

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Virtual Meeting– October 29, 2020

MINUTES

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:02 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**: Denise DuFort, Jarrod Smith, Jon Shiflett, Sara Clark Pierson, Kim Mulvenna, Patrick McKennon and Ben Cwayna. **Central Office Administrators**: Dave Chapin, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance** Aaron Yusten, Abigail Burmeister, Adrienne Burns, Alexandria Lezan, Alice Mills, Allison Wardlaw, Alyssa Cumming, Alisha Buehrer, Amanda McNew, Amber Moody, Amy Heriford, Amy Lowrie, Amy McNamara, Amy Richburg, Ana Suasto, Andrea Babbitt, Andrea Dionise, Andrea Lawless, Andrew Reynaert, Andrew Torrey, Angie Kanazeh, Angie Stevens, Ann Paquette-Lukens, Annette Kelly, Annie Reik, Ash Gobbell, Ashleigh Lore, Ashleigh Shepard, Ashley Simon, Austin Neely, Becky Frank, Becky Krawczyk, Becky Thelen, Ben Kohn, Bianca Blackwelder, Bill Albrecht, Britney Becht, Brittney Warywoda, Caitlin Fenby, Carly Waldrop, Carlyn Ross, Cassidy Chandler, Catherine Fox, Chad Little, Charity McLaren, Chelsie Helma, Christin Sandell, Christina Poweki, Christina Trotochaud, Christine Morden, Christopher Coston, Christy Lobdell, Cindy Zerbe, Colleen Price, Courtney Schamehorn, D’Anne Golub, Dan Cwayna, Dani Borgman, Danielle Lundstrom, Danis Peck, Danny Kelly, Dawne Velianoff, Debbie Olmstead, Dee Campbell, Denise Clarity, Doug Waldrop, Mike Johnson, Ellie Darnell, Eloise Cleveland, Elyse Fox, Emily Justice, Emily Vsetecka, Erica Deters, Erica Ledesma, Erik Barnhill, Erin Gallaway, Erin Jones, Erin Ries, Erin Snyder, Felicia Lutz, Frau Firtl, Gerry Overmyer, Gillian Eisenbraun, Greg Almy, Heidi Gottleber, Hillary Kohn, Jackie Nelson, Jackie Post, Jacqueline Freeman, Jamie McKennon, Jamie Southworth, Jamie Viecelli, Jamil Cage, Jason Higgins, Jason Westra-Hall, Jay Bennett, Jeff Sewick, Jen Deja, Jennifer Bouck, Jenn Grantham, Jenna Corburn, Jenna Riekse, Jennie Norman, Jennifer Haakenson, Jenny Jarrard, Jeremy Babcock, Jess Garcia, Jessica Cornman, Jessica Johnson, Jessica Westfall, Jen Gabriel, Jill Ford, Jill Rycus, Jocelyn Thelen, Jody Lyon, Joe Grant, Haley Grant, John Collehon, John Hubbard, Joshua Arritt, Julie Brunk, Julie Douglas, Julie Schieding, Karen Batterham, Karen Bedard, Karlene Ketola, Kasey Henderson, Kassandra Davis, Kathleen Decoster, Katie Casteel, Katie Davis, Katie Dufresne, Katie Fox, Katie Grass, Keith Cravotta, Kelci Laugal, Kellee Auge, Kelley Walker Terpstra, Kelly Nevison, Kelly Ploehn, Kelly Shumway, Kelly Smith, Kelsey Bort, Kelsey Shoemaker, Kim Abed, Kim Browning, Kristen Heine, Kristen Wren, Kristin Baker, Kristy Merignac, Kristy Moore, Kristy Welch, Lara Hubbard, Laura Clark, Laura Mauren, Laurel Miller, Laurie Kucher, LeeAnn Dayton, Leesha Lee, Lesley Simon, Leslie Pittsley, Lindsay Weichlein, Lindsey Nichols, Liz Bliesener, Lizzie

