

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Regular Meeting – December 12, 2022

MINUTES

President Shiflett 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**: Jon Shiflett, Jarrod Smith, Nicole Shannon, Sara Clark, Denise DuFort, Ben Cwayna and Toni Glasscoe. **Members Absent**: None. **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones and Mark Deschaine. **Others in Attendance**: Spender Austin, Betty Austin, Ginny Austin, Teresa Dyer, Patty Roberts, Maggie Roberts, Julie Andersen, Addy Smith, Ryan Smith, John Piper, Dave Logel, Alyssa Arnouts, Kellen Teel, J. Teel, Leda Shannon, Summer Shannon, Rick Teel, Becky Teel, Melissa Mazzola, Ann Paquette-Lukens, Ashleigh Shepard, Kim Wheat, Sally Jo Nelton, Nell Pizzo, Howard Pizzo, Tara Barnhill, Mike Roberts, Rachelle Roberts, Mark Roberts, Abby Roberts, Ramandeet Kaur, Allyson McCann and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the December 12, 2022 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the December 12, 2022 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda was the November 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes and the teacher leave of absence for Erica Deters.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Dr. Glasscoe noted there are approximately 25 bills that could impact K-12 education. She noted some of the bills could lapse in the lame duck, but some may be brought back in the new legislature. One bill she is tracking is House Bill 4032 which would modify the rating structure and data on student growth as a factor of teacher and administrator evaluations. She noted she is happy to continue in this roll next year and would welcome another member to join her.

President Shiflett noted that all the legislators have gone home for the Holiday recess and there will be no business until after the new year.

B. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort noted the RESA Board received a report from Lauren Blakely, the new Executive Director of Relevant Academy, on changes to continue to grow enrollment, their focus, holding students more accountable and emphasizing community activities as well as implementing Hybrid learning starting in January. They also received a report from Instructional Services and implementing MTSS with an equity focus. They also approved some out of state staff travel requests and renewed the truancy case management with the 5th & 6th Circuit Court.

C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation

Ms. Shannon noted the Foundation raises money to provide grants to teachers to provide them with the opportunity to implement and grow learning opportunities for their students outside what the district funds can provide. She shared the Foundation awarded approximately \$10,000 in teacher grants this year highlighting Delta Center noting that Ms. Ward received money to grow the Mobile Maker Space, additionally money was given to help fund International Night coming in January and the music room now has an easy means to move their xylophones on carts. She noted there were several exciting things across the district and last week the Foundation held their Night of Stars where the teachers shared the grants in action.

D. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report

President Shiflett noted before he calls on Ms. Clark to provide the EDI report, he wanted to take a moment to recognize that this would be her last meeting and thanking her for 20½ years of service to the students, staff, families and community. 20½ years of leadership and mentorship, sitting on every committee, except the bond committee and leading the audit committee. He presented Ms. Clark with a plaque.

Ms. Clark noted she has enjoyed her years on the board and thanked everyone for their support of her over the years. She noted she is leaving the board with a wonderful administrative team and a good team in the members of the board. She noted this board has been “metal tested” and has really shown what a principled board is. She commented it was an honor to serve. She thanked Kim Manning who has served seven superintendents and interims in between and helps guide members.

Ms. Clark then noted the full board committee met with Dr. Barnes to talk about the presentation he will share later in the agenda with regard to the implementation of SMART Goals. She noted these goals imbed some of the suggestions received from the committee in their 2021 report to the board. The report was received by the board, but the board did not act on it. Instead, the administration and teams looked at the report and imbedded various recommendations under the goals for our Strategic Plan. She noted there was a lot of stakeholder input in the development of the Strategic Plan and the committee thought this was the best means moving forward. The committee was very pleased. She commented she felt the committee should have a role in monitoring the progress on this but recommends the board take a moment to ensure the make-up of the committee is where it needs to be as some members have dropped off.

E. Bond Update

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided the board with an update on the status of the current construction projects including the high school fine arts addition and Delta Center addition.

F. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Barnes took a moment to personally, and on behalf of the Administrative Team, thank Ms. Clark noting he always appreciate integrity. He thanked her for the support he has received from her as the Assistant Superintendent and now as Superintendent. He noted he will miss their conversation but commended her for everything she has done for the district and the community. He noted that giving more than 20 years of service to any organization should be commended commenting she has made a huge difference in the lives of many, including him personally and the district as a whole.

Two other quick mentions noted the installation of the new and improved board audio visual system starts tomorrow and should be operational for the next meeting to include live streaming of the meeting. Additionally, he noted the launch of a community information piece that persons who do not have children attending the school can sign up or to receive communications from the district. He noted there are cards on the sign-in table that have a QR code that you can scan to sign up or you go to glcomets.net/connect and complete the sign-up online.

He then noted he is excited to have students from Delta Center here tonight to help present some of the great things going on in their building. He introduced Delta Center Principal Teresa Dyer. Mrs. Dyer highlighted several things from Delta Center including intervention blocks, status of building construction including a new access road for safer arrivals and dismissals, diversity and cultural celebrations, and many other day-to-day happens within the building. The board then heard from students Ginny Austin, Leda Shannon, Japji Singh, Kenley Teel and Addy Smith, and Maggie Roberts with the assistance of 3rd grade teacher Mrs. Wheat.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Smith read the rules for addressing the board.

Dave Logel introduced himself to the board as the newly elected city council representative for Ward 1. He noted there are four school buildings within his Ward. He shared he has spoken with Dr. Barnes and expressed his desire to continue to strengthen the relationship between the City of Grand Ledge and Grand Ledge Public Schools.

Summer Shannon addressed the board sharing that Delta Center is a unique and creative place where the teachers teach students things they need to know. She suggested implementing a hydration station in the cafeteria.

OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Clark for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Strategic Plan Objectives, as presented.

Superintendent Barnes reminded the board that back on June 13, 2022 the board approved the Strategic Plan and instructed then Superintendent Dr. Davenport to begin the implementation plan process to develop objectives and action plans with measurements, timelines, responsibilities and a board monitoring calendar. He reviewed the alignment of these measures with MICIP the EDIC Report noting that the strategic plan should tie all elements of the organization together. He reviewed the work that has taken place since the June plan approval. Dr. Barnes went on to review each of the SMART goals as they apply to Academics and Programs, Learning Environment and Culture, Communication and

Community Engagement, Personnel and Leadership, and Operations. In closing, he noted he is seeking the board's approval of the developed SMART goals that will move the work forward noting in January the District School Improvement Team (DSIT) and the District Leadership Team (DLT) will develop responsibilities, measurements and a board monitoring calendar and that these elements will be brought to the board for approval in January or February 2023.

A detailed discussion among the members noted the individual building goals and the choices made to identify those goals, establishing the goals first and tasking Superintendent Barnes and the Administrative Team with how to measure and achieve the goals, concerns and clarification of the decision to not bring the EDI Committee report back to the board for approval, further clarification in aligning practices with the board approved Strategic Plan, the work that has gone into creating the SMART goals, the EDI Committee report was recommendations but was never intended to be all or nothing, this process was not done quietly or behind closed doors and has been discussed at board meetings on more than one occasion, the work of the EDI Committee was a strong part of the conversation during the Strategic Plan development and there was a wide range of persons included in that development, the SMART goals do not just drop the language out of the EDI Report into it but more of a natural progression of that report and put into a bigger picture aligned with the board approved Strategic Plan, these goals implement many pieces of many documents and fold them into one plan that aligns under our Strategic Plan but are not policies but guiding and tracking progress of the district to ensure it is successful, this is not and should not be considered approval of the EDI recommendations submitted by the Committee but as an extension of our Strategic Plan to meet our established belief statements and goals. The SMART goals build in tracking and accountability, being more cognizant and looking through that lens versus the way we have always done it in the past. This is the start of aligning everything under the Strategic Plan and ensuring continuous improvement.

The motion carried 6-1.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Clark, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$15,660.00, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted all invoices being brought forward were reviewed by the Board Bond Advisory Committee prior to being brought for the full board's consideration. These invoices represent work on the design of the storage barn.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF CAPITAL FUNDS INVOICES

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Capital Funds Invoices in the amount of \$295,275.57, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this represents work at the Fine Arts addition that is eligible under Capital Funds.

