

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – November 18, 2019

MINUTES

President McKennon 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 Metcalf indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Jarrod Smith, Jon Shiflett, Kim Mulvenna, Sara Clark Pierson, Ben Cwayna, Denise DuFort and Patrick McKennon. ***Central Office Administrators***: Brian Metcalf, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth ***Others in Attendance***: Sam Kuntzsch, Tyler McCready, Gracie McKinley, Hannah Lee, Nicole Jolley, Claire Shriner, Jaclyn Lambrix, Sarah Berry, Pacience Lapp, Samara Russell, Devan Dodge, Jenna Reich, Jordan Betts, Samantha Muller, Olivia Nyquist, Alexis Grace, Angela Nyquist, Max Nuyquist, Tony Nyquist, Dave Logel, Karen Spohn, Dan Spohn, Ken Wright, Melissa Mazzola, Greg Almy, Megan Bouwents, Rachel Kuntzsch and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 18, 2019, 2018 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 18, 2019 Consent Agenda Item, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the meeting minutes of the October 28, 2019 Regular Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. GLHS Student Leadership – GLHS students Sam Kuntzsch & Tyler McCready provided an update with regard to a busy month for PALS including the first red ribbon week and incorporating a Peer Assistant program in the future that would provide students with support from PALs regarding time management and maintaining relationships with other students and teachers. Students were encouraged to wear blue in support of diabetes awareness last week noting diabetes affects 29.1 million people in the United States and many students at Grand Ledge High School. They advised students took their SAT Skills practice test this past month in their SAT Skills class. This class is offered to help prepare

students (whose PSAT scores were just outside of meeting the “college readiness” benchmarks) to improve their test score to be deemed “college ready”. They explained the class is broken into three segments – Math, English and Math/English graphics. Each segment is approximately three weeks long. Before taking the class, only 42 students were “college ready” in English, 7 in Math and 25 in total score. The class ended with an additional 21 students “college ready” in English, 31 in Math and 29 in total score. Tyler noted he had an initial score of 980 on his PSAT and after taking the class his score improved to 1,160. They further advised next month the student news plans to expand its horizons and conduct interview with different public figures on their views on the power of media. They are hopeful State Representative Angela Whitwer will be their first guest. In closing they shared next Tuesday is the “Meet the Comets” event. This is a kickoff event to get the community involved with winter sports and allow them to meet the students playing the sports. Follow Grand Ledge Student Council on Instagram and Twitter @gl_council for daily updates.

- B. Capitol Connections Report** - Mr. Smith advised not a lot of bills are moving on the legislative front however Senate Bills 600 & 601 that would modify the Michigan Merit Standards. The Legislative Analysis summarizes it as allowing for more skilled trades, like career ready to count toward graduation requirements. House Bills 4540 – 4543 continue to be discussed addressing collection of sales tax from online retailers to capture that money here in Michigan to flow into the State Aid Fund. These bills passed the House in October and are now in Senate committee. House Bill 4162 passed house in June and now in Senate committee. This legislation will eliminate the Work Keys Assessment. However, the Senate is not in session until December
- C. Eaton RESA Report** – Mrs. DuFort advised the RESA Board has not yet met this month. However, she shared she had the opportunity to visit several of the Early College and CTE programs including Farm Bureau, Davenport, LCC West and LCC Main. She noted she was also able to take a Youth Mental Health First Aid Class through Eaton RESA. She report there are current two Grand Ledge educators signed up to take this class. The class talks about suicide in young adults noting mental health concerns are on the rise. It shows how we can be proactive versus reactive.
- D. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report** – Mrs. DuFort invited everyone to join the Foundation Board at tomorrow night’s Night of Stars event where will award this year’s teacher grants and hear from a few of last year’s grant winners on how the grant award has impacted learning in their classroom. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Library and all are welcome to attend.
- E. Bond Update** – Superintendent Metcalf noted the Bond Advisory Committee met with representative of Clark Construction and GMB this past week. Bids for Holbrook are schedule to go out next week for three weeks followed by bids for the Beagle Projects – again for three weeks. Then in January – February bids for the pool and choir/band rooms will go out. He noted by expanding the timeline of the projects, projects will not be complete by next September. By providing an additional year to complete the projects it will drive down the costs thereby saving the taxpayers money.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Grand Ledge High School Junior Clare addressed the board to express concerns with regard to former Grand Ledge High School students, now enrolled at Relevant Online Academy not being allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities and clubs, those not regulated by MHSAA. She advised they posted a petition online and in the school and received 500 signatures in support of allowing Relevant Academy students to participate in non-MHSAA regulated clubs and activities if they were previously involved in the program before moving over to the Academy. They asked the board to reconsider this policy.

Community member and parent Rachel Kuntz addressed the board noting the musical just occurred in Grand Ledge and she wanted to express her appreciation for the investment of the district in performing arts including infrastructure and possibly including the offering of a drama class. She noted it is not simply about performing in musical, the performing arts build leadership skills. She congratulated everyone who made last weekend's performance happen noting we are lucky to have the program in Grand Ledge.