Maurer, Lola Hubbard, Lucas Terpstra, Lucinda Shier, Lucy Viramontes, Mandy Leik, Margo Susnjar, Marisa Lay, Marlene Promer, Matt Junak, Matthew Couser, McCall Salmon, Megan Drak, Megan Spedoske, Megan Weber, Meghan Joseph, Melanie Wright, Melissa Hinojosa, Melissa Mazzola, Meredith Johnson, Meredith Meeder, Michelle Knauff, Michelle Pfaff, Michelle Snitgen, Michelle VanDuine, Mindii Stevens, Mindy Clark, Molly Cool, Monica Michael, Morgan Cross, Dave Logel, Justin Heany, Stacy Nelson, Greens1, Haley Mund, parksa, Nancy Coleman, Nate Moore, Nic Violante, Nick Crofut, Nicole Conner, Nicole Shannon, Nikki Piggott, Patty Smith, Rachel Buffenbarger, Rachel Kuntzsch, Rachel Parish, Rachel VanDeven, Ranjit Singh, Raymone Gude, Renee Sommerlot, Rhonda Smith, Rose House, Ryan Snook, Ryleigh Scott, Sabrina Adleman, Sandy Hubbard, Sara Haase, Sara Ostertag, Sarah Frese, Lacy Schneider, Scott Schmidt, Sean Stevens, Sharon Brock, Stacy Nelson, Stephanie Phillips, Susan Burm, Susan Sowle, Tammie Brockwell, Tammy VanEtten Musolff, Tara Barnhill, Taylor Brush, Teresa House, Teresa Koenigsknecht, Teresa Reed, Theresa Abed, Todd Davis, Traci Gentilozzi, Trisha Warner, Whitney Craig, Zach Stevens and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the October 29, 2020 Agenda Items, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the October 29, 2020 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the Meeting Minutes of the September 21, 2020 Special Meeting, the September 28, 2020 Virtual Meeting and the October 12, 2020 Committee of the Whole / Work Session and the teacher hiring of Jamie Pung, 6th grade at Willow Ridge Elementary School.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Mr. Smith noted legislation has been enacted that provides changes to the Open Meetings Act that allows this Board to continue meeting virtually through the end of the year. He also noted legislation was enacted that allows for CTE credits to meet the foreign language requirement for graduation.

B. Eaton RESA Report

President DuFort advised the board meet on October 21, 2020 and received and approved their final audit noting everything looked good noting they have an established fund balance and reviewed the General Education, Special Education and Career and Technical Education (CTE) budgets in detail. The board also received a presentation from the Meadowview Special Education staff providing an overview of how they are working in their classrooms through the virtual realm noting the RESA has reviewed and modified their COVID plan so Meadowview staff is now seeing their special education students in person two days per week instead of one. She advised this is only for Meadowview students noting there are only five students in the program. In closing she advised the RESA has received an award of approximately \$200,000 from the CDC for the coordination of mental health initiatives.

C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report

President DuFort advised the board has not meet but noted they have received and reviewed three teacher grant applications that were received this year.

D. Governance Committee Report

Mr. McKennon noted the committee has not met advising they will get a meeting on the calendar and continue their work through the review of the board policies.

E. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Ms. Clark Pierson advised the selection of 16 applicants to participate on the committee with the three board members and the facilitator. She noted emails will be sent out to everyone who applied advising them of the status of their application. She remarked she wished they could have included everyone who applied noting it was a difficult decision. She expressed she hopes those not put on the committee will be able to give input and lend their expertise as this moves forward.

F. Bond Update

District Bond Supervisor Dr. Mike Johnson advised construction at Holbrook and Beagle continues to move along. He noted the Holbrook gym is fully enclosed with brick work on the outside taking shape. The front of the building is taking shape with classroom walls going up with the roof slated to go on in the near future. He reiterated the goal is to have everything enclosed before any snow flies. With regard to Beagle, progress continues on the new addition on the west end. Once the roof is on, concrete will be poured. He noted work that was started on the restrooms at

Beagle, that was originally slated for next summer, is moving along well within the timeline and will help greatly with the overall timeline of the entire project. He advised furniture samples have been received and staff have been asked to provide their input. With regard to the M-43 roundabout, he advised the district has held two public forums over the last week noting Mr. Ellsworth did a great job leading those meetings and advising he and John are working to answer concerns that were brought up by the participants. He noted all projects are on schedule and the district is on track for the grade restructuring in August 2021. He reference the Music Suite and Pool bids were both favorable coming in under budget noting the final portion of those bid awards are on tonight's agenda for approval noting the pool bid includes an \$82,000 credit back to the district from the bid award approved on September 28, 2020. In closing he noted work has begun on the athletic design and is reaching its final stages and pricing. He advised he will review this with the board prior to moving forward. Additional plans for the high school fine arts wing are in a conceptual stage.

President DuFort asked and was advised the community forums regarding the M-43 roundabout were recorded and are available for viewing on the district website.

