

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

Organizational Meeting – January 8, 2024

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. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Julie Waterbury, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Tim Totten, Jan M. Seeger, Brenton Bell, Kim Laforet, Ashleigh Lore, Sally Jo Nelton, Melissa Mazzola and Kim Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brenton Bell addressed the Board commenting he is looking forward to a happy productive year for the board and wishing them a Happy New Year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Smith thanked his colleagues for their support and work this year and expressed his appreciation for the chance to work with Dr. Barnes and the member of COLT.

Board Secretary Nicole Shannon conducted the Election of President.

A. President

Mr. Shiflett nominated Nicole Shannon for the 2024 President of the Board of Education.

There were no other nominations.

The nomination of Nicole Shannon for the 2024 President of the Board of Education carried unanimously.

President Elect Shannon conducted the election for Vice President and Secretary.

B. Vice President

Ms. Shannon nominated Denise DuFort for the 2024 Vice President of the Board of Education.

There were no other nominations.

The nomination carried unanimously.

C. Secretary

Mr. Smith nominated Ashley Kuykendoll for the 2024 Secretary of the Board of Education.

There were no other nominations.

The nomination carried unanimously.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

President Shannon noted we do not have a proposed motion on this item, and a motion would be necessary for any changes to current practice. She opened the floor for discussion among the members.

Motion by Mr. Cwayna seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to open the committee meetings to the public noting they will not be subject to the Open Meetings Act, effective immediately.

A detailed discussion among the members covered efficiency and flexibility of the committees, the purpose of committees, noting committees has no authority and are advisory only, noting only the full board has the authority to make any decisions, trying to open the committee meetings noting they can be closed back up if it doesn't work out, Work Sessions and Regular Meetings are the public face of the board, not seeing much added benefit to the public in opening the committee meetings, ensuring one sub-committee is not being targeted, even if the meetings are opened to the public, there is no opportunity for public comment and it is strictly for the public to hear what is going on, committee meetings will not be subject to the Open Meetings Act and therefore no meeting notices will be posted, the meeting date and time may change at the last minute, no space for public comment, there is not a quorum of the board so there is no decision making authority in a committee meeting, erring on the side of openness, if the meetings are kept closed can the committee still open a meeting to have one for the public noting this was not addressed by legal counsel, concerns over opening the meeting without any established policies and practices in place and proposing the board take some time to consider how this will be established.

The last comment was noted as a friendly amendment from Mrs. Kuykendoll to Mr. Cwayna and Dr. Glasscoe to postpone the opening of the meeting for one month to ensure there is time to establish parameters for the meeting.

Mr. Cwayna and Dr. Glasscoe accepted the friendly amendment.

In closing the discussion, President Shannon noted she appreciates where the motion is coming from but committee meetings represent the best way to get the work done.

President Shannon called for a vote of the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was requested:

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|----------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| Ms. Kuykendoll | <u>NO</u> | Dr. Glasscoe | <u>YES</u> |
| Mr. Cwayna | <u>YES</u> | Mr. Smith | <u>NO</u> |
| Mrs. DuFort | <u>YES</u> | President Shannon | <u>NO</u> |
| Mr. Shiflett | <u>NO</u> | | |

The motion failed.

SELECTION OF BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

President-Elect Shannon made the following appointments for 2024:

- Parliamentarian: Ben Cwayna
- Legislation Liaison: Toni Glasscoe
- Board Representative to the GL Education Foundation: Nicole Shannon
- Members of the Board Audit Committee: Nicole Shannon, Ben Cwayna, Ashley Kuykendoll
- Members of the Board Bond Advisory Committee: Jon Shiflett, Jarrod Smith, Denise DuFort
- Members of the Board Governance Committee: Nicole Shannon, Toni Glasscoe, Ben Cwayna
- Members of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee: Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort, Ashley Kuykendoll

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the January 8, 2024 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included under the Consent Agenda was setting the Board Compensation Rate, noting it remains the same rate as established in 2014 with no increase, the reaffirmation and adoption of the Legal Reference Note; approval of the depositories/signatures for school funds; naming the Grand Ledge Independent as the official newspaper for publication purposes and authorizing the Superintendent (or his designee) to be the designated person to post official business notices; the delegation of the district's election duties to the Superintendent (or his designee); retaining The Thrun Law Firm as the district's legal counsel, Maner Costerisan & Ellis, PC as the district's financial auditors and the Michigan Association of School Boards as the district's consultant for non-certified bargaining groups; and, reaffirming that all seven (7) members of the board of education will sign all ratified collective bargaining agreements.

The motion carried unanimously.

SETTING OF 2023 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Option B as the 2024 Board of Education Meeting Schedule, as presented.

It was noted there are three options to select from with Option A being the normal two meetings a month with a few months only having one meeting due to holidays and school breaks, Option B would be more one meeting months with a few two meeting months, and Option C would implement a one meeting per month schedule.

A detailed discussion among the members noted that while one meeting per month is appealing, there is a lot of work to be done and with the new reports the board is receiving it is believed to be important to keep the same schedule as they have had in the past.

Mr. Smith and Dr. Glasscoe accepted a friendly amendment to change the motion to Option A.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT


The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Ashley Kuykendoll, Secretary



Nicole Shannon, President