

## GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Committee of the Whole / Work Session – October 11, 2021

### MINUTES

Secretary Nicole 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 Marcus Davenport indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Nicole Shannon, Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort, Patrick McKennon, Ben Cwayna. **Central Office Administrators**: Marcus Davenport, Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance** Melissa Mazzola, Jason Devenbaugh, Allie Bennett, Dawn Velianoff, Tim Totten, Nell Pizzo, Howard Pizzo, Lucinda Shier, Leanna Agheneza and Kim Manning

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. McKennon read the rules for addressing the board.

Dawne Velianoff addressed the board regarding her perception of a lack of transparency.

John Hubbard addressed the board regarding masks and the upcoming Sinking Fund Millage renewal.

Alex Harkins addressed the board requesting a better understanding of the district's quarantine guidelines.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### **A. SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION TRAINING**

Denise DuFort noted the Board's Governance Committee hasn't had a chance to meet following the training session last week but they are intending to have a meeting prior to the next board meeting. She noted that since Dr. Davenport has not been with the district for a full year, there will have to be some modifications in the evaluation process.

##### **B. MASKS**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to add a discussion item regarding Masks to this agenda and every agenda moving forward.**

A detailed discussion among the members included that discussion is always good, the potential for student vaccinations at all levels, keeping the discussion at the forefront, new roll outs for testing, the data hasn't changed and noting rate of kids testing positive is increasing, having more discussion amongst the board, listening to the medical professionals and revisiting at a time when something changes.

**Ms. Shannon called for the vote. The motion failed 3/2.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF TEACHER HIRINGS**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve teacher hiring of Lisa Brehmer, Sally Ford, Jennifer Harlow and Karen Linton, as presented.**

Dr. Gabriel provided background information on the hiring and noted each of the candidates is highly qualified.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. APPROVAL OF PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENT**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the appointment of CJ VanNieuwenhuyzen to the Parent Advisory Committee, as presented.**

Executive Director of Student Services, Sara Holding providing the board with background information on the appointment to the Parent Advisory Committee.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. APPROVAL OF UPDATES TO THE 2021-2022 STUDENT HANDBOOKS**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2021-2022 Student Handbooks as updated and presented.**

Dr. Barnes provided the board with a detailed overview of the updates to the student handbooks noting this is to correct some typos that were in the handbooks as approved in August. Additionally, the new CFO, Julie Waterbury was added to the administrative list. Finally, he noted that the dress code in the elementary and high school handbooks are being updated to mirror the dress code as approved in the Middle School handbook.

Mr. McKennon read the dress code language.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**E. APPROVAL OF BOND TECHNOLOGY PURCHASE**

**Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Bond Technology Purchase in the amount of \$31,937.26 using 2018 Proposal 1, Series 1 Bond Infrastructure Funds, as presented.**

Mr. McKennon provided the details of this purchase noting it is for network and projectors at Beagle and Holbrook.

The motion carried unanimously.

**F. APPROVAL OF BOND BID AWARDS**

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to bid awards for the High School Fine Arts / Athletic Addition to Dobie Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$93,300 and \$516,400 for demolition and General Trades, respectively, Proline Concrete in the amount of \$552,797 for Concrete Foundations, Moores Trospier in the amount of \$310,500 for Concrete Flatwork, Kerkstra Precast in the amount of \$284,050 for Precast, Delta Steel in the amount of \$507,200 for Structural Steel, Davenport Masonry in the amount of \$1,029,000 for Masonry, Architectural Metal Panels in the amount of \$183,300 for Metal Panels, Aaron Glass in the amount of \$402,300 for Glass & Glazing, Great Lakes Roofing in the amount of \$225,360 for Roofing, Stone Creek in the amount of \$338,750 for Casework, Ritsema Building Company in the amount of \$409,600 for Walls & Ceilings, Praise Sign in the amount of \$42,259 for signage, Burgess Concrete in the amount of \$36,848 for Polished Concrete Floors, H & H Painting in the amount of \$87,904 for Painting, Integrity Interiors in the amount of \$98,690 and \$64,975 for Hard Tile and Athletic Surfaces, respectively, Lansing Tile in the amount of \$78,357 for Carpet / Base / Flooring, Concrete Floor Treatment in the amount of \$33,142 for Epoxy Flooring, Elite Lockers in the amount of \$159,908 for Lockers, Kone in the amount of \$106,370 for Elevator, Vanderhyde Mechanical in the amount of \$656,952 for Plumbing, Professional Thermal in the amount of \$1,589,000 for HVAC, Total Fire Protection in the amount of \$85,899 for Fire Protection, Centennial Electric in the amount of \$1,436,280 for Electrical, ET McKenzie in the amount of \$881,224 for Site Work, Proline Concrete in the amount of \$390,299 for Site Concrete, American Asphalt in the amount of \$190,872 for Asphalt Paving, Driesenga Associates in the amount of \$19,000 for Material Testing and Functional Consulting in the amount of \$7,050 for Commissions noting a Construction Contingency of \$777,471 and General Conditions in the amount of \$164,139 for a total bid award of \$11,759,196, using \$9,036,784 in Bond Funds and \$2,722,412 from the Technology Replacement Fund, as presented.

