

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Virtual Meeting– November 16, 2020

MINUTES

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 remotely from the City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County; Jarrod Smith remotely from the City of Lansing, Ingham County; Jon Shiflett remotely from the City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County; Sara Clark Pierson remotely from Eagle Township, Clinton County; Kim Mulvenna remotely from City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County; Patrick McKennon remotely from Oneida Township; Ben Cwayna remotely from City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County. **Central Office Administrators**: Dave Chapin, Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance** Aaron Yusten, Alice Mills, Alyssa Cummings, Amber Moody, Amy Heriford, Amy Lowrie, Amy Richburg, Andrea Babbitt, Angie Kanazeh, Annemarie Reik, Ashley Simon, Becky Frank, Becky Thelen, Beth Schuchaskie, Bianca Blackwelder, Bill Albrecht, Bri Dennis, Caitlin Fenby, Carly Waldrop, Carolyn Bovee, Catherine Fox, Charity McLaren, Christin Sandell, Christina Powell, Crystal Vanwalsum, D'Anne Golub, Dan Cwayna, Dawn Thomas, Dawne Velianoff, Denise Clarity, Diane Roskoskey, Doug Waldrop, Mike Johnson, Ellee Barnes, Eloise Cleveland, Elyse Fox, Emily Bartlett, Emily Justice, Eric Daley, Erica Ledesma, Erik Barnhill, Erin Fallaway, Erin Klinger, Erin Ries, Erin Snyder, Greg Almy, Harmony Brown, Heather Hicks, Heidi Gottleber, Jackie Nelson, Jacqueline Freeman, Jamie McKennon, Jamie Vieceilli, Jason Higgins, Jeff Sewick, Jenna Riekse, Jennifer Haakenson, Jennifer Schafer, Jennifer Soria, Jenny Jarrard, Jessica Johnson, Jill Chapman, Jill Dayton, Jim Gee, Jocelyn Thelen, Joe Grant, Haley Grant, John Hubbard, Joni Fuller, Joseph Patterson, Julie Douglas, Julie Schieding, Kassandra Davis, Katie Casteel, Katie Dufresne, Katie Fox, Katie Grass, Katie Westen, Kelci Laugal, Kelly Lebel, Kelly Shumway, Kelly Smith, Kelsey Bort, Ken Wright, Kent Yaney, Kim Abed, Kim Laforet, Kristin Baker, Kristin Baker, Kristy Merignac, Kristy Moore, Kristy Welch, Lara Hubbard, Laura Clark, Laura Guild, Laura Mauren, LeeAnn Dayton, Leesha Lee, Lesley Simon, Lindsey Fender, Lizzie Maurer, Lucas Terpstra, Lucinda Shier, Mandy Leik, Margo Susnjar, Marisa Lay, Mary Hankins, MaryAnne Curth, Matt Junak, Megan Drake, Megan Spedoske, Melissa Hinojosa, Melissa Mazzola, Michael Arnold, Mike Bauer, Mikjell Brown Shaw, Molly Cool, Morgan Cross, Nancy Lonberger, Nancy Wireman, Nate Moore, Nicole Shannon, Nola Cockroft, Rachel Buffenbarger, Rene Brown, Renee Sommerlot, Ryan Snook, Ryleigh Scott, Sara Haase, Sara Ostertag, Scott Schmidt, Stacey Austin, Stacy Nelson, Stephanie Phillips, Susan Burm, Tammy VanEtten Musolff, Tara Barnhill, Taylor Brush, Teresa Dyer, Teresa House,

Teresa Miller, Theresa Abed, Tiffany Organek, Tim Marsh, Tonya McGill, Traci Gentilozzi, Tracy Smith, Trisha Warner, Whitney Craig, Zachary Skrzyniarz and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 16, 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. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 16, 2020 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the Meeting Minutes of the October 29, 2020 Virtual Meeting and Closed Session and the Hiring of Amber Baker as the Special Services Program Specialist.