The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

C. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$561,312.07, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this is for work at Delta Center.

The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

D. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 1 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$2,756.54, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this represents equipment that will be put in the storage barn.

The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

E. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$661,940.15, as presented.

The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

F. APPROVAL OF BID AWARD

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the bid award to Groove Construction in the amount of \$264,655 for the construction of an athletic storage barn, with a PLM Bond in the amount of \$5,557, a contingency fund of \$15,000 and \$7,000 for testing for an overall project budget of \$292,212 using Sinking Fund dollars, as presented.

It was noted the storage barn will be constructed on the Southeast corner of the track near M-43.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. APPROVAL OF GL HIGH SCHOOL SEMINAR CLASS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Clark for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the addition of the High School Seminar Class, Comet Care and Connections, as presented.

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services noted this is the result of looking at the needs of the students at the high school. Dr. Barnes noted the middle school implemented a check and connect which is similar and discussions are taking place on future considerations for K-8 implementation.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services wish Ms. Clark all the best expressing his appreciation for all she has done for the district, shared the passing of long-time district employee Sheila Bell following a courageous battle with cancer and sending condolences to her family.

Dr. Barnes expressed his appreciation to the board for the conversation and feedback tonight noting he looks forward to continuing the conversation.

Dr. Glasscoe recognized the work that identified the SMART Goals and sharing that Dr. Barnes will be the keynote speaker on January 26, 2023 at LCC's C3R Summit and invited anyone interested in signing up to attend.

Mrs. DuFort acknowledged the great loss in Sheila's passes, expressed her appreciation for Dr. Barnes implementing the student groups sharing with the board about their schools, and recognized the work put into the Strategic Plan and the SMART Goals noting she does not remember ever seeing anything so complete for any district and commenting this is how we move forward.

Ms. Clark noted the discussion tonight and the comments reaffirm this is a good board going forward. She encouraged her colleagues to reach out to local districts, the townships and City of Grand Ledge and invite people to have coffee one-on-one to continue the conversation and build relationships, and noting she believes the Dave & Betty Morris property located at the corner of Bauer Road and Grand River will bring mammoth changes to this area that will be beneficial to the entire state.

Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Clark for being a great colleague and comments she has shown her dedication to this board and this district noting she was always thoughtful and always came from the right place and expressing he was glad to have had a chance to learn from her.

Ms. Shannon noted Ms. Clark has been a tremendous mentor to her and noting she believes she will continue to be involved in some way. She thanked her for her service.

Mr. Shiflett noted (jokingly) that even though Ms. Clark opposed his first appointment to the board he will miss her presence here and he expects continued conversations as he enjoys their conversations.

CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations & Superintendent's Annual Review

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations Strategies and conducting the Superintendent's Annual Performance Review, as per Section 8(1)(a) and Section 8(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Clark	YES	Dr. Glasscoe	YES
Mr. Smith	YES	Mr. Cwayna	YES
Ms. Shannon	YES	Mrs. DuFort	YES
President Shiflett	YES		

The motion carried at 8:23 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:56 p.m.

STATEMENT OF EVALUATION

Board President Shiflett will read the Statement of Evaluation at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

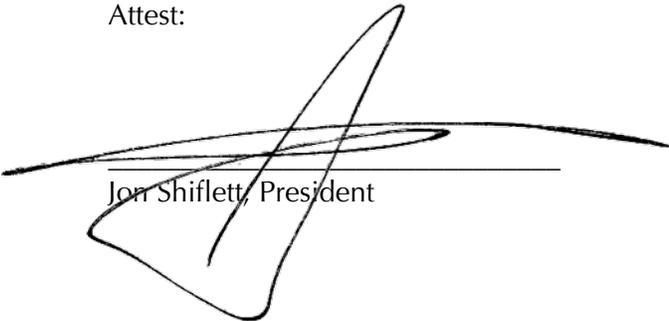
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Jarrod Smith, Secretary

Attest:


Jon Shiflett, President