

## GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Virtual Committee of the Whole / Work Session – February 8, 2021

### MINUTES

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

### ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Interim Superintendent Dave Chapin indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Sara Clark Pierson from Eagle Township, Clinton County, Jarrod Smith remotely from City of Lansing, Ingham County, Nicole Shannon Oneida township, Eaton County, Jon Shiflett remotely from City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County , Denise DuFort remotely from City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Patrick McKennon remotely from Oneida Township and Ben Cwayna remotely from City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County. **Central Office Administrators**: Dave Chapin, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance** Mike Collins, Bridget Cheney, Kathy Schoenfelder, Theresa Abed, Bill Albrecht, Greg Almy, Kellee Auge, Andrea Babbitt, Amber Baker, Kristin Baker, Erik Barnhill, Tara Barnhill, Emily Bartlett, Kaleb Batterham, Bianca Blackwelder, Carolyn Bovee, Kim Browning, Julie Brunk, Taylor Brush, Andreienne Burns, Michele Cadwell, Dee Campbell, Cassidy Chandler, Caitlin Christenson, Laura Clark, Nola Cockroft, Molly Cool, Jessica Cornman, Tim Cornman, Whitney Craig, Morgan Cross, Alyssa Cummings, John David, LeeAnn Dayton, Jenny Deja, Briane Dennis, Julie Douglas, Megan Drake, Katie Dufresne, Teresa Dyer, Megan Farnsworth, Caitlin Fenby, Lindsey Fender, Tiffany Floate, Ben Flowerday, Catherine Flowerday, Jill Ford, Elyse Fox, Ethan Fox, Katie Fox, Joni Fuller, Alison Gaffner, Erin Gallaway, Traci Gentilozzi, D’Anne Golub, Jenn Grantham, Chris Groves, Laura Guild, Krista Hatfield, Erica Heilbronn, Amy Heriford, Melissa Hinojosa, Kristen Hoard, Alex Hoeksema, John Hubbard, Lara Hubbard, Tyler Hubert, Jenny Jarrard, Jen Bouck, Blake Johnson, Cecilia Jones, Matt Junak, Emily Justice, Stephanie Kiser, Elly Knaggs, Michelle Knauff, Teresa Koenigsknecht, Christie Konieczny, Tara Kopietz, Hayden Kreis, Kelci Laugal, Marisa Lay, Erica Ledesma, Leesha Lee, Nicole Leitch, Carrie Long, Sarah Mida, Michelle Mabis, Erin Marsh, Tim Marsh, Todd Marsh, Laura Mauren, Melissa Mazzola, Debra McCrumb, Jamie McKennon, Charity McLaren, Amy McLean, Amanda McNew, Michelle Mead, Kristy Merignac, Alice Mills, Amber Moody, Nate Moore, Darren Musolff, Chad Myers, Jackie Nelson, Stacy Nelson, Kelly Nevison, Jessica Newton, Laura O’Connor, Tiffany Oganek, Sara Ostertag, Ann Paquette-Lukens, Ashley Parks, Stephanie Phillips, Colleen Price, Marlene Promer, Pauline Quagliata, Heidi Ransom, Teresa Reed, Erin Ries, Julie Rollis, Carlyn Ross, Lisa Scholten, Ryleigh Scott, Jeff Sewick, Lucinda Shier, Lesley Simon, Kelly Smith, Erin Snyder, Megan Soltow, Jamie Southworth, Susan Sowle, Angie Stevens, Lucas Terpstra, Jocelyn Thelen, Andrew Torrey, Rachel VanDeven, Michelle VanDuine, Dawne Velianoff, Carly Waldrop, Doug Waldrop, Jenny Waybright, Katie Waybright, Megan Weber, Kelly Webster, Kristy Welch, Vicki Wenzlick, Kristen Wren, Ken Right, Aaron Yuesten, Dan Cwayna and Kim Manning

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

**A. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH – RAY & ASSOCIATES**

Mike Collins, Bridget Cheney and Kathy Schoenfelder from Ray & Associates lead the board in a discussion on the search for the Next Superintendent of Grand Ledge Public Schools. They reviewed and established a timeline for the Superintendent Search, determined how the board would like to receive the results of the 33 Qualities online survey, confirmed Kim Manning will serve on the consultant's in-house contact person, discussed the procedures for developing the promotional flyer noting they would like Ray & Associates to take the lead with input from district Communication Director John Ellsworth, reviewed and approved the online application presented, discussed and determined where to advertise the opening, and discussed in detail the salary scale for the position.

