

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – November 27, 2023

MINUTES

President Smith 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**: Jarrod Smith, Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon, Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort, Ben Cwayna and Ashley Kuykendoll. **Board Members Absent**: None. **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance**: Brendon Bell, Tim Totten, Ashleigh Lore, Melissa Mazzola, Kim Laforet, Allyson McCann, Sally Jo Nelton, John Piper and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 27, 2023 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 27, 2023 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the November 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Dr. Glasscoe noted there is not a lot going on at present. The legislature is not expected to reconvene now until January 10th. Her focus continues to be on legislation that will focus on mental health resources for K-12 students.

B. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort shared at the last meeting the board recognized Mickey O'Neil on receiving the Outstanding School Communicator award, received an update from Instructional Services, noted the overlapping of meetings with the area superintendent and area curriculum directors, approved conference requests, the creation of a new Director of Safety & Employee Relations position, Truancy Court, and the payment of expenses associated with the school-based health clinic being housed in Grand Ledge. They further accepted a donation from the Charlotte Meijer's employees, and noted there is an RFP for the county-consortium wide area network lease.

C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report

Ms. Shannon shared the Foundation was fortunate to be the designated charity for the 1st Place Sports spirit sale. They are preparing for their Night of Stars event on December 7th that will showcase how teacher grants are being used in the classroom. Items from the

Foundation's recent fundraiser are scheduled to be picked up at Sawdon on December 14th and 15th. In closing she noted planning is starting for the next 5K Comet Chase Fundraiser in 2024.

D. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Report

Ms. Kuykendoll shared the committee met last week having a brief discussion on the HS presentation at the November 13th Board meeting and what the students are doing in their school, new positions within the district and what they will look like and updates to PowerSchool that impact parents.

E. Governance Committee Report

Ms. Shannon advised the committee did not meet, but are scheduled to meet next week to continue policy review.

F. Bond Update

Bond Supervisor John Piper shared bids have been received for Neff and post bid interviews are currently ongoing. Electrical bids for the project will be read on Wednesday this week with the intention of having a bid recommendation for board consideration at the next meeting. There were 38 bids received for summer work at Grand Ledge High School with post bid interviews ongoing. There is a meeting tomorrow with Clark Construction and GMB to review areas being looked at for rebidding. provided an update with regard to bond projects throughout the district. There will be a meeting tomorrow with Clark and GMB to discuss potential items for rebid. He provided an update on the Wacousta construction noting he is confident the project is running on time.

G. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Barnes noting the fall count window has closed and the district's FTE is 5,322 showing continual growth over the last couple of year. He shared that CFO Julie Waterbury will be providing the Board with its first 2023-2024 Budget Update at the December meeting.

a. Academic Services Presentation

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Steve Gabriel shared information regarding his department including the role and responsibilities of the Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services and the Academic Services Department.

A detailed discussion among the members clarified 23G funding, expressed appreciation for the clarification of acronyms, questioned what the board can do to support, commended the presentation and its ability to capture the job, expressing the need to ensure processes of how to do the job are outlined for the future, clarified work on grant submissions, and receiving clarification that we are continually assessing the current administrative structure to ensure viability in the future.

Dr. Barnes reiterated the benefit of doing these types of presentations is to ensure that the board, as well as those in attendance and who are viewing the meetings online, can see all the work, the level of expertise and professionalism we have in the central office staff. He commended Dr. Gabriel expressing his appreciation for him and what he does and what he brings to the role, noting it happens seamlessly.

H. Ongoing Discussions

Superintendent Barnes noted these are items / topics board members or public have asked about. He advised the Long-term suspension / expulsion process outline is in its final stages of review and he expects to share it with the members later this week and making it a regular part of the onboarding process for new members. He shared we are in the final stages of interviewing for the School Safety Supervisor and the Student Inclusion, Mental Health and Wellness Supervisor positions noting the great candidates with a wide range of experiences. He shared information regarding the addition of intimidation language to the student handbook and the district's ability to track those occurrences and how the new supervisory position can assist us in being more proactive in training around this area.

