

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Work Session – April 13, 2020

MINUTES

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Brian Metcalf indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Denise DuFort, Jarrod Smith, Jon Shiflett, Sara Clark Pierson, Kim Mulvenna, Patrick McKennon and Ben Cwayna **Central Office Administrators:** Brian Metcalf, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Jay Bennett, Melissa Mazzola, Sandra McCormick, Barb Feldkamp and Kim Manning

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Metcalf advised the district's continuation of learning plan that the Governor is requiring was completed last week. It was submitted to the Eaton RESA last Wednesday, approved on Thursday and the administrative team began working on Friday and throughout the weekend for the rollout to staff, teachers and our community.

He went on to note the Consumers Energy has begun work on the Nixon Road underground pipeline in conjunction with the Temporary Work Area Agreement approved by the board. However, construction under the bond proposals has been delayed due to the stay home order. He noted he does not have specific details on how the stay home order has impacted the district's timeline for completion of bond projects, but noted there, of course, has been significant delay.

In closing he noted he wanted to thank so many people across the district who are working diligently through this very trying time. He noted our maintenance staff has been in the building every day, technology coaches are working exceptionally hard. Math and reading coaches are working to get ready to support our teachers under the Continuation of Learning (COL) plan. Our technology department has worked diligently to support our efforts. Teachers have been connecting with kids from the very first day we were put the stay home order and starting next Monday they will be working with our students in a different reality. My administrative team has worked exceptionally hard on how we are going to continue to support our students and our staff in this new reality. And, of course, our food service Department, Darrin Gyurich, Chartwells and all the food service staff are working diligently to provide 2 meals a day, 7 days a week to any student who needs it. Staff are coming in to make those meals, every day prepping. And lots of volunteers from the community and staff have stepped up to help with the distribution of those meals. Just a huge thank you from me to all our staff, volunteers and our community.

Member Sara Clark Pierson asked if we were using school buses to distribute the food.

Superintendent Metcalf advised we have set up a pick up location at Beagle. Families pull up and volunteers are putting the food in the back end of the vehicle. As for how many, staff prepped for about 400 children to participate in this program.

Ms. Clark Pierson noted she is pleased to hear we are able to do this and just wanted to make sure we were being as relatively discreet as possible.

Dr. Metcalf advised this is a no judgement zone. We didn't ask for anything other than how many meals do you need. There is no documentation.

Member Kim Mulvenna thanked everyone for doing this.

ACTION ITEM

A. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna 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 \$31,831.51, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Member Mulvenna questions the GMB invoice noting they were showing an invoice as 120 out.

Dr. Metcalf advised this is just a delay in their billing and processing under the circumstances, but there is no delay in our payment of invoices.

Chief Financial Officer, Nancy Rasinske noted Dr. Metcalf is correct. The invoice was delayed in getting to us, it was approved by the board last month and it is just not noted on this invoice.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1 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 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$214,166.48, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>

Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>		

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

C. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$3,309.60, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Community Member Jay Bennett thanked the all the Grand Ledge staff for everything they have been doing and are going to start doing regarding the education plan. He noted this is an unprecedented time for educators but he has no doubt everyone is up to the task. In closing he reminded members that their association, Michigan Association of School Boards, is still teaching several online CBA classes noting there is a lot going on with the Association.

Community member and parent Sandra McCormick addressed the board advising she has a daughter who attends 3rd grade at Willow Ridge. She just wanted to thank the district and staff for all the communication that has been going on. She expressed, as a parent, she has never felt left out and just wanted to express her thanks for your awesome leadership.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Board Member Kim Mulvenna noted this administration, Sandra said it best, the leadership has been the best. Teachers are jumping in. She just wanted to express her thanks to everyone, custodians, maintenance, food service... just everyone. I send you all my appreciation.

Vice President Jarrod Smith noted he too would like to thank everyone for jumping in and reaching out to students. Teachers collaborating, preparing to provide or continuing to provide for our students. I sure this has taken a lot of work behind the scenes. But kudos to this administration and staff.

Member Sara Clark Pierson noted she feels the same way. I just want to acknowledge that the next year is going to be an extremely hard one. She anticipates a lot of tough choices. There is going to be pain and sacrifice. This is when you show your true self.

Mr. Smith clarified that Ms. Clark Pierson is getting that eventually the economics are going to roll through on this.

Ms. Clark Pierson confirmed this and noted that people are going to have to be willing to continue to do things differently, just like we are now.

Member Patrick McKennon echoed what everyone else has said. He commended Dr. Metcalf on the leadership he has shown throughout this time, noting it is the ultimate “what if” scenario. He further stated no superintendent, principal or teacher has ever planned for this. Given the last three to four weeks, we, as a district, a state, and a country have continued to move forward. Everyone has done a great job.

Board Member Ben Cwayna noted he would echo what Ms. Clark Pierson mentioned in that we need to continue to look forward. He thanked the leadership of the district and he thanked the teachers noting they have been exception as he has witnessed it himself with regard to his son.

President Denise DuFort noted she supports everything everyone else has already said. She commended the district’s strong leadership. She noted there is no way this happens without everyone pulling together. She commented we all have concerns about next year but she is confident we are already starting to think about this. She thanked Dr. Metcalf, his administrative team, the teachers, the lunch crews our custodial maintenance staff noting there is a lot of great things coming out of this difficult situation.

Member Kim Mulvenna asked about the next regular meeting scheduled for May 11th asking if the Superintendent thinks we will hold that meeting in person, or will it be on Zoom.

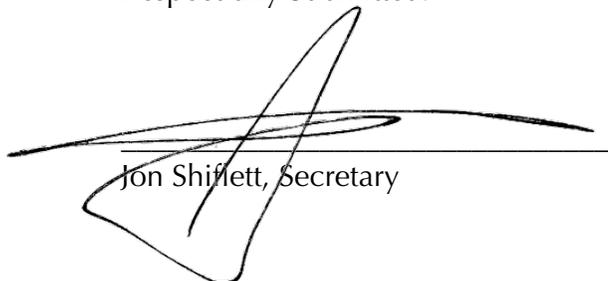
Superintendent Metcalf Brian noted that while he is hoping to have the office open back up on May 1 he just doesn’t have a firm answer one way or another. He advised he thinks a lot has come to light but there is just no way of knowing. He commented we are blessed to have a good community behind us, supporting us. He noted he was on a Zoom meeting earlier and his daughter was upstairs on a Zoom with her 4th grade class and when she came down I asked her how many of her classmate participated, she remarked, “all of them!” We know we need the kids in the classroom, but right now, when we can’t, we are going to do everything we can to continue to support them. Next year, when we need to figure out how to get them back up to speed, we’ll figure that out too.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:29p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Jon Shiffett, Secretary



Denise DuFort, President