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

Committee of the Whole / Work Session – October 12, 2015

**MINUTES**

President Winstanley 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 Brian Metcalf indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Beverly Winstanley, Kim Mulvenna, Linda Wacyk, Sara Clark Pierson, Brody Boucher, Jay Bennett and Jon Shiflett ***Central Office Administrators***: Brian Metcalf, Andy George, Steve Gabriel, Nancy Rasinske, Norma Schutzki and Mark Deschaine. ***Others in Attendance***: John Ellsworth, Melissa Mazzola and Kim Manning

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Boucher for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$72,047.75, as presented.**

Assistant Superintendent Andy George provided the members with an overview of the invoices, noting that the Board Bond Committee has approved the invoices being brought forward.

**The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL380.4203.**

**B. APPROVAL OF SINKING FUND PROJECT**

**Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the use of Contingency Sinking Funds, not to exceed \$40,000 to repair the retaining wall at Grand Ledge High School, as presented.**

Assistant Superintendent Andy George provided the board with a detailed overview of the project noting that the board bond committee viewed the site of the proposed project and supported bringing this item forward. He noted that volunteers will complete the work under the supervision of Clark Construction Company as the district's construction management firm.

**The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL380.4203.**

**C. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE CARRIER**

**Motion by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the District joining with MASB-Seg Pool for Property and Casualty Insurance, as presented.**

Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rasinske provided the board with information noting this will result in a cost savings for the district of \$50,000 annually after the first year. This first year will result in an approximate savings of \$30,000 to the district since it is a mid-year change.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**A. 2015-2016 BUDGET UPDATE**

Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rasinske provided the board with an update regarding the district's budget for 2015-2016. She discussed the district's financial statements, noting that the district has operated with a deficit budget for the past five years, the final 2014-2015 audit will be presented in November which projects another budget deficit year with a fund balance below 9%. She reviewed the district's 2015-2016 enrollment noting that the state uses a blended count for pupil funding which is made up of 90% from the fall 2015 count and 10% from the Spring 2015 count. She noted that in June the district projected a loss of 53 pupils in accordance with Stanfred projection. Currently, the district is project an increase of 56 pupils. The district's 2015-2016 projected revenue and explained that while the legislature is touting a \$140 per pupil increase, the truth is the state eliminated best practice categorical funding in which the district received \$120 per pupil. Therefore, the accurate increase in the per pupil foundation is \$20 per student, or \$102,000 for the year. Mrs. Rasinske further reviewed the district's project 2015-2016 expenditure noting the current increase is the result of new hires due to increased enrollment. She also noted the district is preparing for as much as a 1.5% increase on materials and services, but that is projection. She also advised that there are still unknowns with regard to the expenditures due to the outstanding employee contracts with the teachers association and the paraprofessional. She summarized that these contract settlements could result in another \$421,000 of additional deficit. In closing, she advised that currently the district is projecting a net operating loss of \$234,000, which will bring the fund balance to 7.73%. If the two outstanding employee contracts are ratified as currently presented, the 2015-16 fund balance would show an operating deficit of \$654,000 resulting in a 6.78% fund balance.

**B. GRAND LEDGE COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAM**

Superintendent Metcalf advised that the district is looking at utilizing space here at Sawdon to house the Community Recreation Program and its staff. The space being looked at is currently a storage unit. Minimal modifications will have to be made to make the space accessible and prepare it for housing this program. This was reviewed with the Board Bond Committee and **consensus was received from the full board to move forward.**

**C. FARM LAND LEASE**

Superintendent Metcalf noted that the district will, once again, seek bids for leasing the farm land the district purchased for future expansion. As the district is not in a position to utilize the land for erecting another school building, we will seek bids from local farms to farm the land and pay a lease fee. The bid documentation has been created and established in conjunction with the district's legal firm, Thrun Law Firm and provides us with all the necessary legal assurances that the land lease will be appropriate for future use by the district. **Consensus from the board was to post the request for bids.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF**

Mrs. Clark Pierson mentioned it might be better to have candy handed out versus thrown out during the homecoming parade next year.

Mr. Boucher commented on the incident that took place at the high school recently and remarked that he supported the way the situation was handled by the administration. He noted that what the public does not understand is that any information pertaining to a student is protected information. So, while the public didn't think the district was doing anything, in fact, they were working diligently to ensure the safety and security of our students, staff and building. In closing he commended the district administration noting this incident was handled efficiently and appropriately.

President Winstanley mentioned it would be nice to have baby-changing stations available in the restrooms at the football field. Assistant Superintendent Steve Gabriel advised baby-changing stations have been added to the high school men's and women's restrooms outside the auditorium and gym but the outside restrooms were not addressed as of yet.

**CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations**

**Motion by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mrs. Wacyk 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, PA 267 of 1976.**

**A ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Wacyk	<u>YES</u>	President	<u>YES</u>
		Winstanley	
Mr. Bennett	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Boucher	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. Mulvenna			

**The motion carried unanimously at 6:47 pm.**

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:20 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

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Linda Wacyk, Secretary

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Beverly Winstanley, President