GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – November 9, 2026

MINUTES

President Kuykendoll called the meeting to order at 6:02 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, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. ***Others in Attendance***: Kyle Lamb and family, Rex VanKoevering and family, Trevor Clough and family, William MacDonald and family, Thomas Hlinka, Sandy Sipes, Kevin Garthe, Heather Brown, Erin Laferier, John Piper, 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 November 9, 2026 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 9, 2026 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the October 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION

A. MILITARY VETERANS RECOGNITION

Each November, in alignment with Veterans Day, the Board takes a moment to recognize military veterans who are members of the community or currently working with the district. This year, the Board of Education Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee has selected community members Trevor Clough, Thomas Klinka, Kyle Lamb, William MacDonald and Rex VanKoevering. Thank for your service.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 – Trevor Clough

For two decades, Chief Warrant Officer Clough has exemplified dedicated service, both in uniform and within his local community. A seasoned Blackhawk Pilot based out of Grand Ledge, Trevor serves full-time in the Army National Guard, currently

supporting the annual Northern Strike exercise. With the U.S. Army he completed two combat deployments, earning the Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Combat Action Badge. Beyond his military career, Trevor is a passionate entrepreneur who, alongside his wife, owns Eagle Fit 24/7. Driven by a mission to share health and fitness with others, he finds immense reward in watching student athletes of all levels walk through the gym doors, witnessing firsthand their passion and developing work ethic. His commitment extends deeply into civic life: through his active involvement with the Grand Ledge Chamber of Commerce, Trevor donates countless hours to community events while sponsoring local fundraisers and sports teams. Additionally, as a member of American Legion Post 48, he regularly gives back by helping organize community dinners, raffles, and fundraising contests. Whether piloting aircraft, empowering gym members, or backing local initiatives, Trevor's selflessness, leadership, and spirit of service define everything he does to make Grand Ledge a better place.

Sergeant Thomas Hlinka

Sergeant Hlinka is a Vietnam Veteran, who, as a foot soldier, saw the war up close and personal through the jungles of Vietnam. He has lived with PTSD since his campaign and combat in the jungle of Vietnam during the Tet Offensive and the horrors of war. He is a 1965 graduate of Grand High School and taught physical education at several Grand Ledge elementary schools.
He was selected as Grand Marshall of the Grand Ledge Memorial parade a few years ago.

Specialist Kyle Lamb

Specialist Lamb is a proud Army veteran who served two tours in Iraq with the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Kyle is the most selfless and kind person. You'll find him secretly buying hundreds of dollars of food for the high school food pantry, or secret Santa shopping for Christmas gifts so a senior citizen has warm pajamas. His actions are the epitome of selfless service, even beyond his Army career. Kyle is an amazing part of our community. He has spent the past years chaperoning field trips for his three children, cooking for various teacher appreciation days, and ensuring each teacher has everything they need to succeed in the classroom. He is our hero.

Sergeant First Class William MacDonald

Sergeant MacDonald's 20-years of military service is an important part of who he is, but what stands out most is the way he continues to serve and give back to the community around him. He has always been willing to share his military experience with others, especially children, in ways that are meaningful and memorable. One example is his participation in the Grand Ledge Christmas Parade, where he drove a military vehicle and proudly represented the military community. He also brought a military vehicle to the Wacousta end-of-year picnic, giving children the opportunity to see the vehicle up close, ask questions, and learn a little about the military in a fun and approachable way.

His commitment to the community also extends to our local schools and families. His boys play football, and he has recently turned his love of photography into another way of giving back. He attends their games and takes photographs of the teams, then shares those pictures with the players and their families. He enjoys capturing the excitement, hard work, and special moments of the season so that the kids and their families have memories they can look back on for years to come.

His service does not end when he takes off the uniform. He continues to demonstrate dedication, generosity, and a willingness to serve others in his everyday life. Whether he is representing the military at a community event, giving children a hands-on glimpse into military
life, or volunteering his time and talents to support local families, he looks for ways to make a positive difference.

He embodies the values of service, character, and community that this recognition is intended to honor. His military service has shaped who he is, and he continues to carry that spirit of service into the Grand Ledge community.

Major Rex VanKoevering

Major VanKoevering is someone who consistently puts others before himself and leads through service, compassion, and integrity. As an active-duty Marine, he has dedicated 18-years to serving our country and supporting those around him. His commitment to service does not end when he leaves work. He brings that same dedication home to his family and into our community every day. He gives his time, energy, and support to others without
expecting anything in return.

One example that truly reflects his character is his commitment to coaching his son's soccer team. Even with the demands and responsibilities that come with being an active-duty Marine, he makes time to volunteer as a coach. He shows up for practices and games, encourages the kids, teaches them how to work as a team, and helps them develop confidence and perseverance. He understands that coaching is about much more than soccer—it is an opportunity to positively influence young people and teach them lessons they can carry with
them beyond the field.