**B. GLPS EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN UPDATE**

Dr. Chapin, in conjunction with Dr. Barnes and Dr. Gabriel provided a detailed updated with regard to the district's COVID-19 Learning plan including a recommendation for the board to consider that would strive for larger scale in-person learning on March 1, 2021.

Dr. Barnes provided updated information regarding the two-way learning log data from December 20, 2020 through January 26, 2021, reviewed the potential for summer school noting the development of a guidance committee for K-12 educators advising the established Comet Camp, which is grant funded and provides extra reading support for students in K-3 grade will continue in conjunction with Kids Read Now. He provided a detailed explanation of the Metric and how this is being used as a guide to a common, agreed upon understanding about how GLPS defines safety during the pandemic and reviewed the primary indicators.

Dr. Gabriel reviewed the secondary indicators including community factors, vaccines, community spread, trends, testing capacity, hospital capacity, PPE in the district / mitigation efforts, staffing capacity and the ability to maintain in person instruction. He reviewed other considerations noting teachers will need dedicated time to update curriculum and instructional goals, students will need time to reacquaint themselves, technology stations need to be established to maximize virtual instruction and in person instruction and noted teachers are still responsible for their regular duties for virtual instruction while they are making the transition to in person learning. He reviewed the metric with regard to transitioning from the Red Phase to the Yellow Phase covering what supports the return and what challenges are still being faced. In closing he reviewed the current reality noting the district will maintain the current metric and take all secondary factors into account along with the core indicators when making decisions but the recommendation is to put a plan in place to move into the Yellow Phase with a targeted date of March 1 to align with the Governor's recommendation, as long as the core indicators continue to decline and stay consistent. The targeted March 1 date provides time to ensure everything is in place for a safe return to in-person instruction, allows more staff to receive the vaccination, more filter systems to be installed in the building and more barriers to be built.

A detailed discussion among the members answered questions regarding what the current positivity rate is, what a day in the life of an elementary student will look like upon the return to in-person learning and the many variations and factors that are being addressed by the individual buildings as well as noting what a day looks like in week one will be different than what a day looks like in week three as adjustments will be made along the way as different items arise once kids are back in classrooms, noting the staff, building principals and administration have worked hard to establish this back to in-person learning under the guidance received from the Governor, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services and the Barry Eaton District Health Department noting everyone wants this to work and our profession will make this work. Further discussion reviewed how information about vaccine availability is getting out to staff and how communication will work in the event the district has to shut down a classroom, building, or the entire district again due to an outbreak.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS TO INCLUDE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE GLPS EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN**

District Employee and GLEA President Greg Almy read a prepared statement on behalf of the teachers association noting they support the metric and using it as intended so the school community is assured of safety.

Community Member and Parent Laura O'Connor addressed the board in support of the student returning to in-person learning.

Community Member and Grandparent LeAnn Dayton addressed the board expressing concerns even if the students return to in-person learning.

Parent John Hubbard addressed the board to thank the teachers and asking the district to open up or telling the parents it isn't going to happen this year.

Community Member and Parent Stephanie Kiser addressed the board to encourage another survey as what was presented in the last one was different than what was described tonight.

Community Member and Parent Erica Ledesma address the board to thank all the staff who have been putting this plan together since March of last year and noting she would support an actual snow day for students.

Community Member and Parent Dawne Velianoff addressed the board for clarification on changes to labor agreements referenced and expressing her views on the Superintendent search.

Community Member and Parent Blake Johnson addressed the board regarding getting students back into classrooms and working under the Metric.

Community Member and Parent Laura Clark addressed her perspective of the impact virtual learning is having on her impaired child and asking the district to let students come back.

Grand Ledge High School Student Ethan Fox addressed the board to express his concerns over the lack of acknowledgement the Class of 2021 has received and all the experiences they are losing this year.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Floor Motion: Motion by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to abandon the metric and establish March 1, 2021 as a hard date for students to return to in-person learning.**

There was no second for the motion and the motion failed on the table.