Mr. McKennon asked and was advised the district is on target with regard to adding the work on the restrooms at Beagle and this will not affect the return of students to the building.

G. Return to Learn Update

Interim-Superintendent Dr. Chapin, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Dr. Barnes and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Operations Dr. Gabriel led a discussion regarding the status of the district's planning related to both online and in-person instruction as we move forward during the 2020-21 school year. He advised this is not a recommendation but rather an open discussion about where the district is in the process with the intention of bringing a proposal to the board on November 16, 2020.

Dr. Chapin began by thanking everyone noting he understands stakeholders are divided on what they want to hear next from the administration and Board. He noted a plan that unifies the district is the goal advising no one has lost sight of that goal. He reviewed the Board's August 3, 2020 approval of the offsite distance learning plan and the purchase of the Florida Virtual School Hosted Enterprise License. He further reviewed the time spent in August and September with regard to professional development, parent orientation meetings, distribution of devices, and the one-on-one time spent with students, parents and teacher ensuring everyone was able to connect with their teacher and instruction as well as possible. He further noted the establishment of the "Next Step Advisory Group" that was established to help formalize the next steps after December 4. He referenced a petition that was provided to him addressing a desire to have an option for in-person learning. He advised the district remains in close contact with the Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD) related to the current pandemic noting we are all well aware of the uptick in positive COVID tests in our area. He advised the goal is to develop a

plan to present to the board on November 16th that will guide the district through the remainder of this school year while providing a safe environment for students to return to school in person, all day. He noted there are no immediate plans to bring students back for full day instruction as early as December. The plan is being designed as a phase-in to in person learning as the next step. This will include smaller groups in classrooms on any given day. Alternating days or ½ day instruction will play a significant role in how the district moves through this intermediate phase. Exact details will be presented on November 16th but presently, target dates include an early January phase in leading to full day, all day instruction (with safety protocols in place), to begin the 3rd trimester on March 12, 2021 for K-8 and March 19, 2021 for 9-12 with all day, every day in person instruction, online instruction options will continue as an option throughout the 2020-21 school year. He noted that given the current conditions, the administration thinks it is unwise to begin in person learning options shortly after the Thanksgiving Break and then again after the Winter Break. He noted the development of formal metric in conjunction with the BEDHD, that will be posted on the district website, that will guide decision-making related to in-person instruction. He concluded by stating the district is taking this virus very seriously and the data and input from health professionals is impacting the decision making. He noted the district is trying to share this message across the community, wearing masks, maintaining a healthy distance, frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizers, appropriate testing and reporting of symptoms to the school and health department will help ensure a safe return to in person instruction.

Dr. Gabriel noted the administration understands choice is important to our parents. But it is important for us to point out that in person instruction will not look like it did in March prior to when we closed down. Mandatory safety protocols will be in place. The district is looking at staffing in order to create a plan that sustains two different school platforms going on simultaneously. Looking at facilities, to ensure we a meeting the designated space requirement for in person gatherings and to ensure the spaces are ready. He advised he has heard concerns with regard to the bond construction and noted the construction will not impact the students' ability to return to a building for in person learning advising the bond construction was designed around students being in the buildings and stressing that Beagle will absolutely be read for in person instruction when students return. He noted the district has begun the installation of the air filtration systems that will be installed in all the buildings throughout the district. The district is looking at current cleaning protocols and how we can enhance those protocols, ensuring personal protection equipment (PPE) is available to our staff, increasing signage, establishing screening of staff, students and visitors, how we provide food service to the student population and how we provide bussing and transportation. He reiterated positive COVID testing has increased recently in the area noting when a school system has a positive exposure, there are protocols that have to be followed. Positive cases require mandatory quarantining. This could impact staffing, or student attendance , requires additional cleaning of a facility, contact tracing. The impact of one positive case is far reaching. He noted currently we have two staff members and three students who have been on sight and the process of quarantining, tracing and monitoring has begun. Additionally, there are six students, who have not been on sight, that are being monitoring following a

positive COVID test. He expressed the importance of establishing the metric that will determine when it is safe to come back, but more importantly, when we might have to shut down again – do we have to shut down the district or can we just shut down a classroom or a specific building. Additionally, the metric will look at the affect/impact a positive COVID test will have on the district's ability to provide programs and services noting substitute teachers and bus drivers are in short supply and a direct exposure or positive test of a teacher or bus driver would likely impact the district's ability to continue providing a specific class or bus route. In closing he reiterated the district is establishing the metric that allows us to continue making its decisions based on data.

