

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – February 27, 2023

MINUTES

President Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 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**: Jarrod Smith, Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon, Jon Shiflett, Ben Cwayna and Ashley Kuykendoll. **Board Members Absent**: Denise DuFort. **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine, Martez Warren and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance** Matt Oppenheim, Michelle Oppenhiem, Devon Detmers, Clifford Hurth, Kate Meengs, Melissa Hinojosa, Michael Patrick, Kelly Nevison, Kylie Heiler, Sara Taylor, Cindy Zerbe, Violet Melton, Jes Melton, Ada Taylor, Danielle Taylor, Kelsey Burzynski, Hudson Burzynski, Nicole Cardwell, Danielle Cardwell, Pat Stefanick, Angie Stefanick, Scott Parsons, Melody Parsons, Jamie McKennon, Holly Bierstetel, Alexa Walter, Karen Bedard, Cathy Fox, Julie Grech-Kramer, Melissa Mazzola, Katie Dufresne, Emerson Dufresne, Nate Rosalin, Julie Schieding, Kim Laforet, John Piper, Tiffany Organek, Jocelyn Thelen, Kristina Dawkins, Desmon Dawkins, Sally Jo Nelton, Allyson McCann, Rickie Kuykendoll and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the February 27, 2023 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the February 27, 2023 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the February 13, 2023 Meeting and Closed Session Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Dr. Glasscoe shared she is tracking several bills that revolve around providing monies and flexibility for post-secondary education options and stressing she feels it is the job of board and school (counselors) to ensure our parents know of all the resources that may be available.

B. Eaton RESA Report

There was no report in Mrs. DuFort's absence.

C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report

Ms. Shannon advised the committee is preparing for their biggest fundraiser, the 19th Annual Josh Spalsbury Memorial 5K Race scheduled for Yankee Doodle Saturday. Sign-up is open now and she encouraged everyone to join the fun.

D. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Report

Ms. Kuykendoll noted the committee met last week and had a great conversation revolving around strategic opportunities for the group moving forward, how we become a support for students in the district, elevate where we stand and leverage trains to continue moving forward.

E. Governance Committee Report

Ms. Shannon advised the committee will meet next week to continue the process of working through the NEOLA policies.

F. Bond Update

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided an update with regard to bond construction projects at Delta Center and the High School Fine Arts. Last week we met with GMB about Wacousta, today Mark and I met with the group about door hardware. Track should be starting next week and wrapped up around April 20th.

G. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Barnes noted Willow Ridge is our art group on display in the hallway this month and sharing he will host a small, informal reception for the students and parents who have art work on display later this week. He shared work continues on our Emergency Operations Plan with local and county-level first responders. Upon completion of the district level plan, work will begin on building level plans. He advised the district now has a dollar amount for the school safety and mental health grant and he will be bringing the plan for utilizing these funds to one of the meetings in March. He shared he will turn it over to Wacousta for what has become a wonderful tradition at our board meetings. He noted Wacousta and the Wacousta community is near and dear to his heart as a Wacousta Alum, the father of a Wacousta Alum, the father of a current Wacousta student and the husband of a Wacousta teacher.

Wacousta Principal Chris Groves kicked off with a presentation with members of the staff and students sharing information on Wacousta being open for all and how they created a welcoming sign at the entry of their building and the "Forever a Wacousta Kid" display that students can have their pictures taken in front of – noting it's not just for kids and Dr. Barnes has had his picture taken in front of the display, sharing ways they use facility dog Sandee and students sharing why they love Sandee, staff using their own time to take advantage of the LETRS and Dr. Castle from MSU professional development and implementing what they learn in their classrooms, sharing many things students are learning in their classrooms, helping out their community by collecting money and food for the Believer's Food Pantry, sharing how they are working to bring more focus on math learning and gearing up for March Book Madness thanks to the generosity of the Grand Ledge Education Foundation. Principal Groves closed the presentation commenting he is blessed to be at Wacousta and extending a special thanks to Ms. Anna Rosalin his Dean of Students remarking she keeps him moving.

Dr. Barnes thanked Mr. Groves and everyone from Wacousta for the presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

Alexa Walter a student teacher in Mrs. Carlson's room at Hayes read a statement from Mrs. Carlson, who was unable to be in attendance tonight. Mrs. Carlson expressed how proud she was of the two students who will address the board tonight to express their concerns and experiences with the current Hayes Intermediate School dress code.

Danielle Cardwell addressed the board providing her concerns and experiences with regard to the Hayes Intermediate School dress code and asking for change.

Violet Mellon addressed the board providing her concerns and experiences with regard to the Hayes Intermediate School dress code and asking for change.

Kristina Dawkins addressed the board sharing there will be an open house on March 2, 2023 from 4:00 – 6:30 at Eagle Park for persons interested in learning more about the possible sale and development of property around M-100 and State Road.

OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Administrative Contract, as presented.

Dr. Barnes noted we this contract represents the new and updated administrative contract for Central Office administrators following review by district legal counsel. This will be the contract for all of our new Central Office staff will other members transitioning to this contract at the next renewal.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF PARTICIPATION IN SECTION 105 & 105(C) SCHOOLS OF CHOICE FOR 2023-2024

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve Participation in Section 105 & 105(c) Schools of Choice on an unlimited basis for Kindergarten through 9th grade for the 2023-2024 School Year, as presented.

Dr. Barnes advised this recommendation is brought with a lot of information behind it explaining area looked at including but not limited to the history of applications received dating back to the 2016-2017 school year, classroom caps and student performance.

A discussion among the members reviewed the flexibility provided through the unlimited option, resident students are always placed into their respective buildings, options available to students in 10th-12th grade, why schools of choice is not offered as an option for 10th-12th grade students, reviewing the release process for 10th – 12th grade students and students at all grade levels following the closure of the schools of choice window and what resources or expansion of resources are available schools of choice students such as Adventure Club.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF DISTANCE LEARNING 3RD TRIMESTER ELECTIVES

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Distance Learning 3rd Trimester Electives, as presented.

Dr. Barnes and Dr. Gabriel provided the board with information on the process implementing board approval of distance learning electives each trimester based on student enrollment and noting distance learning students have the same requirements as in-person learns and this allows them to enhance or add to their study.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Technology Purchases, as presented.

Dr. Barnes and Director of Technology Mark Deschaine provided the board with a detailed overview of the technology purchase recommendations, continued work to map out a true technology replacement plan, working within the district's budget and the use of one-time funding, reviewing the process for disposing of outdated equipment, and ensuring the district is keeping up with current technology.

Mr. Deschaine reviewed the specifics of the recommendation to include a wireless network refresh, wired network refresh, network management (AirWave & ClearPass), Wireless Network Installation, Wacousta Projector Refresh, Student MacBook Refresh for Hayes, Beagle and the High School and the Drafting Lab Computer Refresh at the High School noting these purchases will utilize funds from the 2018 Proposal 1 Series 2 Tech Infrastructure/Equipment Budget, Federal Universal Services Fund, Section 11t Funds, ESSER III Funds, Vocational Education Fund and General Fund.

In closing, Dr. Barnes advised he will provide the board with the district technology replacement plan at a meeting in the near future.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Director of Communications John Ellsworth shared it is Public Schools Week and encouraging everyone to celebrate their public schools and the partnership with families and our communities as a whole.

Dr. Gabriel thanked the Wacousta staff for their presentation, commended the Hayes students who addressed the board and thanking the Hayes student teacher for stepping in for Mrs. Carlson.

Dr. Barnes addressed the student speakers noting the way we make change is doing so in a respectful, articulate and thoroughly thought-out process, which is what the students did and advising their concerns were heard. He thanked the Wacousta team for being here, the community member for sharing information about a community event and noting he is happy we are having these conversations and talking about the business of education.

Ms. Kuykendoll addressed the Hayes students directly advising there is power behind your words and expressing her appreciation in seeing a young person take their power and put it into action. She thanked the student teacher for supporting the students in this space, gave a shout out to Wacousta and thank the community member for the information about the open house.

Mr. Cwayna expressed his appreciation to the Hayes students for coming to speak noting it is good feedback for the board and noting the board does not often get the opportunity to hear how things might be directly affecting students. He thanked Wacousta for their presentation.

Mr. Shiflett reiterated the concerns raised by the Hayes students to ensure his understanding.

Ms. Shannon thanked team Wacousta and the students from Hayes noting she likes the dress code included in the handbook but noting it sounds like that is not what the students are living.

Dr. Glasscoe seconded what had already been said by her colleagues concerning Wacousta as well as the handbook. She commented it can be hard to be objective when you are the one responsible but expressed her appreciation for the input noting it is very helpful to her. She went on to reassert the importance of ensuring we have the information to share with our families regarding resources available to assist them in the continuation of their educational goals. In closing she gave a shout out to Grand Ledge High School Principal, Ken Wright, and Counselor, Stacy Dohm, for their assistance in a recent situation noting they were very flexible and open, which in turn will allow a student to accomplish their goals.

President Smith thanked everyone for being here tonight and taking time out of their day to come to a school board meeting. He noted he was impressed with the Wacousta presentation and advising the Hayes students to not lose their edge.

ADJOURNMENT

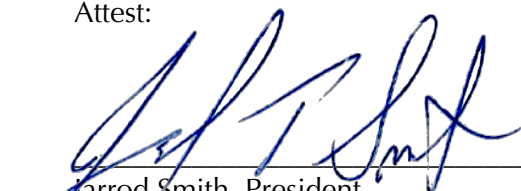
The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Jarrod Smith, President