He continually strives to provide for and support his family in every way he can. He works hard, serves selflessly, and makes an effort to be present for the people who depend on him. His actions demonstrate the values of responsibility, commitment, humility, and compassion.

What makes him deserving of this honor is not simply one accomplishment or one act of service. It is the consistency with which he gives to others. Whether he is serving his country, coaching children, supporting his family, or helping someone who needs him, he approaches each responsibility with the same sense of duty and genuine care.

Dr. Barnes expressed thanks to all active service persons and veterans of our community and across the country.

REPORTS

A. CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

Mr. Holmes noted our bond proposal passed. He advised voter turnout was good for a mid-term election. He expressed his thanks to the voters for their continued trust. He remarked there is a lot of new representation coming in and we will see how things go.

President Kuykendoll reiterated thanks to the voters for their continued trust by supporting the bond.

B. EATON RESA

Mrs. DuFort advised the Eaton RESA Board meets on November 19th.

C. GRAND LEDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Ms. Shannon shared the Foundation has award their GLEF classic grants and two finalist moved forward in the Big Impact Grant process. The two finalists will make presentations to the Foundation board at their next meeting. She invited everyone to join the Foundation at their Night of Stars at 6:00 p.m. on December 10, 2026 here in the board room to hear about all the wonderful grant awards and how they are impacting students.

Dr. Gabriel reminded everyone the grants are made possible through the Foundations fundraising events. Currently they are exploring a bingo night, vintage t-shirt sales and the big fundraiser, the 5K Comet Chase.

D. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Ms. Stevens expressed she loves how the Veteran's recognition came together I love see how the Veteran's recognition came together and expressed her appreciation to President Kuykendoll for spearheading this recognition. She thanked tonight's guests for the many ways they continue to support our students and community. She went on to share at the last meeting of the committee they reviewed board policy revisions bringing a DEI perspective to that review process.

Dr. Barnes shared he has held informational meetings with students interested in serving on the Board Student Advisory Committee. He will be sending those students an application to fill out prior to Thanksgiving and the group will be solidified by December. The Committee will start meeting in January and this will now be one of the committees members can join at the Organizational Meeting.

E. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Holmes advised the committee began to dig into the Fall policy updates from Neola. The members are reviewing them individually and further discussion will take place at the December meeting.

F. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Barnes noted we will have a finance committee before the next amendment is brought forward.

G. BOND UPDATE

Bond and Capital Projects Director John Piper provided updates on construction work on the gym at Delta Center. He shared meetings are scheduled with our architects regarding the greenhouse, barn, and outdoor teaching space for Morris and the Culinary program at Wacousta Comons.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Barnes thanked the community for support the bond proposal noting the district will begin to dig in to the planning and processing in the next month. He thanked the administrative team, staff, and families who providing input that was used to help craft the proposal. He also congratulates Ms. Shannon and Dr. Glasscoe on their re-election and remarked he looks forward to continue working with them.

Dr. Barnes went on to note we had a special guest in the audience tonight. President Kuykendoll's family is visiting from Arkansas. In light of tonight being our Veteran's Recognition, he wanted to take a moment to recognize President Kuykendoll's father, Theodore Perry sharing that Specialist Perry celebrates 20 years of military service, 18 years with the U.S. Army and 2 years with the U.S. Navy. During his Army career, he served in Support and Supply and answered the call to serve in several locations, including deployments to Operation Desert Storm/Shield as well as service in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. His story is one of resilience, sacrifice and strength. Born in Detroit, Michigan, SPC Perry graduated from Henry Ford High School, where he excelled as a track and football athlete. Today, SPC Perry enjoys retirement (although that is not the term he likes to use) in Conway, Arkansas with his wife of 32 years, Krystal Perry. Family remains at the heart of his life, including his daughter, Ashley Kuykendoll and his two grandchildren, whom he absolutely adores. When he isn't spending time with family, you may find him enjoying one of his passions, which is Mustang cars. Although retirement brought him back to Arkansas, frequent visits from his daughter and grandchildren keep family connections strong.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Secretary Holmes read the rules for addressing the board.

Kevin Garthe expressed his thanks to our veterans for their service to our community and country. He thanked the board for taking the time to honor our veterans.

NEW BUSINESS

A. ANNUAL SUMMER TAX RESOLUTION

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Annual Summer Tax Resolution, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Holmes	**YES**	**Ms. Stevens**	**YES**
Dr. Glasscoe	**YES**	**Ms. Shannon**	**YES**
President Kuykendoll	**YES**	**Mrs. DuFort**	**YES**
Mr. Oppenheim	**YES**		

The motion carried unanimously.