Dr. Barnes noted everything leading up to his portion of this discussion has shown the complexity of this noting each decision has a lot of ramifications, ultimately boiling down to the job of a school district is to provide strong instruction so its students can learn. With that in mind, the priorities that have been focused on throughout this process have been: Student and staff safety, effective in person and online instruction that is sustainable and manageable for students and families and manageable for our staff to deliver that instruction. Looking at staff and student choice is the next phase and ensuring the district is able to reasonably implement the plan. He noted this has been an ongoing discussion within the district since the start of the school year. He reiterated the district started in August with a huge blitz of professional development revolving around online learning and getting those systems in place. In September and early-October the district has received feedback about what is working and what's not working. The Next Steps team and parents have provided targeted feedback as well. Based on all this information, in mid-October the Central Office team spent the entire day looking at the work done over the summer with the implementation teams and hammered out what could be a proposal of schedules. The proposal was shared with building administrators and they picked the proposal apart. It was shared with the implementation teams and the Next Steps team and they picked it apart. It was shared with the full staff and asked for feedback. He shared there has been great discussion throughout this week with employee groups, including the teachers group and with many other stakeholders in the district who have given feedback and input. He stated a plan that is focused on safety and prioritizes strong instruction needs a lot of voices around the table. He noted based on all the thoughts, input and feedback, there is work to do between now and November 16th to ensure we have gone through all those. He noted the act of getting kids back in school and providing meaningful instruction are complex advising the next steps are to be crystal clear about the transitional program knowing the ultimate goal is to get students back to in person learning all day, every day, all week long; to pay attention to the data noting the numbers shared by Dr. Gabriel all impact instruction and we need to understand that impact; to continue to refine the instructional plan that meets student needs and allows staff to be effective in their delivery. He discussed the metric and the importance to communicate with our families what the situation is on the ground and what would cause the district to implement a roll back or move forward with the plan. He noted it is important to continue to learn and grow with Buzz and our other online formats stating teachers have done a tremendous amount of work to make this go well. We have heard how

much better teachers are now using technology in their instruction than they ever were before and we continue to learn and grow and access the tools to make online learning better for our students. In closing he remarked it is important for the district to determine who the students are who are struggling and who are the parents who want their students back in class in developing the plan to present to the board in November.

Dr. Barnes referenced the Extended COVID-19 Return to Learn plan that is included on the agenda, noting this is not the plan that will be presented in November. This is the plan the board approved on August 3, 2020. The board is required, by law, to approve their district's Extended COVID-19 Return to Learn plan that is presented, or based on recommended factors to modify the plan. Presently, the administration is recommending continuing through the process with our current dates, or remaining 100% online through December 4. November 16th, the administration will present the board with a plan moving forward.

Discussion among the members addressed mid-year resting, that there is no need for a special meeting to present the plan to the board before November 16, as the recommendation will not include bringing students back prior to January 2021, what a teacher schedule may look like noting this is where decisions are being made at present, receiving input from the staff on who is comfortable to come back to teach in person noting all employee groups are involved in the conversation and concluding the plan will be presented to the Board on November 16 noting the district has a good process that is really important.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Secretary Shiflett read the rules for addressing the board.

District parent Laura Hubbard expressed her support of an option for in-person learning sooner than March. She expressed the district talked a lot about the staff, and of course that is a major concern, but what about the kids and their mental health and what being home is doing to them. She commented online learning is exhausting. She noted she understands COVID is on the rise, but stated, "our kids can't stay out of school forever". She referenced smaller districts around Grand Ledge are back in person and noted she understands they have had to close down at times.

Community member and parent Teresa House thanked the board for their time and the unique position they are in but remarked online learning has been a disaster for her students. She expressed her concerns that Grand Ledge intends to keep the district in an online learning format for a long time. She shared her concerns with not meeting the district's online learning guidelines and provided statistics for COVID impact on Michigan public schools referencing that students are more likely to be infected outside of school.

Community member & parent Dawne Velianoff expressed support of hybrid learning. She expressed her support of the other parents who spoke before her. She expressed her strong concern for the mental health of students noting that teachers are the number one reporters in

the State of Michigan and the lack of this being discussed. She remarked hunger, obesity due to inactivity, higher risk of child abuse, all these increase with extra stress on parents.

