

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**Board of Education**

Committee of the Whole / Work Session – November 13, 2023

MINUTES

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

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Ben Cwayna, Denise DuFort, Jon Shiflett, Toni Glasscoe and Jarrod Smith. **Board Members Absent:** Nicole Shannon and Ashley Kuykendoll. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine, and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Ashlee Walker, Scott Walker, Ada Wilcox, Andy Pertler, Sage Gee, Crystal VanWalsum, Gabby VanWalsum, Brandan VanWalsum, Tim Totten, Emily Walker, Melissa Mazola, Ken Wright, Kelly Manning, Kurt Manning, Jeff Gilbert, Jean Gilbert, Chas Mann, Aiden Wear, Joshua Wangelin, Abram Looney, Kelbi Roman, Gianna Almy, Ashleigh Lore, Braelyn Jackson-Pointer, Stacie Stricker, Peg Cook and Kim Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION & PRESENTATION ITEMS

**A. MILITARY VETERANS RECOGNITION**

The Board of Education took a moment to honor and recognize former 2004 GLHS Graduate Brian Daniels and current district employee Kelly Jones for their military service. They were each presented with a Certificate of Honor on behalf of the Board and District.

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution recognizing Kelly J. Jones, District employee and Brian M. Daniels, District alum for their service to our nation.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Mr. Cwayna YES  
President Smith YES  
Dr. Glasscoe YES

Mr. Shiflett YES  
Mrs. DuFort YES

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. GLHS PRESENTATION**

GLHS Principal Dr. Ken Wright provided an overview of how the high school is implementing their school improvement efforts aligned with the Strategic Goals. Their primary goal this year is a focus on increasing the frequency, consistency and quality of engaging instructional strategies.

Students Sydney Manning, Gabby VanWalsum, Ashlee Walker, Ada Wilcox, Chase Mann Emma Thorton, Gianna Almy, Sage Gee, Steven Savoy, Aiden Wear, Carson Lemon, Braelyn Jackson-Pointer, Abram Looney, Annelise Pertler and Delayne Hengesbach each talked to the board covering LINKs, Comets Landing, Student Council, Musical and Student News, PALs, Newspaper, Career Prep, Students Making a Change (SMAC), and National Technical Honor Society.

**C. BOARD COMMITTEES DISCUSSION**

Dr. Barnes noted he reached out to his Eaton RESA colleagues and found that throughout the local districts, committees are handled differently at each district. He noted that currently, GLPS Board committees do not have a quorum, have no decision-making authority and are truly to provide information and guidance to the full board. The GLPS Board of Education speaks through board action at an open meeting with a quorum of the members voting. No one member can act on behalf of the board. He continues to recommend the board have an active discussion and take any action the board sees fit at the January Governance Meeting

A detailed discussion among the members noted it is important to continue this discussion and to ensure that all members of the board have a voice in the conversation. Each of the members present expressed their position on the topic commenting the way board committee meetings are currently conducted is sufficient and is an effective way to conduct the business of the board, committees allow those serving to get into the details and bring back the pertinent information to the full board, the district, as a whole has done a great job in recent months of being more transparent and this could add another element, allowing the public at committee meetings could provide more information to the public on how the board works, reiterating committee meetings do not follow Roberts Rules or the Open Meetings Act as they are informational in scope only and all matters have to be brought back to the board for action, questioning observing versus participating, and the efficiency aspect of the current structure.

When asked, Dr. Barnes reiterated he has no recommendation one way or the other as he sees the pros and cons of each. The purpose of committee meetings is not making decisions for the board but learning. He expressed his appreciation for the thoughtful way the board is going about this. He noted he likes the current committee structure and feels it allows for deeper conversation that helps educate everyone. He noted he would like to expand his conversation with other superintendents regionally and he would recommend the board keep talking about this.

This item will be carried over to the next agenda for further conversation.

**D. 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF NEOLA BOARD POLICIES 8000'S - OPERATIONS**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to WAIVE the first reading of NEOLA Board Policies 8000's- Operations. The motion carried unanimously.**

The group in reviewed the proposed changes suggested by the Governance Committee.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2023 MEETING MINUTES & CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the October 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. APPROVAL OF BUS PURCHASE**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the purchase of two (2) conventional, 77-passenger school buses from Midwest Transit in the amount of \$280,027.84, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT EXTENSION**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve a one-year Contract Extension for Superintendent Dr. William A. Barnes.**

President Smith noted the board conducted Dr. Barnes Annual Evaluation using the MASB Superintendent Evaluation Tool on October 23, 2023. At conclusion, Dr. Barnes received a consensus rating of effective and the board voted, unanimously, to adopt the year-end evaluation for Dr. Barnes.

He further noted it is customary to review administrative contracts each year and with Dr. Barnes' effective evaluation rating, he believes the Board should extend Dr. Barnes' contract.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF CAPITAL FUNDS INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Capital Funds Invoices in the amount of \$2,346.25, as presented.**

Mrs. DuFort noted this represents an late trades invoice for the high school fine arts.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**E. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 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 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$2,481,290.17, as presented.**

Mrs. DuFort noted this represents furniture at Delta Center, a district-wide network refresh and work at Wacousta.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$30,418.72, as presented.**

Mrs. DuFort noted this is for weight lifting equipment and materials at the high school.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$13,229.17, as presented.**

Mrs. DuFort noted this represents the final billing for the high school fine arts.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD**

Mr. Ellsworth shared the Eaton RESA Special Education millage was approved by voters at the November 7, 2023 election noting this will bring approximately \$1.2M to the district and free up some of our general funds.

Dr. Gabriel gave shout outs to Ms. Jones for her recognition tonight and thanked all veterans for their service, to the students who presented tonight and expressed he understands the pride Dr. Wright has for his students and gave kudos to all involved in the Little Mermaid production over the weekend noting it was an outstanding performance as it always is.

Dr. Barnes noted it is amazing to see what our kids are able to do in turning their passion into work at the school level. He commended the leadership from Dr. Wright, his administrative team and all the teachers noting this is why our high school is one of the best in the region. He gave special thanks to Brian and Kelly, and Jon for their service to our nation. In closing he recognized the time noting we have been here almost two hours but it is impressive what has been accomplished in that time commenting we are tasked with leading the school district and we are creating a place where kids are thriving in the things they want to do. He expressed his appreciation for the thoughtfulness of the conversations.

Mr. Cwayna wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and remarked to enjoy the time off.

Mrs. DuFort expressed she was pleased with the election results. She missed the musical but has heard from many regarding the stellar cast and performance. She commended the students on their ability to come and present on behalf of their school.

Dr. Glasscoe expressed her appreciation for being able to attend the MASB Leadership Conference and shared some of her experience and a book she purchased for each of the members and Dr. Barnes. She noted she plans to attend more session to learn as much as she can to ensure she is a good, productive board member.

President Smith expressed his appreciation for the high school presentation and all the students who attended.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Jarrod Smith, President