

**GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
***Board of Education***

**March 11, 2024**

**MINUTES**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call by Superintendent Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Nicole Shannon, Denise DuFort, Ashley Kuykendoll, Jon Shiflett, Ben Cwayna and Toni Glasscoe. **Members Absent:** Jarrod Smith. **Central Office Administrators:** Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Landon Birchmeier, Melissa Mazzola, Brenton Bell, Dan Klodt, Ashlee Walker, Erin Fredericks, Madisyn Jackson, Don Collin, Mary Collin, Jan M. Seeger, Crystal Quintanilla-Howard, John Piper, Erin Criss, Tony Heriford, Scott Millbrook, Mary Moore, Cindy Zerbe, Dave Zerbe, Hunter Oneil, Brian Klopp, Tim Totten, Michael Fredericks, Jon Wise, Lana Wise, Shari Kissane, Kali Stevens, Eric Leopold and Kim Manning

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the March 11, 2024 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the March 11, 2024 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda were the Meeting Minutes of the February 12, 2024 Regular Meeting and the teacher hiring of Detta Willson-Hogan.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Knights of Columbus #7311**

Dan Klodt, Brian Klopp and members of the St. Michaels Knights of Columbus #7311 presented the district with a check for \$2,709.04 which is the result of their annual Tootsie Roll drive. He thanked the businesses that allowed the Knights to be outside their doors including A & W, the Grand Ledge Post Office and Quality Dairy in Grand Ledge and on West Saginaw. He expressed his appreciation and thanks to all two who donated noting that charity is at the heart of their Council and their faith and the members look forward to this fundraising event each year.

Executive Director of Student Services Wendy Seida and members of our LINKS program from Grand Ledge High School accepted the check on behalf of the district and thanked the Knights for their continued support for the students of Grand Ledge Public Schools.

**B. SetSeg Education Excellence Award**

Greg Gray of SetSeg and Don Wotruba, Executive Director of MASB presented Beagle Middle School Teacher Erin Fredericks with a check for \$2,500 as the winner of one of their Education Excellence Awards. They thanked the board and administration for encouraging and allowing their staff to come up with innovative programs that go above and beyond the normal classroom experience to engage students. They shared there were 280 applicants and 10 winners. Mrs. Fredericks application for her Art & STEM Showcase was one of the ten winners.

Mrs. Fredericks thanked SetSeg and MASB noting she is grateful to have been chosen. She went on to provide the board with an overview of the Art & STEM showcase from last year sharing that 400 students had work in the showcase through over 2000 pieces of art and machinery and items from the STEM classes. She invited everyone to attend this year's event on May 16, 2024 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Beagle Middle School.

Beagle Principal Dave Kushman thanked SetSeg and MASB and commended Mrs. Frederickson for always going above and beyond for the students.

**REPORTS**

**A. Capitol Connections** – Dr. Glasscoe expressed an interest in starting a conversation at the Board level on the impact or potential impact of some of the recommendations the Governor made as part of her budget proposal including things like implementing providing financial aid information and guidance as part of the requirements for graduation, providing free community college education within our taxing district and expanding the federal free and reduced breakfast and lunch program. Some of these could impact our budget, if passes, and feels it is good to start the conversation early.

Superintendent Barnes noted all three of the items mentioned would have a big impact on our students and the district. He noted there has been a significant increase in the number of meals being provided to students under the current Free and Reduced Meal Program. With regard to financial aid information and guidance, and free community college options are already on the district's radar. With approximately 400 seniors, the complexity is, how to get all those seniors through that process? He assured that we continue to monitor this as we get more information from the legislature and the Governor. In closing he noted that we are fortunate in that the district currently has one of the highest FAFSA completion rates in the region noting our partnership with CapCAN and Eaton RESA.

- B. Eaton RESA** –Mrs. DuFort’s had no report noting the next meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation** – Ms. Shannon reminded everyone that registration is open for the Foundation’s fundraising event, the Comet Chase 5K. She shared over 100 have signed up to date and encouraged everyone to join in on the fun.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Steve Gabriel, who is serving as the Race Coordinator noted 115 have signed up, many of them being staff members. He shared details on the race noting this year’s event will start and end at the new track and field facility and all proceeds from this event given back to the district through teacher grants from the Foundation.

Ms. Shannon noted you can register for the race at GLEF.net.