Mr. McKennon noted this is for the upcoming project at the high school to create a fine arts and athletic addition on the south end of the building.

The motion carried unanimously.

**G. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES**

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$17,246.42, as presented.

Mr. McKennon noted this is to finish work at Beagle.

The motion carried unanimously.

**H. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 1 BOND INVOICES**

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$1,190,223.73, as presented.

Mr. McKennon noted this is or finish work at Holbrook and technology upgrades at both Beagle and Holbrook.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$653,739.13, as presented.**

Mr. McKennon noted this for work on the Beagle Pool.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**J. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$951,527.48, as presented.**

Mr. McKennon noted this is for work on the Track at M-43.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD**

Dr. Davenport noted the district is in a crucial situation and no matter how we personally feel about masks, our goal is to keep kids in school. He noted he recognizes there are holes in the system and that he and administrative team are addressing them. He noted the administrators are not medical professionals but we must keep our students, and staff, as healthy as possible to ensure the goal of keeping in person instruction for the rest of the year. He noted the district may have to explore a testing program district-wide and this will be a discussion for the board. He noted that the current mask policy in place has holes in that it doesn't require masking for after school activities and athletics. He noted the fight is continuous to keep our students and staff safe and healthy and we must continue to find solutions and strategies to ensure that goal.

Mr. McKennon thanked the staff for all they are doing to subsidize being understaffed. He noted the people to fill opens is just not there. He remarked "this is not a Grand Ledge epidemic, this is an educational epidemic". He asked Dr. Davenport to have a plan in place, that can be shared out to the community within a week, that shows them our policy and our guidelines noting we have to get it out there.

Dr. Barnes noted there are graphics and information on our webpage under the COVID-19 dashboard. He noted this information is ever changing as the rules change. He noted the homebound teachers hired tonight will help tremendously but shared those positions were posted in early August and we just got them filled. He noted to Mr. McKennon's point we do need to do a better job in communicating with our families.

Mr. McKennon noted instead of telling them where to find it, we need to provide it to them. He supports the idea of testing but understands there are logistics to this.

Dr. Gabriel noted testing for staff has already begun and the administration is looking on expanding the option to parents. However, it is an OPTION, not a requirement. He noted the staff testing has allowed staff, who would otherwise have to quarantine, to stay in the building teaching. He noted there are staff shortages in education nation-wide in addition to food shortages. He commended District Transportation Supervisor Pete Bucholtz and Food Service Director Darrin Gyurich for their continued efforts.

Mrs. DuFort shared she attending the "Behind the Scenes at the Capitol" last week and the topic of the teacher shortage was discussed. She noted it was a good conversation but most of the remedies proposed will take years. She noted there are so many issues facing public education right now and there is nothing that is going to fix the issues in the short-term. She commended Dr. Davenport for thinking outside the box for solutions. She concluded noted there are a lot of good things going on in Grand Ledge as well, referencing the homecoming parade, in which Dr. Davenport was the Grand Marshall and the Pom team's dance routine at the Pep Assembly on Friday that included Dr. Wright.

Ms. Shannon noted she would like to see the testing of staff stay and exploring expanding that to students. She shared last week was a good week in Grand Ledge with Homecoming on Friday and the Band Exhibition last Wednesday.

**CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett 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(c) of the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.**

**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>Absent</u>	Mrs. DuFort	<u>Yes</u>
President Clark Pierson	<u>Absent</u>		

**The motion carried unanimously at 6:56 p.m.**

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:34 p.m.

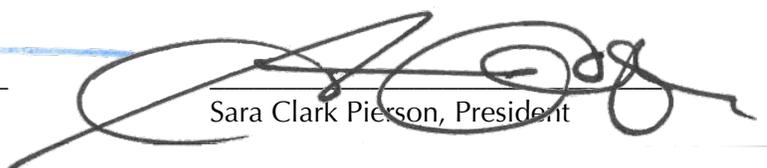
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

  
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Nicole Shannon, Secretary

  
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Sara Clark Pierson, President