Executive Director for Special Services Sara Holding advised the addition of this position has been discussed since the 2018-2019 school year. The decision to post the position was made in February 2020 with the intent to have a person in place in April 2020. This, of course, was delayed due to the pandemic. The application process was completed in early November 2020 with all applicants going through a two-step process. The position will focus on IEP and 504 compliance through the MiPSE system, it will allow for consistent onboarding and staff training across the district, and will support buildings directly by attending MTSS student meetings and supplying strategies of instructional differentiation.

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. Audit Report

Zachary Skrzyniarz from Maner Costerisan presented the 2019-2020 Audit noting this represents the district's financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2020.

He commented all financial statements present fairly in all instances. This is an unmodified opinion and represents a clean audit report. He reviewed the implementation of GASB-84 this year which impacted the tracking of all Student Activity Accounts. He reviewed each of the district budgets noting the continued deficit reporting in light of the unfunded pension liability of the district. He commended the district on a 17% fund balance noting this is much better than predicted in light of the reduced reduction in the per pupil funding provided by the state. He noted there are no material weaknesses and no deficits to report. In closing he remarked this is truly a great audit report.

Mrs. Mulvena commented she liked the summary of the audit results included in the report.

Ms. Clark Pierson expressed her appreciation for the work of Maner Costerisan and Zack noting this was a particularly strange year with things going on remotely and the disruption in leadership of the district. She noted there was a lot of additional scrutiny and expressed her appreciation to Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rasinske and her staff. She further noted that have a 17% fund balance is much healthier than the district has been in a long time but noted the district is not a piggy bank and would not want to see that fund balance go any higher and would prefer maintaining a 15% fund balance.

President DuFort expressed her appreciation to Zack and Maner Costerisan as well as the business office staff. She advised the audit is posted on the district's Transparency Page for anyone wishing to view it in its entirety.

B. Capitol Connections Report

Mr. Smith noted the Department of Health and Human Services Orders are the topic of discussion right now noting everything takes effect with this new order on Wednesday, November 18. He reviewed the orders put in place and noted it is likely they will be extended beyond the three-weeks presently in place. He went on to advise a package of bills (House Bill 6196, 6197, 6198), which of course, would impact the per pupil funding of public education.

Ms. Clark Pierson noted it would be a fairer tax system if we eliminated the number of exemptions from sales and use tax and went with a low sales and use tax that applies to everyone opposed to one that is high and exempts several.

C. Eaton RESA Report

President DuFort noted the RESA will meet on Wednesday.

D. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report

President DuFort noted the Foundation awarded two teacher grants this year and reviewed each of the grants awarded. She advised the awards are being ordered and will be delivered to the teachers once everything is received.

E. Governance Committee Report

Mr. McKennon advised the committee has not met.

F. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Ms. Clark Pierson advised the committee met. This was the first meeting of the larger group and all but 1 of the 16 members were able to attend. They started with an overview and then a discussion of group process. They were unable to break into small groups but it actually worked out well providing a lot of input on what people wanted to see come out of the committee. She noted there are two students on the committee and they displayed they will be an integral part of the committee.

President DuFort noted she was excited by the information shared with the board and looks forward to the work the committee will be doing going forward.

G. Bond Update

District Bond Supervisor Dr. Mike Johnson provided the board with a detailed overview of the bond projects noting all projects are on schedule. He shared with the projects coming in under budget, the district will be able to add some of the alternate items that were tabled that includes painting walls, providing new floor coverings and adding LED lighting in existing classrooms at both Beagle and Holbrook. Additionally, Holbrook will receive some upgrades to the cafeteria. He shared the work completed this fall that was slated for next year is in the final stages and will provide a jump on construction for next summer. Furniture for both Beagle and Holbrook has been reviewed and orders will be place soon. He shared there is nothing new with regard to the roundabout as they await cost estimates. The hope is to start construction of the roundabout shortly after April 1, 2021. Design planning has begun for the 22-acre athletic complex and the initial design phase has begun on the high school fine arts portion noting more intensive planning meetings are scheduled for the coming week.

Mr. Smith clarified the alternative items were items that were put on hold and due to efficiencies in the bidding of projects those items are able to be brought back in.

Dr. Johnson confirmed Mr. Smith's analogy noting both projects still remain within budget even with the addition of the alternat items.