- D. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion** – Ms. Kuykendoll noted the committee met to discuss future planning and updates for engagement with the new Student Inclusion, Mental Health and Wellness Supervisor.
- E. Governance Committee** – Ms. Shannon noted the committee met to continue discussing and working on implementing processes for how to fill a board vacancy and orientation for new board members.
- F. Bond Update** – Bond Supervisor John Piper provided the board with an update on bond construction throughout the district including updates on the progress of the new Wacousta building, and upcoming work at Neff, High School, Hayes, Willow Ridge and Operations.
- G. Superintendent** – Superintendent Barnes thanked the Knights of Columbus and the community for their generosity noting the funds allow our LINKs to do some cool things. He thanked SetSeg, MASB and Mrs. Fredericks noting she school was truly transformed at last year’s event and looks forward to this year’s event.

He noted one of the things we have done this year is given our administrators and our leadership team the opportunity present on their department and building goals and highlight the great work that is going on throughout the district. He encouraged everyone to take a moment to look at the artwork in the hallway and down by his office noting this year we were deliberate in aligning the art showcases with the building that was presenting to the board. This month Hayes artwork is on display and Principal Eric Leopold and Assistant Principal Scott Millbrook are here to share the good things going on at Hayes Intermediate School.

**a. Hayes Intermediate School Presentation**

Hayes Principal Eric Leopold thanked Dr. Barnes and the Board for the opportunity to be here tonight.

Students Makayla Burrows and Lily Bedard shared information and experiences from their broadcasting class and creating the weekly Hayes Happenings videos. They prepared and presented a special edition of the Hayes Happenings for the Board.

Students Ellie Reese and Laura Heriford shared information regarding the Accelerated Math program at Hayes run by teacher Kathleen Mikulec and provided the board with an opportunity to solve one of their math problems.

Assistant Principal Scott Millbrook shared information about Comet Actions for Success which is one of their PBIS initiative for the whole school that rewards students for exemplifying excellent behavior. He noted a different success or positive character trait is chosen each month and the teachers nominate students by providing a written description of why a student should be recognized. The Dean of Students calls each of the selected student's parents and reads the teacher write up on their student.

Principal Eric Leopold then reviewed Hayes Intermediate School's MICIP goals and their student achievement growth as measured from the fall to spring in both Math and Reading and their plans to continue to improve through teacher to teacher sharing and resources.

Ms. Kuykendoll noted that while she doesn't have a student attending Hayes as of yet, she is hopeful that the math portion comes with resources for parents.

President Shannon thanked all the student presenters noting they did a fantastic job. She recognized Hayes for pushing to the next goal and having a united staff using data to drive outcomes. She thanked Mr. Leopold and his team for everything they are doing.

Mrs. DuFort expressed how much she liked the idea of the phone calls home to highlight positive behaviors of the students noting this is so powerful and builds strong relationships through such a small gesture.

Dr. Barnes noted, as a Hayes parent, he can attest that everything they talked about is being done. He reminded everyone the Intermediate School is only three years old and it is remarkable what the building is accomplishing. He gave Kudos to Mr. Leopold, Mr. Millbrook and the Hayes team and expressed his appreciation for taking the time to share tonight.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Kuykendoll provided an overview for giving public comment to the board.

Brenton Bell addressed the board to announce he will be running for the Board of Education.

Tim Totten addressed the board regarding Brenton Bell’s campaign and the health center, noting he believes there is pending legislation to lower the age of consent to 11 years old and expressing his concern on a “new research projects at the U of M for medical and behavioral things” and his perception that “our student’s medical information will be a pipeline to that project”.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. APPROVAL OF GLPS HEALTH CENTER CONSENT FORMS**

**Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Grand Ledge Public Schools Health Center Consent Forms, as presented.**

Dr. Barnes provided the board with information on the finalized consent forms noting the board had conditionally approved the forms back in December. He reviewed the two consent forms and noted that shared in the board packet was a summary of the revisions for each of the forms. He reminded everyone that the health center is operated by Sparrow Eaton within the halls of Grand Ledge High School. Medical staff are staff of Sparrow Eaton and behavioral and mental health staff are being supervised by the Eaton RESA.