**A. Approval of the GLPS Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan**

**Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Continuation of the GLPS Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, as presented and approved on December 14, 2020; larger scale in-person instruction to begin as guided by the “GLPS COVID-19 Guide to Decision-Making – Safe Return to In-Person Instruction” document with March 1, 2021 as the target date to transition from Red to Yellow.**

A detailed discussion among the members addressed Mr. Cwayna’s floor motion and clarifying the motion on the floor notes that unless something drastically changes, groups of students will be returning to class on March 1, 2021, the need to continue using the Metric as a guide as it was established in conjunction with experts, teachers, staff, health and medical professionals, as well as the Governor’s recommendations, the requirements established that the district must meet to ensure a safe return for students and staff, amending the Metric to address new information as it relates to the pandemic, clarifying the board did not create this situation COVID-19 created this situation, stressing larger groups of students will return to in-person learning on March 1, 2021 unless something drastic changes and noting the GLPS Guide for the Safe Return to In-Person Learning clearly states that all indicators – not just core indicators - will be considered as decisions are made and will likely vary in value over time due to the ever changing conditions.

Mr. Shiflett called the motion.

**Roll Call Vote**

Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	President Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>NO</u>
Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried 6-1.

**B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Meeting Minutes, as presented.**

Included were the January 11, 2021 Organizational and Regular Meeting and Closed Session Minutes and the January 25, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes.

**Roll Call Vote**

Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>
President Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

**C. Approval of Hiring**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the hiring of Angeline Ok, as presented.**

**Roll Call Vote**

Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>
President Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

**D. Approval of the Payment of Proposal 1 Bond Invoices**

**Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$1,886,573.45, as presented.**

Mr. Smith advised the Bond Committee met and is keeping track of the ongoing construction costs noting this represents invoices associated construction management fees, architectural fees and payment to 27 individual trades for the month of January 2021.

**Roll Call Vote**

Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>
President Clark Pierson	<u>Abstain</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>		

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

**E. Approval of the Payment of Proposal 2 Invoices**

**Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$800,135.94, as presented.**

Mr. Smith, noted this cost represents invoices associated with construction management fees, architectural fees and payment to 10 individual trades for the month of January 2021 noting most of these expenses are involving the pool.

**Roll Call Vote**

President Clark Pierson	<u>Abstain</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>		

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON - AGENDA ITEMS**

Community Member Tim Marsh addressed the board regarding the Superintendent Search and more specifically the pay scale.

Community Member and Parent Jason Warriner addressed the board regarding the Metric and the need to adjust it over time as information changes.

Parent John Hubbard addressed the board to thank Mr. Cwayna.

Community Member and Parent Erica Ledesma addressed the board about the lack of those who made public comment providing their address and noting listening doesn't always mean agreeing and we can disagree and still listen to one another.

Community member and Parent address the board to thank Mr. Cwayna.

Community Member and Parent Tyler Hubert addressed about getting the kids back to the classroom and getting extra-curricular activities going

Community Member and Parent Katie Fox addressed the board to thank Mr. Cwayna, encouraged the board to listen to the parents and expressed concerns for the Class of 2021.

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD**

President Clark Pierson noted she was the one who offered that people did not need to give their street address noting it is not required by law and identifying themselves with their full name and where they are joining from. She further noted this board of education has been through a lot over this past year and it has strengthened the board between the members. She assured the public there is no animosity among the members from one to another.

Mr. Smith echoed President Pierson regarding the strength of this board and the respect the members have for each other. He noted he is looking forward to bringing students back on March 1 and thanked the parents, grandparents and everyone who is working to make virtual learning a success.

Ms. Shannon noted she appreciates the discussion and understands it is difficult when it is just a yes or no vote. She stressed no one is dismissing anyone's view, the board is listening. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Almy for clearly sharing where the teachers stand. In closing she agreed with Mrs. Ledesma and supports a snow day for students.

Mr. McKennon noted Mr. Cwayna makes this a stronger board and the discussion among members challenges all seven members. He stressed he is on a big push for March 1 to get larger groups of students back in the schools. In closing he noted he knows the story of Dr. Chapin and there might be a snow day coming.

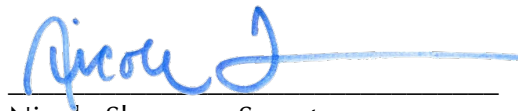
Superintendent Chapin noted these are tough times for everybody but assured everyone the district is all in with bringing larger groups of students back on March 1 and want this to be right.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Sara Clark Pierson, President