Ms. Kuykendoll questioned and received an update that the district is continuing to move forward with revising its enrollment documents prior to the next open enrollment with regard to selection options for race and gender noting federal government requirements and seeking further clarification if families would be allowed to go back to update their selections after the forms are revised and how that might impact data.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

Kim Laforet commended Dr. Barnes for implementing the central office reports noting they provide valuable information and expressed her desire to have board committees open to the public.

Brendan Bell spoke in support of opening board committee meetings to the public.

Tim Totten left the meeting and was not present to make public comment to the board.

OLD BUSINESS

A. BOARD COMMITTEES DISCUSSION

President Smith noted this is an on-going discussion to ensure all of the members have an opportunity to provide their feedback.

A detailed discussion among the members showed mixed opinions with concerns expressing it appears public concern is centered on one committee, not all committees, the need to ensure there is no violation of the OMA, questioning if committee meetings can be open for observation only, reiterating board committees are informational only and have no decision making power, all decisions and actions are done in a public meeting, questioning the legal requirements for documenting a committee meeting if it is open to the public, transparency noting the district is very transparent with the ability to view board meetings live, posting the videos of the meeting and all pertinent meeting information on the webpage and sharing communications with families regularly. At the conclusion of the discussion, the board requested Dr. Barnes seek guidance from district legal counsel and continue to gather information from other districts.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 31AA DISCUSSION

Dr. Barnes presented the proposed spending plan for funding received from Section 31aa of the 2023-2024 Mental Health / School Safety Grant.

A detailed discussion among the members reviewed the items included in the spending plan clarifying members' questions

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Executive Director of Technology Mark Deschaine commended those behind the scenes of the recent Little Mermaid musical, those who do lights and sounds. He noted last year they threw them a new digital sound system and this year a new digital lighting system. He remarked that Ms. Clark and the students worked hard to learn these new digital systems sharing it requires a totally different mindset from the former analog systems that were in place.

Dr. Barnes thanked Dr. Gabriel and the Central Office Leadership team. He expressed his appreciation for the level of discourse taking place at the board table and set the bar for how we should be discussing issues.

Ms. Kuykendall reiterated the little mermaid was an incredible production and gave kudos to all that made it possible. She expressed she was sorry she missed the last meeting and the presentation from the high school students but noted she had watched the meeting and the students are doing amazing things. She also missed the first Veterans Recognition at that meeting noting this came out of the EDI space. She congratulated district HR Director Kelly Jones and Brian Daniels recognizing that Mr. Daniels was unable to attend as well and sharing she will make sure he receives his recognition certificate on behalf of the district.

Mr. Cwayna thanked Ms. Kuykendoll for joining him for lunch the other day and noting it was a nice lunch.

Dr. Glasscoe expressed her appreciation for the many different perspectives voiced tonight and encouraging everyone to hear those different perspectives as the board deliberates and makes decisions. She commented disagreeing does not have to make us disagreeable and for her, conversations like tonight help inform her decisions remarking she may come to the table thinking one way and then someone will say something that brings a different light. She encourages the board to continue having these types of conversations. She thanked Dr. Gabriel for all he does to support Dr. Barnes and the district. In closing she shared that Dr. Barnes will be one of the key note speakers at the December 5th C3R discussion in the Michigan Room at LCC, sharing its all about data. She extended her invitation to her fellow board members.

President Smith expressed his appreciation for the board's candor tonight and looks forward to continuing to learn about everything that is going on in the district expressing it is fascinating, overwhelming and appreciated.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett 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:

Mrs. DuFort YES
Mr. Cwayna YES
Ms. Kuykendoll YES

President Smith YES
Ms. Shannon YES
Mr. Shiflett YES

The motion carried unanimously at 8:01 p.m.

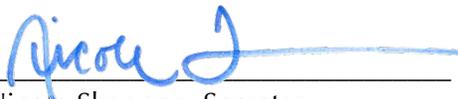
RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 8:27 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Attest:



Jarrod Smith, President