

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Virtual Committee of the Whole / Work Session – March 8, 2021

MINUTES

President Clark Pierson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Denise DuFort led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Interim Superintendent Dave Chapin indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Sara Clark Pierson from Eagle Township, Clinton County, Jarrod Smith remotely from City of Lansing, Ingham County, Nicole Shannon Oneida township, Eaton County, Jon Shiflett remotely from City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County , Denise DuFort remotely from City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Patrick McKennon remotely from Oneida Township and Ben Cwayna remotely from City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County. **Central Office Administrators**: Dave Chapin, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance** Alex Hoeksema, Allison Zakerski, Alyssa Cummings, Andrew Torrey, Ashley Gilmour, Ashley O’Neil, Beth Schuchaski, Bill Albrecht, Brian Trudell, Caitlin Fenby, Carly Waldrop, Chris Groves, Christina Powell, Christy Price, Cindy Zerbe, Clifford Hurth, D’Anne Golub, Dale Gross, Dan Cwayna, Dawne Velianoff, Doug Waldrop, Elyse Fox, Erica Ledesma, Erin Ries, Greg Almy, Jackie Nelson, James Gee, Jamie McKennon, Jeff Sewick, Jenny Waybright, Jill Dayton, John Hubbard, Kaleb Batterham, Katie Casteel, Katie Dufresne, Katie Fox, Kelly Smith, Kelly Williams, Kim Abed, Kim Browning, Kim Mulvenna, Kristy Merignac, Lara Hubbard, Laura Clark, Laura Mauren, LeeAnn Dayton, Leesha Lee, Lucinda Shier, Marisa Lay, Matt Junak, Megan Weber, Melissa Hinojosa, Melissa Mazzola, Michael Reynolds, Michelle Mead, Michelle VanDuine, Mike Ostertag, Molly Cool, Morgan Cross, Rachel Vandeven, Ryleigh Scott, Stephanie Phillips, Susan Sowle, Taylor Brush, Teresa Dyer, Teresa Miller, Theresa Abed, Tiffany Organek, Tim Totten, Tyler Hubert, Vicki Wenzlick, Whitney Craig and Kim Manning

DISCUSSION ITEM

A. GLPS EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN UPDATE

Interim Superintendent Dr. Chapin presented a detailed update on the Grand Ledge Public Schools Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan reviewing the current Eaton County data on daily positive rates the daily cases per million representing the 7-day average. He further reviewed the five key mitigation strategies, secondary indicates and noted all indicators will be considered in the decision-making process and will likely vary in value over time given the ever-changing context during this pandemic. He reviewed the new CDC guidelines noting this document can be reviewed on the district website. data from Eaton County from the Michigan Safe Start Map advised this is the first of two steps. He advised he present an updated metric and the GLPS Return to Learn Plan. He presented information on the current Eaton County Data from the MI Safe Start map with Risk Level

Thresholds. He reviewed the daily positive test rates and the number of daily cases per million representing a 7-day average. He reviewed the five key mitigation strategies, secondary indicators, noted all indicators will be considered as decision are made and will likely vary in value over time given the ever-changing context during this pandemic. He shared data is being reviewed and steps are being taken with regard to scheduling following the parent survey regarding students returning to in-person learning in the third trimester. He advised the first week of having students back in the building was a good week but advised over the weekend the administrative team came together again due to positive test results at Beagle and Delta Center and noting Delta Center has three classrooms that are fully virtual this week due to those positive tests. He discussed Spring Break and the concerns that go along with that break. In closing he noted the district is striving for the target date of April 12, 2021 to bring more students back into the classroom but stressing this is not a positive date and advised the administration will be preparing a recommendation for the Board's consideration at its March 22 meeting noting the presentation at that meeting will include the return to learn requirements and public comment.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Barnes reiterated the required reporting for the return to learn plan will be presented on March 22. He gave kudos to the staff, administrators and everyone in the building for helping to make the first week of having students back in the building a success. Additionally, he thanked the parents for using the screener and noted the students are doing a great job following the safety precautions in place.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gabriel reiterated how great it was to see students in the building noting administrators spent a lot of time out in the building. He gave a shout out to the students for doing what they needed to do.

Questions from the board addressed the handling of bringing more students back into the building and transitioning from yellow to green and the plan to address outbreaks and the possible need to transition back to yellow once the district moves to the green, the consideration of handling elementary circumstances different than secondary, confirming the plan to transition to green is still being developed and will be brought forward to the board on March 2, adjusting the return to learn guide and maintaining transparency on this issue, confirming the metric is still really important in the decision making process noting the pandemic is dictating a lot and the district is reacting to what is going on around us and the administration is doing the best it can with the information we are receiving and is ever changing. Further discussion noted the April 12th date is a goal and the metric is still what is guiding the discussion and secondary indicators are just that, secondary indicator. More discussion noted vaccinations are ongoing and as time passes more vaccines are getting into arms, the importance of being able to meet the mitigation factors established and the difficulty of contact tracing due to the in-depth process noting this has become a big job for our school nurse, administrators and in some cases classroom teachers noting the reporting goes to the health department and they determine the extent of any quarantine, not the district.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Secretary Shannon provided an overview of the rules for presenting public comment to the board.