Student Rose House provided her perspective on a day in the life of a student with online learning and advocates for an option to return to in-person learning while maintaining the online option. She expressed concerns with regard to a down trend in student grades and the way teachers treat students on a Zoom. She suggested the district look to the district who have been in person learning to get input and find out what they are doing.

Community member and parent Katie Fox expressed her concerns for the Class of 2021 and referenced is they are not brought back until March it only gives them one month of in person learning and asked how this is going to help them. She noted she understands hybrid might start in January but parents of the Class of 2021 have not gotten direction about buying caps and gowns or what they are doing for graduation. She expressed concerns with not have SAT scores back to include on college applications. She expressed her support to give parents a choice.

Community member and parent Rachel Buffenbarger expressed she feels Grand Ledge is doing a fabulous job and she sees how hard the teachers are working. She has been on more than one Zoom class and they are completely interactive. She thanked the district for protecting the students and staff and supports waiting until, at minimum, January before bringing anyone back. In closing she remarked she has never been prouder.

Community member and parent Courtney Schamehorn noted she has children at all three levels of school. She read a list of online programs noting it is a bit much. She expressed there is too many programs and not enough learning. She noted all three of her students are struggling in different ways. She noted students need more support and the ones struggling are not getting the support they need. She noted if the learning platform is going to stay online, there must be better support and the expectations must be more realistic. She referenced the outline of the school day should be more catered and more structured.

District parent John Hubbard expressed he wants an option for in person learning now. He noted he believes if the district maintains virtual learning parents will begin to believe the state does not have to pay millions of tax dollars to children's education. If virtual learning is the new normal the number of job cuts would be saddening. The amount of money saved would be astonishing. It won't be painless.

Community member and parent Jackie Post shared her frustration with online learning for her 8th grader and asking if kids are playing sports why can't our kids be back in school. She expressed she is considering withdrawing her student from Grand Ledge.

Community member and grandparent LeeAnn Dayton noted she is impressed by the number of things to be considered when reopening schools for in person learning noting it was good to share that information noting we can all agree we want the kids to return as safely as possible. She expressed she is still concerned with the online daily schedule and kids falling through the cracks. She suggested maybe a better way to provide online learning would be for the teachers to do more a classroom setting rather than a 20-30-minute Zoom. She noted

she doesn't know if this can be addressed if online learning continues or modifying the amount of time the teachers are online.

Community member and parent Ranjit Singh noted his students' teachers are phenomenal. He understands there is always things that can be improved and questioned a district-wide based curriculum questioning why Wacousta's curriculum is so much different than Beagle. He questioned why all teachers can't use one online system versus 20. He expressed his support for keeping online learning noting his family is all in with the district.

Community member and parent Denise Clarity expressed her support of the district and what they have put together noting the district didn't have three years to build an online learning system, it had three months. She gave a shout out to all the high school teachers noting they have all been extremely responsive. She expressed her concerns with bringing students back for face-to-face learning and encouraged everyone to continue wearing a mask, social distance and then we can look at bringing students back to school.

Community member and parent Nic Violante noted he has children across all grade levels and recently transferred is elementary student to Portland. He encouraged in the district is going to keep the online learning, the systems need to be standardized. He referenced it is hard for a parent to work with their students in three different computer programs. He asked the district to hold teachers accountable. He expressed parents are doing their best and we all need to be on the same page. He questions if the district was negotiating face-to-face learning with the teachers. He noted families have different needs and expressed the district should not mark his freshman absent when she is trying to help her sibling get into her classroom.

Community member and parent Jason Steven expressed his appreciation to the board and administration for listening to everyone's experiences. He noted he doesn't know the best way to move forward because he is not an educator. He encouraged the district to look at the students grades and truancy from last year to this year and find a way to fill the gaps.

District student Danny Kelly expressed the teachers are doing a great job and that he is not having any trouble with navigating websites and the teachers are explaining how to get there.

Community member and parent Jackie Nelson expressed support for providing an option for in person learning noting he understands this is not an easy time but the virus is not going away. He expressed there is risk in everything we do and we must weigh the risk to the benefit. He noted making this transition is not going to be flawless and there will be outbreaks and there may be a need to close school for 14 days, but the district can use the solid foundation of the online platform. He remarked the district should let parents decide what is best for their student.

Community member and parent Kristen Baker noted she has three students at the elementary and middle school level and recently transferred one to Portland. She noted they are working household and are taken safety precautions when out in public. She express kids' emotional health is important and she believes the long-term effect from this will hurt them. She noted working parents cannot quit their job. She noted she is doing the best she can, but

her students are all struggling in different ways. She expressed parents need to be given the option if they want their children in school.