B. K-12 PROGRAMMING AND SECONDARY COURSE OFFERINGS – Dave & Betty Morris School for Agricultural & Natural Sciences
Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the K-12 Programming and Secondary Course Offerings for the Dave & Betty Morris School for Agricultural and Natural Sciences, as presented.

Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Albrecht provided the board with an overview of the information contained in their board packet highlighting the programming that will be offered to the students at the Morris School for Agricultural and Natural Sciences. He expressed his thanks to the Morris teaching team made up of Savannah Mauk, Katie Gregory and Jessica Flessner. When we are offering courses to students it has to be approved by the board. Katie Gregory, Svannah Mauk and Jessica Flessner.

Dr. Barnes and Dr. Albrecht answered questions from the board regarding credits, CTE certification, FFA, diversity of thought on our advisory committee, the programs becoming a part of the Early Middle College, certificates versus degrees, working with the RESA to ensure federal dollars flow to the local program, and schedules and segments.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES
Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of $21,054.04, as presented.

Ms. Stevens noted this was discussed in the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration.

Dr. Barnes shared this represents the demolition of the barn on the property at St. Joe and Nixon.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 4 BOND INVOICES
Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of $869,217.05, as presented.

Ms. Stevens noted this was reviewed at the Board Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents progress billing from Clark Construction and GMB, ipads and microscopes for Morris, data drops and cameras installed across the district, a final payment to Moss and construction trades for Wacousta and Delta Center.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Executive Director of Technology Mark Deschaine reminded everyone to get their tickets to Cinderella announcing additional shows have been added.

Superintendent Barnes noted this past weekend was a busy weekend for the arts and athletics. Wide variety of teams and our marching band who all represented the district really well on the state-wide stage. And, we hosted the Michigan State-Wide Soccer Tournament for the 4th year. All-in-all it was a very positive weekend for the district.

Mr. Oppenheim thanked our veterans and those who nominated them and the DEI committee for establishing the process. Attended the musical theater solo and ensemble, where 13 students participating. He was impressed to see Mr. Everly, who is currently working on the musical production, but taking his Saturday morning, along with three accompanists, to support our kids. He remarked he understands there are a lot of people who provide support but he wanted to recognize them for giving their time.

Ms. Shannon thanked our veterans for their service and thanked the committee for implementing this opportunity. She thanked everyone for their trust in her re-election. She thanked her family for their continued support. She noted we have gone through a lot in the past six years but she excited for where we are and for what the next six years is going to bring. In closing she stated she is honored to be able to continue to serve.

Mrs. DuFort expressed her appreciation for the Veterans Recognition process and expressed she loved hearing about how they impact our community noting these are the people we represent at this table. She shared information from a visit to Mr. McKennon's future educators class.

Mr. Holmes stated there are a lot of great reasons to be proud to be a comet tonight with the new programming and the veterans. He shared Saturday and Sunday performances were added to Cinderella and encouraged everyone to get their tickets. He expressed his excitement to move forward with the new bond proposal and to continue to do good things that will continue to move our district forward.

Dr. Glasscoe remarked she wants to ensure all of our veterans understand how much they are appreciated. She stated thank you doesn't seem to be enough to let the community know how much I appreciate the trust they placed in her noting as a board member I am proud to serve with each and every one of you. She shared that she was able to make a presentation to honor students, talking about civic leadership. She commended the young people, which included five Grand Ledge graduates, remarking they give her hope, coming along side us to continue this important work. She thanked Dr. Albrecht for his amazing work to get the Morris School off the ground, noting her and her grandson have already signed up to volunteer at the school. In closing she expressed her excitement surrounding the GLEF grants and noting the Foundation board continues to look for ways to improve the process.

President Kuykendoll expressed we have a lot to be proud of in our district. We have done incredible and tremendous things. While not perfect, I am trying to lean into progress over perfection. Just now getting to a fully flushed out platform for our Veterans Recognition. She shared more information about her father, noting there are a lot of services now for our veterans returning state-side. There will be many veteran recognitions that will take place around the community and she encouraged everyone to be thoughtful of those events. Veteran's Day is more than just another day off. She gave Kudos to our football team for their great season. Shout out to our marching band. She gave a mega shout out to every person/position within the district noting things have been going really well this year. She commended the Wacousta 3rd grade field trip to the Bengel Wildlife Center noting it was a wonderful experience. She commented whatever our students have interest in, there is a group, club, or organization. In closing she noted she is thankful for the resilience to bounce back, the dedication of this administrative team, and that all of this work happens because of our dedicated staff.

Mr. Holmes and President Kuykendoll commended the team for their quick response and plan of action to ensure our students got home safe following the water main brake that impacted Delta Center students last week.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Attest:

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Coban J. Holmes, Secretary Ashley A. Kuykendoll, President

DRAFT