H. Update to the GLPS Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

Dr. Barnes noted responsible school leadership is following a data driven process and seeking input from stakeholders. He advised this data driven decision making has been broken into three parts; Current Academic Progress, Step 1 Parent Outreach, COVID Metrics and Staff Capacity and Conclusions and Recommendations.

Current academic progress: Dr. Barnes reviewed the parent feedback noting 2,517 responses out of 4,891 students for a 51.5% response rate. He reviewed the overall rating of the of the GLPS virtual learning program at the elementary, middle and high school levels noting overall the respondents were pleased with the online learning.

He further reviewed the responses to the question if the online program was meeting students' academic needs noting there is some work to do here. He went on to review the social / emotional needs of students being met and noted this is where the work needs to be focused according to the responses. He reviewed the responses at each grade level with regard to the online learning programs being used including Buzz and other programs such as IXL and Google Classroom noting by and large families are finding them easy to use. He did note, however, there are still people who are not finding them easy to use and we have to work to do in this regard as well and we need to help those who are struggling. He reviewed the responses with regard to the success in virtual learning noting at the elementary level 49.2% of the responses noted it is better than or equal to a traditional setting. He advised this percentage increased at the middle school and high school to about 57% but stressed this still means we have 43% who feel they are doing worse. He expressed the importance of this data in steering the conversations and moving the district forward. He further went on to note that 1,300 comments were submitted and each and every single comment was read and coded. He noted 194 said to bring the students back, 342 gave compliments or positive notes, 155 thank the district for the work it has done, 886 were program feedback or improvement suggestions for the online instruction, 37 addressed offering a hybrid model, 167 said to keep the student virtual and 18 were coded as untrue or non-constructive statements. He noted it was important to read the critiques to find out how we can improve. He expressed it is very useful information that the district is excited to dig into it.

He provided the NWEA Reading results from the fall for 1st – 8th grade showing last year to this year across cohorts and then with the same cohorts. This is preliminary data. But as a preliminary look we can see kids are learning and there is growth across all grade levels in reading. He then did the same for math. Still seeing fairly consistent scores.

President DuFort asked if there is any concern about the validity of the results considering the tests were taken by the students at home?

Dr. Barnes noted this concern was heavy when testing started, but the teachers, coaches and academic staff did a tremendous job. Teachers stayed on Zoom while the kids were testing, time was provided within the school day to take the test. He noted it was not perfect, but the scores are not markedly different than last year.

Dr. Barnes went on to present the participation rates for the month of October as is required. He noted in week one we have 98.2% participation, week two, 98% participation, week three 96.4% and week four 96.9% participation. He referenced the participation rates are higher than our attendance rates when we have in person instruction. He commented on the high level of interaction rates during the month of October.

Dr. Barnes reviewed the additional support needs across the district with 504 students at the high school (31%), 100 students at the middle school (13%) and 397 students at the elementary level (16%).

In wrapping up the Academic Progress Dr. Barnes noted that 81.2% of the respondents identified the virtual learning program as adequate, good or outstanding. The district's virtual learning program is meeting the academic needs of 63.5% of the respondents most days; only 17.3% said we were not meeting them at all. 91.4% of respondents said Buzz is at least somewhat easy to use and 92.6% said the same for the other online tools being used. NWEA scores are comparable to fall of 2019 and participation rates remain high. 36.3% of respondents said the program is not meeting their students' social and emotional needs at all. 52.5% of respondents said that their student is more or equally successful in the virtual format as in a traditional format and 1 out of 5 students across the district are identified as needing support.

In closing Dr. Barnes thanked the teachers, administrators, staff and families. He advised the district administrators, building administrators and instructional coaches will drill down into the comments and look at the data by level and district wide. Building leadership teams and teacher teams will look more closely at the data and examine trends. He advised the district will use this data set and others to determine how we can improve virtual instruction. Teachers will be surveyed to see how we can support staff as we work to improve our practice and we will implement changes and updates to our program as determined. He advised the district will continue to monitor achievement data to plan for future supports including interventions and summer programming.