Community member and parent Trisha Warner thanked the board for their time and gave a shout out to her son's teacher expressing she is extremely grateful to her. She went on to remark she wants a choice. She understands there will be problems but parents want a choice. She remarked it feels to her the district has made fun a priority and it needs to make school a priority noting all she is asking for is the option.

District parent Scott Schmidt noted the district has done a fantastic job and referenced he understands how hard it is to switch gears to an online teaching/learning platform when that is not what you are used to. He referenced this "option" was dumped on educators. He expressed he does understand the social and emotional development of students and recognized that kids may have to go to school learning than nine months out of the year noting a three-month summer break is not good for kids either. She stressed parents need to put some of the onus on themselves and pinning this on the education group alone is not fair.

Community member and parent Heidi Gottleber noted she believes this is not a decision the district is taking lightly and understands it is going to be difficult. She supported the previous speaker and echoed as parents part of this falls on the parents. She expressed she feels it is unfair for people to demand the district do something. She noted she believes everyone is thinking about how this is impacting the kids and asked everyone to stop and think about how this is impacting the teachers.

Community member and parent Taylor Brush noted she believes families are struggling. She stressed teachers are doing a great job, administration and board are doing a great job. She noted she doesn't think anyone wants to be in your shoes. She noted she is a single student household with two working parents and she can't imagine what it would be like with multiple kids. She remarked, this is on the parents – you are right. But when both are working, how is it feasible. Most parents are not educators. We recognize that in person learning is far superior. She expressed her support of giving parents the option even two days a week is better than 100% online.

Community member and parent Ellie Darnell thanked the board, Dr. Chapin Dr. Barnes and all the administrators for trying to put the students and teachers health at the forefront. She remarked this year really stinks. It's hard for families. It's not a fair year. Nothing about this is fair. She expressed her appreciation for keeping the online option open for those who want it, for all the hard work the teachers have done. She noted Dr. Chapin was thrown into the fire this year and she expressed her appreciation for all his efforts in keeping everyone safe. She noted she just wanted everyone to know she appreciates them, this isn't easy for anyone and she is not dismissing anyone.

Community member and district employee Lucinda Shier expressed she feels the district is doing a fantastic job in their communication. As a parent, she noted she feels very lucky with her Beagle teachers noting they are working very closely with their students so she definitely doesn't feel like her students are being left out or neglected. She referenced the teacher she works directly with is working very hard, planning what to do next. She did

express concern if she has to make a decision on whether to return to her job and then her students end up on opposite schedule. But right now, she reiterated the district is doing amazing, is dedicated to the safety of everybody, staff, students and teachers and encouraged everyone to keep up the great work.

Community member and parent Megan Spedoske thanked everyone for all the work they are putting in and everything they are trying to do. She asked them to keep science in the foreground noting we are all navigating a very difficult time. She noted she understands there are still improvements that can be made but she recognizes the time and investment the district has put in place. She noted everyone has to figure out what our new normal is going to look like. She expressed the teachers are great, making sure our children are engaged. She noted she administration is thinking about all the different scenarios noting she is open to having choice but doesn't want anyone to be forced into coming back.

Community member, parent and district employee Kellie Auge noted she appreciates all the work the administration and board is putting into this. From a parent perspective, this is not an ideal situation noting there were days when she felt online learning was not sustainable and then tomorrow came and it was better. She noted her 1st grader has a routine down and she is taking a lot of ownership for her work. She commended her daughter's teacher noting she communicates and is energetic in her Zooms with her students. She noted it is her decision to remain online but questions if her daughter's teachers opts to return to in person learning, will her daughter have a new teacher and have to establish new online learning habits? Will the teacher have to do both? She referenced in her job as a high school health teacher, the staff was doing a social/emotion check in with our students during 5th hour and maybe this is something that can be broaden through the online environment.

OLD BUSINESS

A. GLPS EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN

a. GLPS EXTENDED COVID-19 DATA

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Dr. Barnes provided an overview with regard to the current law and shared the district's participation rates for the month of October noting the weekly rates were: 97.1%, 99.3%, 99.4% and 99.4% respectively. He noted as things progress, broader information will be shared with the board. He advised the participation data can be found on the district webpage and provides a broader breakdown by building by week for those interested. He commended the staff for all their hard work.

