred Hutchinson addressed the board in support of naming the Track and Field Complex in honor of Jim Brandt and Kim Spalsbury.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FACILITY NAMING RESOLUTION – BASEBALL VENUE

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution Naming the Grand Ledge High School Baseball Venue the Patrick O’Keefe Stadium, as presented.

Dr. Barnes read the Resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Holmes	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>	President DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

Coach Patrick O’Keefe addressed the board thanking them for the honor.

B. FACILITY NAMING RESOLUTION – TRACK & FIELD FACILITY

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution Naming the Grand Ledge High School Track & Field Venue the Brandt/Spalsbury Track & Field Complex, as presented.

Dr. Barnes noted unfortunately, Coach Brandt was unable to attend tonight, but Coach Spalsbury was in attendance. He went on to read the resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>
Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Kim Spalsbury addressed the board thanking them for the honor.

C. PROBATIONARY TO TENURE STATUS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to award Tenure Status to Jaclyn Hayes, Bryn Hummel, Stacy Kruse, Sarah Young, Tori Sweet, Brian Mishler, Kymberlee Davis, Ann Goodwin, Tanya Smith, Jennifer Pinckney, Brian Wetherwax, Rachel Hess, Becky Manore, Ryleigh Scott and Tracy Vincent, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. MPSERS 3% EMPLOYEE HEALTHCARE REIMBURSEMENT

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the use of General Fund dollars to cover the remaining balance necessary to fully reimburse employees for all 3% healthcare contributions withheld from their pay during Fiscal Year 2025, as presented. The motion carried unanimously with members Kali Stevens and Matt Oppenheim abstaining from the vote.

E. POWERSCHOOL LITIGATION RESOLUTION

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the PowerSchool Litigation Resolution and authorizes and directs Superintendent William A. Barnes, or designee, to sign the Attorney-Client Contract on behalf of the school and take such other action as necessary to obtain monetary damages for the school in the lawsuit, subject to review by the District's legal counsel, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>
Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>

President DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Holmes	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>

The motion carried unanimously.

F. UPDATED DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENT HANDBOOK

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the updated Distance Learning Student Handbook, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. UPDATED BOARD POLICIES – 1ST READING

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to Waive the first reading of the updated board policies. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holmes highlighted the changes in the revised policies being presented.

Dr. Barnes noted the district works with Neola and legal counsel to ensure we are following all legal requirements and that our policies are in compliance. The Governance Committee reviews the options provided by Neola and suggests what to bring forward for the board's consideration.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Communications Director John Ellsworth commended the board's support of facility naming recognizing Coach O'Keefe, Coach Brandt and Coach Spalsbury as three pillars that all worked as teachers at Grand Ledge High School along with all their accomplishments on the field.

Deputy Superintendent Steve Gabriel congratulated Coach O'Keefe, Coach Brandt and Coach Spalsbury and acknowledging the impact Coach Brandt had on his life.

Superintendent Barnes noted that so many things happen in a district that it is nice to pause and look at a lifetime and career. In closing he noted that he can't wait to get to work now to get things around for official naming ceremonies.

Mr. Holmes highlighted his attendance at the MASB Annual Leadership Conference and commended the support of so many people at the choir concert last week noting it was standing room only.

Mr. Oppenheim thanked Coach O'Keefe, Coach Brandt and Coach Spalsbury for being impactful teachers in their classrooms. He expressed how impressed he was with the Choir Concert giving kudos to our new High School Choir Teacher, Zach Everly, for the song selection, showcasing the talent of the students and the transition from group to group. In closing he shared he has successfully downloaded the book referenced in his visit to Ms. Allison's classroom and is looking forward to reading it.

Ms. Stevens sent her deepest condolences to the family of the student we lost last week remarking, "You are not alone" and reminding the family if there is anything we can do to support you in the days ahead, do not hesitate to reach out.

Dr. Glasscoe expressed her appreciation for the way the Grand Ledge community comes together. She highlighted the presentation by GLHS student Grayson Howard at a recent event she was in attendance at and commended the naming of facilities, including the process.

Ms. Shannon also expressed her condolences to the family of the student we lost. She went on to advise she was unable to participate in the Bridge Street Trick or Treat, but did attend the Delta Center and Hayes event commenting it was nice to see so many kids have so much fun. She commented she is loving the Amplify and CKLA conversations she is having with her students. In closing, she thanked everyone who participated in the facility naming process.

Ms. Kuykendoll shared highlights from her recent school visits to Grand Ledge High School, Neff Early Childhood Center and Holbrook Elementary remarking it was great seeing the buildings in real time and thanking those who took time to showcase their respective building.

President DuFort thanked her fellow board members for being so engaged and interested in the work going on in the district. She expressed her appreciation for the facility naming process noting it was a highlight for her. She shared insights from her attendance at the Annual Leadership Conference. In closing she again thanked her fellow board members, the amazing leadership team and commented it is exciting to be a part of this district, even in difficult times.

Ms. Kuykendoll gave a shout out to GLHS Teacher Katie Westen for her outstanding performance during the Eckrich \$1 million Challenge for Teachers during the Michigan vs. Michigan State Game commenting she represented the district well.

CLOSED SESSION -Negotiations

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations Strategies, as Per Section 8(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Holmes	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>
President DuFort	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously at 8:21 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The board reconvened in Open Session at 9:23 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION – Superintendent’s Evaluation

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Ms. Shannon 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:

Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>
President DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Holmes	<u>YES</u>

Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>
Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>

The motion carried unanimously at 9:24 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The board reconvened in Open Session at 11:14 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL EVALUATION

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll to adopt the completed year-end evaluation of Superintendent William A. Barnes with a rating of effective. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Denise DuFort, President