Parent Outreach, Metric and Staff Capacity: Dr. Gabriel reviewed the Step 1 Family Outreach noting the survey was shared with families of the 4,890 students currently enrolled in GLPS. It was shared via email and text reminder and the survey was open November 11 – 16, 2020. He advised the district received 2720 unique responses noting 324 students had more than one submission. 56% of the total student population was represented, but 44% was not represented. The questions posed included remain 1) virtual and return to in-person in March 2021 with 538 responses, 2) returning to in person learning in January with alternate scheduling with 1,163 responses, or 3) remain virtual for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year with 774 responses. These responses are noted across all grade levels. Dr. Gabriel went on to review the COVID-19 – Mode of Instruction Metrics (DRAFT) noting this will provide measurable guidance to assist the district in determining a mode of instruction (in person or virtual) during the COVID-19 pandemic. He reviewed the criteria for providing instruction under Full, In-Person noting five of the established criteria must be met, Modified, In-Person noting four of the established criteria must be met, and Virtual noting three or less of the criteria is met. The criteria include active case rate, positivity rate, ability to test, hospital capacity, suppl of PPE, GLPS/Local COVID-19 cases and staffing. He advised the Metric is still under development in conjunction with the Barry Eaton District Health Department, 'Next Steps Advisory Group' and employee groups. Dr. Gabriel provided examples of what the district has been dealing with in regard to Grand Ledge recently being identified as an outbreak area, the specific impact the pandemic has had on district staff and the impact a staff positive result has with regard to the district's ability to provide programming. He advised the metric may change based on guidance from the government. In closing

he noted there is always going to be a human element in any decision-making process. He advised the metric will be fine-tuned between now and the December board meeting.

Dr. Chapin began noting that while he, Dr. Barnes and Dr. Gabriel have been the “talking heads” of this discussion, he wants the board and community to know that this represents long, hard conversations of many including all district administrators, building administrators, teachers, staff and parents and even a couple board members that make themselves available. He provided an overview of what he likes to call a formidable online program but acknowledges there is always room for improvement. He addressed over 1/3 of the respondents have said we are not meeting the social and emotional needs of their students and he wants people to know this is a big deal for the district and this is one of the reasons we are looking for opportunities for small, safe groups to meet in person – both curricular and extra-curricular.

Ms. Clark Pierson asked Dr. Chapin about comments made in the past with regard to teachers being rather “harsh” in their comments and how this is being addressed.

Dr. Chapin reassured Ms. Clark Pierson and the board that public comments are taken very seriously and he knows that individual conversations between parents and teachers, parents and principals, teachers and principals in very active and concerns are being addressed.

Dr. Chapin noted we have 26.1% of the student population that identified they are interested in the in-person alternate day or ½ day for kindergarten. About 30% of the student population is interested in continuing with online instruction into the foreseeable future. He expressed large concerns in the over 2,000 parents that did not respond. He went on to address that as Dr. Gabriel noted, the metric is still under development and this will help guide the decision making in the coming months. He went on to share that people can look at the Mi Start Map for Eaton County data and see the large surge in both the number of positive test results in relationship to the number of tests administered and the number of COVID cases in the county. He provided real time data he just received from Sparrow Hospital noting there are currently 4,147 COVID test pending and the turn-around time is 5 days at present. This is the kind of data we have to deal with every day, in addition to specific GLPS cases and quarantines and those in the greater Grand Ledge area.

He noted currently, in accordance with the announcement from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Governor’s office, all Grand Ledge Public Schools building are closed November 13 – 30 with non in-person curricular or extra-curricular programming. He noted the sooner everyone can get behind this message of wearing masks, not going to large gatherings especially over the holidays, the sooner we can get back to in person learning.

Dr. Chapin advised the district will take the next steps is asking for a commitment from parents on their decision going through the remainder of the school year. We hope to have this second phase of input back on November 30th so we can begin to

build the plan to be brought forward on December 14th under the assumption of bringing back small groups of students starting January 11th and phasing in in-person instruction. However, it is important to know, conditions must be safe and conducive for the return.