A detailed discussion among the members shared what the district is doing to ensure all students are getting a quality education noting teaching staff continue to participate in professional development that will broaden their expertise in the online platform but noting there is still improvement that can be made, observation requirements for teaching staff has not been established by the state but noting principals are working with teachers regularly and do attend Zoom sessions of their staff throughout the day, noted concerns with the increase in the positive COVID testing in recent days coupled with flu season, concerns with allowing sporting events to take place but not having kids in school, the mental health concerns,

minimizing the yo-yo effect once students are brought back to in person learning, realizing there are people on both sides of the discussion.

Further discussion noted this is just reaffirming the board's intent to continue to work under the plan that was approved on August 3, 2020, which is to remain online through December 4. This is not a new plan. The new plan going forward will be presented at the November 16th board meeting.

It was noted even if the district presents an option to return to in person learning, the board will still have to approve the continuation of the plan each month with Dr. Barnes presented them with updated data.

Dr. Barnes noted this is specific to the district Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan and the comments are around the plan and the data presented.

b. PUBLIC COMMENT SPECIFIC TO GLPS EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN

Community member and parent Kacey Brassington noted her kids miss school so bad noting having a plan is better than the flip flopping.

Community member and parent Teresa House noted the online learning plan need to be consistently followed noting she believe this is not the case for her student.

Community member and parent Andrew Raynaert expressed his support for an in-person option and encouraged the district to offer that option. He noted he does not want anyone forced to come back that isn't comfortable but questioned what is going to be different in January or March. He referenced the petition Dr. Chapin had referenced at the beginning of the meeting noting it contains 436 signatures of persons who want an in-person option. He suggested starting the in-person option on December 7 and then deal with the obstacles.

Community member, parent and district employee Michelle Pfaff gave a shout out to her student's teacher. She commended the district for wanting to keep everyone, staff and students and our community safe. She noted she does not want her child coming in contact with this virus noting she is willing to be home.

Community member and parent Dawne Velianoff noted the teachers are doing a great job and are very responsive. She re-emphasized the importance of mental health and the option for parents. She noted she feels some are attacking the schools and the teachers, and we need to be mindful of the overall plan noting just because her child is having a positive experience it doesn't mean she doesn't want her child to return to in person learning.

Jason Higgins noted parent need a choice stating parents don't know if it is January or March when it is supposed to be December. He remarked a lot of people brought up a lot of point and again asked why parents don't have a date.

Community member and parent Nick Crofut expressed he feels it is unfair what the district did to the teachers in making them learn the online format. Moving forward, principals need to be more involved. He stated he feels questions about teacher evaluations were not answered. He remarked he doesn't feel the school is taking care of the kids. He referenced he is not worried about his students or his neighborhood kids, they are all connected, they all have money but Grand Ledge has a lot of students who aren't connected. He asked where the district is with failure rates and noted the district has to get kids back to school.

Dr. Chapin apologized for the confusion with regard to this public comment noting this public comment was to be specific to the current district Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan. He felt this was not made clear enough to the public and therefore brought about comments that were not specific to the current learning plan.

Mr. Cwayna further clarified this is merely a technicality where in the state is requiring the board to reaffirm, or approve the continuation of the Plan, as it was approved on August 3. We are complying with the state requirement.

- C. APPROVE OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE GLPS EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN
Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna 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 September 28, 2020.**

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Proposal 1 Bid Awards – Music Suite Addition**

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve Proposal 1 Music Suite Addition Bond Project Bid Awards to Kerkstra Precast in the amount of \$13,700 for Precast Concrete, Burggrave Masonry in the amount of \$438,371 for Masonry, Architectural Metals in the amount of \$1,200 for Metal Panels, Aaron Glass in the amount of \$65,900 for Glass & Glazing, Division 7 Roofing in the amount of \$51,825 for Roofing, Integracore in the amount of \$75,000 for General Trades, Ritzema in the amount of \$86,900 for Metal Studs / Drywall Ceilings, Valley City Sign in the amount of \$1,000 for Signage, Vork Brothers in the amount of \$51,489 for Painting, Lansing Tile in the amount of \$30,938 for Carpet & Base, Applied Flooring in the amount of \$7,500 for Polished Concrete Floors, Architectural Systems Group in the amount of \$58,300 for Millwork / Casework, Total Fire Protection in the amount of \$14,500 for Fire Protection with a construction contingency of \$30,765 and general conditions of \$36,224 for a total bid award of \$963,612, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