GLEA President Greg Almy discussed Senate Bill 600 that was referenced by Board Member Smith in his Capitol Connections Report noting he wanted everyone to know that our Senator, Tom Barrett, is a sponsor of this bill. He noted he opposes this legislation and has dropped off a letter to Senator Barrett explaining his position. He went on to explain he believes the bill was initially introduced to help with scheduling classes under the Michigan Merit, but has great concerns with the possibility of eliminating the physical education and/or health credits.

District employee Sarah Berry addressed the board to express concerns regarding the lack of technology available in the art department, advising she is unsure how the bond money will be spent and if it could help in this endeavor and the state of the structure of the art wing at the high school.

Community member Angie Nyquist addressed the board on the restriction of Relevant Academy students being allowed to participate in non-MHSAA sponsored extra-curriculum programs. She noted her daughter struggles with anxiety and they made the decision to have her attend Relevant to help alleviate some of that while still keeping her in close proximity to her friends. Her daughter joined the POM team in 8th grade and the coaches and her teammates have been a wonderful support system for her. However, upon moving to attend Relevant Academy, she was told she would no longer be able to participate as a member of the POM Team. She appealed to the board to think outside the box to come up with a policy that will be beneficial to everyone in the community.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of Board Governance Policies – GP 204, 204.1, 204.2, 204.3

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Board Governance Policies, Governance Process 204, 204.1, 204.2, 204.3, as presented.

President McKennon advised these policies have been reviewed in the Governance Committee.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$68,829.25, as presented.

President McKennon advised this represents an invoice from Abatement and Demolition Services in the amount of \$14,645, an invoice from McLean & Son Trucking in the amount of \$5,500, an invoice from Driesenga and Associates in the amount of \$1,022.50, an invoice from American Asphalt in the amount of \$14,700, an invoice from E.T. MacKenzie in the amount of \$14,086 and an invoice from Penchura in the amount of \$18,875.75. He noted these invoices were reviewed by the Board Bond Advisory Committee prior to the meeting and approved to be brought forward for full board approval.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Payment of Proposal 1 Bond Invoices

Motion by Mr. Smith seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$127,338.87, as presented.

President McKennon advised this represents an invoice from JRA Food Service Consultants in the amount of \$1,855 for kitchen design at Beagle and an invoice from GMB Architects & Engineers in the amount of \$125,483.87 for professional services including an invoice from Michigan's Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) for fire safety plan examination for Holbrook. He again noted these invoices were reviewed by the Board Bond Advisory Committee prior to the meeting and approved to be brought forward for full board approval.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Proposal 1 Bond Technology Purchase

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the purchase of 70 Epson Brightlink Projectors using Proposal 1 Bond funds not to exceed \$93,030, as presented.

Director of Technology Mark Deschaine advised this purchase will allow the district to take advantage of an incredible rebate program being offered by Epson that will save the district just over \$13,000. The rebate is set to expire December 31, 2019. The projectors will be prepared and stored until such time that Beagle and Holbrook are ready for their installation.

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comments.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Mr. Smith thanked everyone for coming to provide the board with their commend. He noted the Leadership Report was very informative and he was fascinated to learn about the SAT Skills class being offered. In closing he noted he would love to see that anyone can take that SAT Skills Class weather you are behind, right there or ahead. He noted also that he is not ignoring the discussion about Relevant but does not feel he is informed enough to comment on it at this time.

Ms. Clark Pierson noted she has been interested in Relevant Academy for some time and she doesn't know of any reason not to move toward inclusion, especially when there are other various teams we share with other schools. However, she remarked she doesn't know if there are restrictions she is not aware of. But she noted while public comment is not to engage in conversation with the board, it is an opportunity for you to share with us and bring your concerns to light. She is concerned with the comments about the Art wing but knows the Superintendent will address that. In closing she noted she is glad to hear the SAT Prep class is still being offered remarking she thinks this is a great offering for our students.

GLHS Principal Ken Wright did advise to the board the class has been expanded over the past few years but noting it is geared to a strategically relevant group that will make the most gains from taking the course.

Assistant Superintendent Steve Gabriel expressed his appreciation to newly appointed Interim Principal Ken Wright for being here tonight and answering questions regarding the SAT Skills Course. He wanted to point out that he is good friends with former GLHS Principal Jill Mangrum and he congratulated her on her retirement and wishes her the very best. With regard to the Art wing concerns, he advised GMB Architects was out in mid-September and checked to ensure the safety of the structure. The concerns expressed are not structural, but cosmetic. The district is now trying to find the appropriate time to take care of those cosmetic concerns when students and staff won't be in the building. In closing, he assured everyone the integrity of the building noting again this is not a safety issue.

President McKennon expressed his appreciation for sharing concerns about the Relevant Academy, noting while he can't guarantee the outcome, he can guarantee the discussion will start. He congratulated all the students, staff, parents, and anyone involved in the most recent musical production noting he went to Miller Auditorium recently and it is his belief that our students were better than the professionals. It is wonderful to see.

Superintendent Metcalf noted he would work with the Governance Committee to begin the discussion with regard to Relevant Academy.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:


Ben Cayana, Secretary


Patrick McKennon, President