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

Regular Meeting – February 26, 2018

**MINUTES**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call by President Shiflett indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Ben Cwayna, Denise DuFort, Beverly Winstanley, Kim Mulvenna, Patrick McKennon and Jon Shiflett ***Central Office Administrators***: Steve Gabriel, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Sutherland and Mark Deschaine.

***Others in Attendance***: Shirley Ries, Dana Schueller, Erica Ledesma, Diane Garnaat, Greg Almy, Trevor Bouwens, Megan Bouwens, Nicole June, Mike Schafer, Jennifer Schafer, Kari Oberdank, Erin Reis, Marlene Promer, Beth Johnston, Melissa Mazzola, Becky Cienki, Sue Alverson, Tamara Lipsey, Susan Sowle, Abbey Schaf, Jen Bouck, Julie Kenner, Jenny Waybright and Kim Manning

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the February 26, 2018 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mrs. Winstanley, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the February 26, 2018 Consent Agenda Item, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda were the meeting minutes of the January 8, 2018 Organizational and Work Session Meetings, the meeting minutes of the January 31, 2018 Special Meeting and the meeting minutes of the February 12, 2018 Work Session and Closed Session.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS**

- A. **Capitol Connections Report** - Mrs. DuFort reported the state has come up with an income tax fix will be fully phased in by 2021 and this is when the School Aid Fund will be reduced by \$40M. Testimony continues on House Bill 5526 on the letter grade system and also testimony began on House Bill 5524 that implements mental health as part of professional development for teachers. Senate Bill 574 was signed by signed by Governor Snyder, which requires the dissemination of the ISD enhancement millage to public school academies in addition to traditional public schools. This goes

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into effect in mid May. In closing she noted we are currently looking at a \$233 per pupil increase in the school aid fund.

- B. Eaton RESA Report** – President Shiflett advised Eaton RESA Board Representative Jay Bennett was unable to attend tonight but asked him to report that February is CTE Awareness Month and the Eaton RESA Career Preparation Center’s Facebook page has been highlighting students from around the RESA including several Grand Ledge students, the Eaton RESA board recent approved a continuation of their truancy prevention and intervention program, found Superintendent Cindy Anderson to be Highly Effective in her most recent evaluation and the two parties have agreed to an amended three-year contract through June 2021, and agreed to re-authorize the charter and renew the contract for Relevant Academy of Eaton County. In closing he advised the Creative Pulp Program was recently highlighted in the Lansing Region Chamber of Commerce’s February newsletter.
  
- C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report** – Mrs. DuFort advised the Board has not met.
  
- D. Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Report** –Mr. McKennon noted the committee had a presentation by the Grand Ledge Rotary in which they offered to raise money to help with the renovation of Jaycee Park to include building a pavilion, which was part of the Master Plan. Part of this offer includes them having naming rights for the park and this is being discussed by the committee.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Greg Almy, Grand Ledge teacher and President of the GLEA, spoke on behalf of GLEA regarding a balanced calendar noting he spoke with a friend who left employment with Baldwin Public Schools after the implementation of a balanced calendar. Six other teachers also left Baldwin. He advised in comparison, this would be equal to 41 teachers leaving Grand Ledge. He also noted sports under a balanced calendar continues to be a challenge. He also noted the impact on paraprofessionals and the inconsistency of pay under a balanced calendar. In closing he noted that he felt he needed to get some first hand experience and knowledge about the subject from a friend that he finds very trustworthy and a well-rounded teacher and to provide that information to the board to assist in their decision on how to proceed with regard to the calendar.

Teacher Melissa Mazzola gave a shout out to the district but specifically to high school principal Jill Mangrum and Grand Ledge Police Officer Chris Chester for the handling of last week’s bomb threat at the high school. She noted Principal Mangrum set the tone for the building and Officer Chester oversaw the sweep of the building. She noted it was very well executed. She thanked the board for listening the last time they were there and noted she is trying to find more schools in Michigan that are on a balanced calendar. She provided the members with an overview comparison of Baldwin Public Schools to our district although Baldwin is a much smaller district. In closing she again thanked the board for listening and asked that they shift away from a balanced calendar and start looking in another direction.

Community member and parent Shirley Reis spoke on moving to a balanced calendar expressing she believes it is important to get the community involved. She questioned by we are not listening to the teachers who are not on board with this implementation.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of 2018-2019 Participation in Section 105 and 105 (C) Schools of Choice  
Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mrs. Winstanley for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve participation in Section 105 and 105(c) Schools of Choice for the 2018-2019 School Year, as presented.**

Mrs. Mulvenna noted this will be to approve unlimited Schools of Choice for Kindergarten through 9<sup>th</sup> grade. She advised this gives the administration the ability to pick and choose where the students attend and provides flexibility. She noted it is very hard to predict enrollment and all projections point to district enrollment being down. Unlimited Schools of Choice provides flexibility to the process but noting it is not a decision to open the floodgates.