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

B. Approval of Proposal 2 Bid Awards - Pool

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve Proposal 2 Pool Bond Project Bid Awards to Kerkstra Precast in the amount of \$345,625 for Precast Concrete, Burggrabe Masonry in the amount of \$1,328,789 for Masonry, Architectural Metals in the amount of \$401,700 for Metal Panels, Aaron Glass in the amount of \$336,800 for Glass & Glazing, Division 7 Roofing in the amount of \$228,069 for Roofing, Integracore in the amount of \$354,475 for General Trades, Ritzema in the amount of \$166,000 for Metal Studs / Drywall Ceilings, Valley City Sign in the amount of \$15,185 for Signage, Vork Brothers in the amount of \$135,511 for Painting, Lansing Tile in the amounts of \$65,963, \$14,797 and \$59,855 for Hard Tile, Carpet & Base and Epoxy Flooring, respectively, Rayhaven in the amount of \$27,893 for Lockers, Applied Flooring in the amount of \$52,388 for Polished Concrete Floors, Architectural Systems Group in the amount of \$54,700 for Millwork / Casework, Otis Elevator in the amount of \$138,500 for Elevator, Total Fire Protection in the amount of \$58,050 for Fire Protection, ET Mackenzie in the amount of \$46,299 for Site Work /Utilities, Proline Concrete in the amount of \$9,500 for Alt 2 Concrete Benches with a construction contingency of \$275,684 and general conditions of \$177,007 for a total bid award of \$4,210,215, as presented, noting this total bid award reflects a credit back from Baruzzini Construction in the amount of \$82,575 for the Pool Design Evaluation that was part of the bid package approved by this Board of Education at the September 28, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
President DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<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 NON - AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Dr. Chapin expressed his appreciation to everyone who spoke tonight. He reassured the public the district is interested in making a decision that people understand and can appreciate the thought behind it. He clarified the current thinking is small groups will return in January moving toward full day, all day school in March - - if conditions allow under the metric being established by the district in conjunction with health officials.

Community Director John Ellsworth shared the slides presented along with an information video shared at the M-43 Town Hall meetings can be found on the website at glcomets.net/bonds. The data shared by Dr. Barnes in reference to the district Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan can be found on the district website at glcomets.net/transparency.

Mrs. Mulvena echoed Dr. Chapin noting it is good to hear public comment, but noting she is glad the district continues to move cautiously.

Mr. Smith agreed noting he has students in the district that he wants to go back to school. He noted it is frustrating, but it is the situation that is frustrating expressing this is more, or less, difficult on a day to day basis. He expressed he trusts the district is working to improve the online platform. He reflected he understands there is talk of bringing students back in January but asked that everyone keep in mind the complexity and variables that have to be thought through in the process. He stressed we all want an option to return to in person learning, but he can't support one at this time in light of what is going on in the local community and surrounding communities. He noted science is prevailing and we are working with the right health officials. He expressed his appreciation for the thoroughness of the presentation and the comments from the community.

Mr. McKennon echoed Mr. Smith noting he believes kids learn better when they are face-to-face noting this board and administration is not claiming otherwise. He recognizes the tough position the district is in, that parents are in. Students are begging to see their friends. The social interaction and emotion toll is very real.

President DuFort thanked everyone who has been involved, everyone in the community who has shared their voice. She shared she is a member of the Next Steps Advisory Group noting this group brings in depth conversations to the table and are a powerful voice. She stressed the district is really trying to make sure to do a thorough review before the final plan is put out there and we ask our parents, teachers and staff to commit. She assured the community the administration and the board is committed to doing this well, and is working to do what is best for the students, parents and families.

Mr. Cwayna noted he feels the district should offer a hybrid option starting December 7th and using that time between then and the January date to flush out any glitches noting he believes there is an expectation in the community for this option.

CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations

Motion by Mr. Cwayna , 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, PA 267 of 1976.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion carried unanimously at 9:35p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 9:45 p.m.

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE CONTRACT – Maintenance & Grounds Association

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the employee contract with the Maintenance & Grounds Association, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

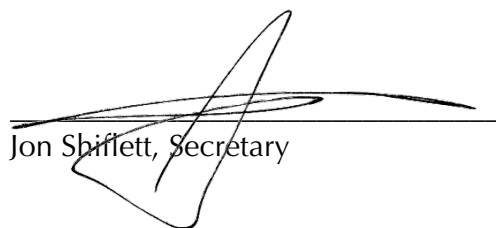
The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:


Jon Shiflett, Secretary


Denise DuFort, President