He asked the administration is asking for the board to approve the Continuation of the GLPS Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan as it was presented and approved on September 28, 2020 through January 15, 2021. He noted the date of January 15th is very specific to allow the administration the meeting already scheduled on January 11th and adjustments need to be made the district is still good to go until then. Secondly, the administration is asking the board to authorize the Superintendent to plan for an alternate day, full day, in-person instruction program for registered students in grades 1 through 12 to begin as early as January 11, 2021 and a half-day, in-person instruction program for registered students in kindergarten to begin as early as January 11, 2021. Implementation of the plan will occur after Board of Education approval on December 14, 2020 and will be guided by the Board of Education approved metric that accounts for the safe return to in-person instruction.

Dr. Chapin noted the bottom line is, we would like to see students in school engaged in person with their teachers and support staff. So, we are designing a plan in hopes that will be an option in the coming months. That said, control of the virus – as determined by the metric – must precede any decision to bring back large numbers of students. The health and safety of students, staff and the community remains at the fore of any administrative recommendation.

He noted the target date of in person, all day programming is March 2021. This is what we are hoping for. He always wants the board and community to know this is not just about short-term planning, our profession, we think deeply about the well-being of our students and these very odd circumstances we have to deal with right now, but we have to think about summer. How we are going to recover some of our students. This is still to be determined but we want people to know this is in our conversations.

In closing Dr. Chapin shared a text from the Charlotte Superintendent advising Charlotte Public Schools will be moving to a virtual program beginning November 18 through early January 2021. He understands that Grand Ledge has been the tortoise in this but comment he is comfortable with the decisions that have been made.

The presentation will be posted on the district website at:
https://www.glcomets.net/downloads/communications/board_presentation_11-16.pdf

President DuFort thanked everyone involved in putting the presentation together. She thanked them for the quality and depth of the presentation.

Mrs. Mulvena remarked she is glad to see the district is acting on the data. She remarked the presentation shows good solid information. She noted she is glad the district did not start and stop school and we have planned ahead and have a good

virtual learning program. She notes she believes everyone has done they very best they can and she is please seeing the planning for the summer months.

Mr. McKennon asked for clarification on how it was determined we should offer a ½ day to kindergarten and alternate day for grades 1 – 12.

Dr. Barnes noted in conversations with the kindergarten team there was strong concern moving kindergarten students from a virtual setting to an all-day setting. We also had to take into account transportation routing to ensure we get the appropriate students into the building.

Mr. McKennon asked and was assured that all students who need transportation services, that live within our district, will get transportation services and free and reduced lunches are still being provided.

Mr. Cwayna asked if using the metric presented by Dr. Gabriel, if Grand Ledge would have been in school over the past three months. It was noted potentially we could have been. We could have been one of those districts that started and then stopped. Mr. Cwayna cautioned the board with regard to future decisions noting it doesn't seem things are going to get any better moving forward into March and believes the board needs to level with the people. He questioned how we decide with metric supersedes the other, local versus county to which Dr. Chapin notes we want to move off the "as conditions allow" into something that is a little more objective that includes data from the health department and others. He referenced he believes our data collection is stronger now, but we have had some nasty stories in Grand Ledge itself. He understands we have been a little more cautious, but he believes our community knows what is going on here.

Dr. Gabriel believes the local metric will provide heavy weight. Staffing is going to be impacted by these things. Some people don't fully understand this impact. We are no different than any other area school in the region and subs are not available. We may have to shut down bussing, shut down a particular classroom. Who makes that decision, we have to do that administratively. Not a fun part of the job, but it is the job. And, everyone is going to have an opinion, but we have to make that decision with the safety of our students, staff and community at the forefront..

Dr. Barnes agreed with Dr. Gabriel noting that right now, teachers can still teach if they have to quarantine. But, if we are back to in person, Grand Ledge is the largest district under the RESA and there are just no subs available.

Dr. Gabriel noted that until we get past this, the reality is, we will have times when we come back that we may have to shut down for a day, a week, shut down a program or a classroom.

Mr. Cwayna said this is why he wants the board to really think about this when we just past the low point of this summer, and our kids weren't in school. Now we are moving into the most difficult part of it and we are contemplating bringing students

back. He expressed if we weren't able to be in school over the past couple of months, we probably won't be back in January. He believes we should level with the parents and community.