Mr. McKennon noted if the district were to limit its Schools of Choice options, and we guarantee five seats at Delta Center and then have 10 students move in to that school's attendance area, we put ourselves into an impossible situation as we cannot move the Schools of Choice students because we guaranteed five seats. Whereas if we do unlimited and the same scenario happens, we can then say their Schools of Choice spot is now at a different building and the option is theirs to take or leave it. He noted our Schools of Choice enrollment is still about 10% of the population.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of 2017-2018 Budget Amendment Resolution  
Motion by Mrs. Winstanley, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2017-2018 Budget Amendment Resolution, as presented.**

Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rasinske presented the board with an overview of the budget amendment reviewing the required transparency disclosure, the changes in revenue that have impacted the budget positively, changes in expenditures while still noting a projected ending fund balance of 9.1%. In closing she advised there may still be changes to the ending fund balance in light of several unknown factors including a possible income tax shift, the legislative budget and final student count.

**A Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Mulvenna</b>	<u>Yes</u>	<b>DuFort</b>	<u>Yes</u>
<b>McKennon</b>	<u>Yes</u>	<b>Cwayna</b>	<u>Yes</u>
<b>Winstanley</b>	<u>Yes</u>	<b>Shiflett</b>	

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Capital Improvement (Sinking) Fund Update**

Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rasinske presented the board with an overview of the Capital Improvement (Sinking) Fund noting this was voter approved, the revenue may be used for the purchase of real estate sites and construction or renovation of existing school buildings. She advised these funds cannot be used to purchase technology equipment, office or classroom equipment, school buses or salaries. She noted the millage was voted in at .8 mill in 2011 and it was permanent reduced to .7968 in fiscal year 2017-2018 under the Headlee Reduction. She further reviewed the revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

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

Greg Almy asked if the Sinking Fund was vote in in 2011 and if it expires in 2021?

Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rasinske advised the voters approved this millage in 2010, but we didn't levy the revenue until January 2011. She further explained it was a 10-year millage and will run through 2021.

Erica Ledesma- questioned the lighting costs under the Sinking Fund.

President Shiflett advised projects are district-wide and includes several lighting projects that were taken on due to the long-term cost savings, as well as lighting projects at athletic fields.

Tamara Lipsey asked Mrs. DuFort for the bill number of the Income Tax Fix she spoke about.

Mrs. DuFort advised she did not have a bill, but it was referenced as the Income Tax Fix for the School Aid fund.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF**

Mrs. Mulvena spoke about the balanced calendar and that this item is negotiated. She advised the calendar is not voted on at the board level. She expressed concerns about the bottom 30% and noted we must come together to find a way to address this. She discussed the decision to move to a trimester schedule that allowed the district the ability to offer more academic opportunities to our students.

Mr. McKennon noted that while the calendar is ultimately negotiated he believes it is the board's responsibility to set the parameters for what is negotiated. He advised he has reached out to Davison Public Schools, a district that is operating under a balanced calendar and is comparable to our district. I understand we must address the bottom 30%, but what does failing mean? It means they are not proficient in one or more category. In closing he noted that while we, as a district, as a board, everyone needs to work to find a solution to help those 30% and advised there is more work being done behind the scenes to ensure everyone is on board.

President Shiflett thanked everyone for coming. He expressed his thanks to the Principal Mangrum, district staff and the Grand Ledge Police Department district for the handling of the bomb threat. He advised he felt there was great communication; it went out on social media

quickly and was updated well. One of the things the community has asked for is more transparency and the board did get one eMail from a parent who said all they got was an all clear with no more details about what actually happened. So, maybe we need to try to explain a little bit more about what we do next time, although he doesn't want there to be a next time.

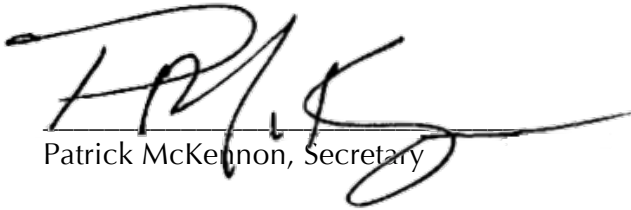
Mrs. DuFort noted she attended a conference on Friday that addressed Funding Michigan Schools. A point of interest was the question, "What is adequate dollar amount to fund our schools?" There is a school financial research collaborative, fundmischools.org to get more information. They are suggestion base cost for per pupil funding should be around \$9,500. One of the groups they used as part of the collaborative was the same company Massachusetts and Tennessee used when they came up with their new figures and funding. Wont' happen without a lot of individual input and interest.

**ADJOURNMENT**

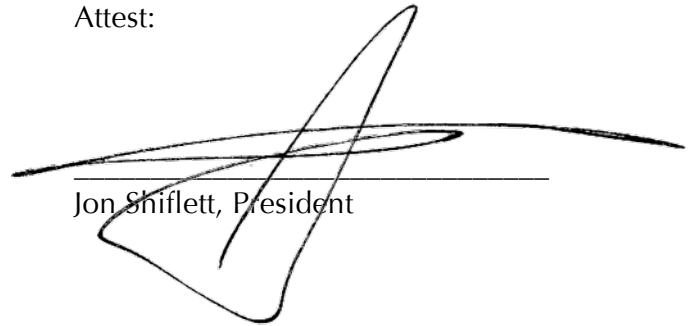
The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Patrick McKennon, Secretary



Jon Shiflett, President