In detailed discussion with the members they reviewed the grant process and board approval, confirmed Michigan law dictates what services can, and cannot, be provided without parental consent, making it explicitly clear that no services are being offered to minors that cannot be received at any other health center in Michigan, sharing the Grand Ledge Public Schools Health Center is a satellite campus for Sparrow Eaton, pointing out it is clearly noted on the Consent Forms that the “distribution of prescription of birth control pills and/or devices, such as condoms, and abortion counseling, referrals or services” are not provided, and further pointing out that the consent forms are clear, readable and transparent with the list of things that can be provided, depending on age, and what cannot be provided. During the discussion it was noted with Board approval, the consent forms will begin being sent home with Beagle and High School students, along with students attending Relevant Academy, and additionally an email from Dr. Barnes will be sent with the forms as well. During further discussion, it was agreed that a copy of the Consent Forms would be mailed, via US mail, to all Beagle, High School and Relevant Academy students. For Hayes and elementary students, the forms are available in the office.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. APPROVAL OF GLPS HEALTH CENTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

**Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the use of data from the MiPHY Survey for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Health Center Needs Assessment Process.**

Superintendent Barnes provided details noting that rather than creating a separate survey, to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students and families and the requirements of the grant, the Health Center will use the data from the MiPHY survey. He noted this is an anonymous, optional survey created at the state level for students to participate in each year.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. FURNITURE PURCHASE FOR WACOUSTA ELEMENTARY**

**Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the purchase of furniture for Wacousta Elementary School from DBI in the amount of \$59, 108.07, as presented.**

Mr. Shiflett noted this was reviewed by the Board Bond Advisory Committee prior to the board meeting. Superintendent Barnes noted this represents the purchase of furniture for offices; desks, chairs, conference tables. He noted we are still working with vendors on student furniture.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICE**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of a Sinking Fund Invoice in the amount of \$216, as presented.**

Mr. Shiflett advised this was reviewed by the Board Bond Committee and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents performance bond on work being done at Neff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$1,666,712.33, as presented.**

Mr. Shiflett advised this was reviewed by the Board Bond Committee and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents work at Wacousta.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**E. PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 3 BOND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$2,559.07, as presented.**

Mr. Shiflett advised this was reviewed by the Board Bond Committee and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents preparations for work at Willow Ridge and Hayes.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**F. PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 1 BOND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of a Proposal 2, Series 1 Bond Invoice in the amount of \$7,138, as presented.**

Mr. Shiflett advised this was reviewed by the Board Bond Committee and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents equipment for the weight room at the High School.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD**

Superintendent Barnes thanked our community partners for gracing us with monetary donations, Hayes for their outstanding presentation and the Board for approving the Health Center. He expressed his excitement to open the Health Center noting we will continue to monitor to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students and families throughout the year.

Dr. Glasscoe commended the work that goes into everything the board sees and hears about every month noting it does not go unnoticed. She thanked Hayes for their presentation and expressing she likes seeing how data is being used and is thrilled that our staff are being used to coach and support their colleagues. In closing she expressed the importance of the MiCIP and MiPHY surveys remarking the data it provides is very important.

Mr. Cwayna thanked Hayes for their presentation and commended Mr. Bell commenting it is exceptional when young people get involved.

Mr. Shiflett referenced the Knights of Columbus donation commenting he did not see them out during their Tootsie Roll sale and noting he is a Tootsie Roll enthusiast and would have loved to support them in their efforts. He echoed Mr. Cwayna's comments to Mr. Bell noting it takes courage and wishing him luck.

Ms. Kuykendoll thanked Hayes, the Knights of Columbus, SetSeg and MASB. She then asked Mr. Ellsworth about the video for the Polar Plunge that the administration participated in to help raise funds for Special Olympics.

Mrs. DuFort Denise – Echo Dr. Glasscoes comments regarding the MiPHY and MiCIP surveys, commending Mrs. Fredericks for the art show and encouraging everyone to attend this year. She gave a shout out to Mr. Piper noting we are very lucky to have him and

thanked him and Dr. Barnes for taking the board on a tour of the new Wacousta building on Saturday.

Ms. Shannon welcomed Mr. Bell into the field of public service. She thanked SetSeg, MASB and the Knight of Columbus. She remarked the Hayes presentation was great and she loves seeing the students take charge or representing their schools. In closing she noted there is a lot of information about graduation and drop-out rates currently being shared and noted Grand Ledge Public Schools is “knocking it out of the park”.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Cwayna 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:**

Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	President Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>	Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>

**The motion carried unanimously at 7:27 p.m.**

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

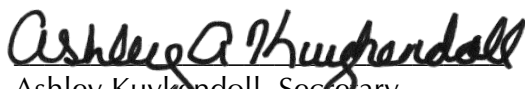
The meeting reconvened in open session at 7:54 p.m.


**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

  
Ashley Kuykendoll, Secretary

  
Nicole Shannon, President