Mr. Smith noted he believes we are. It is a fair point, but this clearly says as early as January 11. However, we are in a three-week cautionary order from MDHHS. This could be extended. He noted until we have a vaccine or better understanding about this pandemic, we must continue to use the data presented to us. He stressed he believes that starting and stopping could have created a hardship for families as well. But, if the numbers don't support us bringing students back, it's not what we want, but it's what we have to do.

Mr. Shiflett questioned if we are going to ask families to make a commitment, particularly K-6 kids, are we prepared to let them know what the teaching situation is going to be noting he thinks there may be changes in who students currently have for their teachers.

Dr. Gabriel noted that is the potential reality. He noted the district may have to combine students from different buildings. It not the goal, but it is the reality.

Dr. Chapin confirmed we are going to have to ensure we are communicating that to the parents. He expressed he believes most people understand what is going on, but we want to ensure through our communications and this board meeting, that they understand the reality of this.

Dr. Barnes noted this is a big concern to elementary teachers as well as the disruption is great. He noted the district has a lot of really smart people who are trying to figure this out, but the odds of students remaining with the same classroom with the same teacher are pretty slim. The sense from the teachers is this is not good instruction. On each hand, you have a tough choice, and you have to navigate those things and prioritize things.

Dr. Chapin assured the board they would create language around this very issue in the step two communication and registration. He expressed we are trying to create something in very difficult circumstances. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Smith for his comments noting is we lose sight of trying to bring students back, we are losing sight of the most important option.

Mr. McKennon noted his appreciation for the metric as it takes a lot of the guesswork out of the decision. There are a thousand questions that we don't have answers to right now so the parents will need to complete this next step by just what they are, or aren't, comfortable with.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS TO INCLUDE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE GLPS
EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN**

Secretary Shiflett read the rules for addressing the board.

Community member and parent Dawne Velianoff thanked the board for holding this meeting and all the hard work but commented she feels the metric is “laughable”. She expressed she feels the data shared is invalid. She commented she feels the school board has been reactive and not responding. She referenced the district’s need to seek other opportunities for funding and work with small businesses. In closing she stated she is advocating for all children.

Community member and grandparent LeeAnn Dayton noted she is unclear on the metric and if the district will use the county or local data. She expressed concern over children having to change teachers if in person learning is offered and stated she feels this will be very disruptive to young students. She encouraged looking at this from the students’ perspectives.

District parent Michael Arnold extended his personal gratitude to all teachers during these unprecedented times, acknowledging the many challenges and obstacles. He expressed he believes many teachers have risen to the challenge. He noted parents must continue to support the teachers noting none of this is easy for anyone and we have to work together to protect our students and our community. He noted divisive rhetoric is not getting us anywhere.

Parent, community member and district employee Amy Heriford asked for more clarification regarding the kindergarten data expressing she did not see it included in the presentation. She wonders if kindergarteners will be attending half-days in the morning or afternoon or both and asked how this will work logistically. She expressed her gratitude to the Board and especially to her teacher colleagues who have done a phenomenal job.

District parent Kristen Baker expressed she didn’t see the special needs kids shown at all in the metric and she is worried if the supports got taken away, due to the lack of in-person offerings, that the children will spiral. She asked what the plan is for helping these children.

OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF THE 2019-2020 AUDIT

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2019-2020 Audit, as presented.

Mr. Shiflett noted the audit is reviewed by the Board’s Audit Committee and point out the three members of the board meet with the auditors absent the administration to ensure the fiscal integrity of the district. He noted despite making some changes in the leadership, the district is progressing as in previous years.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Shiflett	YES	President DuFort	YES
Mrs. Mulvenna	YES	Mr. Smith	YES
Mr. McKennon	YES	Ms. Clark Pierson	YES
Mr. Cwayna	YES		

The motion carried unanimously.

B. GLPS EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN

a. GLPS Extended COVID-19 October Data

This data was presented during the Update to the GLPS COVID-19 Extended Learning Plan in the Reports segment of the meeting.

b. Approve of the Continuation of the GLPS Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. McKennon 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 through January 15, 2021.

Roll Call Vote

Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>
Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>NO</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
President DuFort	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried 6-1.

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education authorize the superintendent to plan for an alternate day, full day, in person instructional program for registered students in grades 1 through 12 to begin as early as January 11, 2021 and a half-day, in-person instructional program for registered students in kindergarten to begin as early as January 11, 2021. Implementation of this plan will occur after Board of Education approval on December 14, 2020 and will be guided by a Board of Education-approved metric that accounts for the safe return of students to in-person instruction.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>NO</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
President DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried 6-1.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Shiflett 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 \$6,300, as presented.

Mr. McKennon noted this represents one invoice for the asphalt paving following the removal of the underground storage tanks at the bus garage.

Roll Call Vote

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>
Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>ABSTAIN</u>		

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

B. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Payment of Proposal 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$2,293,300.35, as presented.

Mr. McKennon pointed out the district remains on target to move forward with the restructuring at the start of the 2021-2022 school year noting the M-43 roundabout should be completed by this time also.

President DuFort noted this represents several invoices for the bond projects in which bids were previously approved by the board of education.

Roll Call Vote

President DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. McKennon	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<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 Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the payment of Proposal 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$32,606, as presented.

Mr. McKennon advised all invoices were reviewed in the Board Bond Advisory Committee prior to being brought forward and everything is on schedule. He noted he is looking forward to February with the planning meetings for the new Wacousta building begin.

Roll Call Vote

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>
Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>		

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

D. TITLE IX POLICY – GSA106 – 1ST READING

Dr. Gabriel provided an overview of the policy noting this is required by federal law.

Ms. Clark Pierson stressed this policy came out of the Department of Education at the federal level and does not strengthen protections for women.

Motion by Ms. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to waive the 1st reading of Board Policy GSA106 – Title IX.

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 noting the policy can be found in its entirety on the November 16, 2020 meeting page of the Board of Education.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON - AGENDA ITEMS

Parent Jon Hubbard questioned the vote on the Return to Learn Plan sighting a conflict of interest of some of the members as they have a significant other who is a teacher in the district.

District parent Dawne Velianoff agreed with Mr. Hubbard on the conflict of interest but commended Ms. Clark Pierson for abstaining from voting when it comes to Clark Construction. She further reiterated that several members of the board and administration have family members working within the district. She further commented she believes the reason parents are not answering district surveys is because the district does not listen to them.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Dr. Chapin welcomed Nicole Shannon as the newest member of the board noting she will officially take office in January 2021. He recognized Mr. McKennon on his re-election noting both candidates received over 5,000 votes in the November election. He extended appreciation to Kim Mulvenna for her many years of service. He advised he has served as a Superintendent of Schools for a number of year and he has never had someone from the public question a vote with regard to a conflict of interest. He noted the Conflict of Interest pertains to financial implications and he would be happy to read anything that says otherwise. He

commended both Mr. Smith and Mr. McKennon on their integrity and noted both are exceptional board members and expressed he is disappointed this would come up as a comment. He further clarified that he does not have a wife, daughter or son that teaches in the Grand Ledge district. He noted he loves his wife dearly, and she is a retired teacher, but not from Grand Ledge Public Schools. In closing, he advised he will get Mrs. Heriford the answers she is looking for with regard to Kindergarten.

Mrs. Mulvenna advised there is nothing more she can add to tonight's discussion but thanked everyone for everything they do.

Ms. Clark Pierson advised it would not just be Mr. Smith and Mr. McKennon and that she would also come under the same conflict rules as she has a sister who is a Grand Ledge teacher. She referenced the 2012 law for the revised school code, 380.1203 refers to financial interest. Noting the Return to Learn Plan does not hold financial interest but more references how they will spend their day which is a management decision. She noted all the board members have children or have had children in the school and the children may benefit from some of the decisions made (i.e., purchasing new band uniforms), but is a board member's duty to vote unless there is a financial conflict of interest. In closing she believes the board handles these matters correctly.

Mr. Smith noted conflicts are defined by law and if there is no conflict, you must vote.

Mr. McKennon expressed he is proud of the many ties he has to the district.

President DuFort thanked everyone for the work they put into the presentation tonight noting it was extremely well done and gave the board and community concrete data. She expressed the board wants to do what is best for the district and the more information they have the better job they can do. She thanked the teachers and all the staff who are doing their best as well as all the students within the district.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Jon Shiflett, Secretary

Attest:


Denise DuFort, President