Community member and district parent Kristy Merignac addressed the board on the difficulty of completing the most recent parent survey on students returning to school for the third trimester.

Community member and district parent Dawne Velianoff addressed the board regarding the new CDC guidelines, vaccinations, asking for clarification on presumptive cases versus positive cases, hybrid learning, student mental health and staying with facts and not opinions.

Community member Theresa Abed addressed the recent directive from President Biden with regard to standardize testing.

District parent John Hubbard addressed the board asking to have a Q & A at a board meeting, addressed concerns with respect to bussing and transportation and asking how the district is going to follow its curriculum with regard to teaching puberty.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Included were the minutes of the February 22, 2021 Regular Meeting and Closed Session and the March 3, 2021 Special Meeting.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Board Policy GP206

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Board Governance Policy GP 206, as presented.

President Clark Pierson advised this policy is just being clarified to represent when persons are addressing the board they provide their name and jurisdiction rather than their street address. She further clarified that if persons are in need of follow-up, they are welcome to contact the Superintendent's office.

Roll Call Vote

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

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$27,596.23, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted the Board Bond Advisory Committee met prior to this meeting and advising this is specifically for the flooring work at Holbrook.

Roll Call Vote

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

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

D. Approval of the Payment of Proposal 1 Bond Invoices

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$1,782,961.60, as presented.

Mr. Smith again advised this was reviewed by the Board Bond Committee and represents invoices specific to the bond construction including construction management fees, architectural fees and payment to 30 individual trades for the month of February 2021.

Roll Call Vote

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

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

E. Approval of the Payment of Proposal 2 Invoices

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$662,145.15, as presented.

Mr. Smith, noted this cost represents invoices associated with construction management fees, architectural fees and payment to 9 individual trades for the month of February 2021 noting most of these expenses are involving the pool under bond Proposal 2.

Roll Call Vote

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON - AGENDA ITEMS

Community member and district parent and district staff member Elyse Fox addressed the board with regard to bringing more students back into classrooms with the third trimester and expressing her hope it is done safely.

Community member and district parent Dawne Velianoff addressed the board to clarify this is public comment on non-agenda items, noting she did not get an answer on presumptive cases or real cases, and noting concerns with regard to a teacher contract signed on February 10th that was never discussed by the board.

Community member Matt Junak addressed the board expressing his thanks for everything they are doing and the hard choices they are making noting he feels the board is representing the community even if they are not as vocal as other groups.

District parent John Hubbard addressed the board to thank them as well noting this can't be easy and asking for clarity with regard to how the district is going to teach its puberty curriculum.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Barnes addressed the standardized testing mentioned earlier advising the district is working closely with the Eaton RESA noting Michigan has applied for a waiver but no decision or direction has been received.

Mr. McKennon clarified that the contract Ms. Velianoff is referencing is actually a Letter of Agreement and not an employee contract. He advised the board is drafting language to ensure the board and administration are on the same page in reference to Letters of Agreement but at present, following past practices, the board does not vote on Letters of Agreement and noting

nothing illegal has transpired. He further advised the language being drafted will require Letters of Agreement to come before the board establishing the practice going forward.

Mrs. DuFort mentioned the author presentation with Kwame Alexander and Nikki Grimes noting it was very well done, appropriate for all ages and that she was happy the district was part of it.

Ms. Shannon advised the board will need to start thinking about how it will conduct its meetings in April and going forward as the current executive order is set to expire on March 31, 2021.

President Clark Pierson agreed with Ms. Shannon noting the board will have to monitor this and proceed according to the guidelines established. She also advised she understands people want certainty but the pandemic is dictating decisions and decisions are sometimes difficult with an ever-changing target. She asked for patience noting she understands there are strong feelings on both sides of the discussion. She further clarified public comment at board meetings noting this is an opportunity for the community to address the board but is not designed for a back-and-forth dialogue. She noted that questions posed by the community do need to be answered and assured someone from the administration office will reach out to them

Superintendent Chapin confirmed with President Clark Pierson that he would personally contact Ms. Velianoff and Mr. Hubbard.

CLOSED SESSION – Negotiation

Motion by Mr. Smith, 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 Clark Pierson YES
Mr. Cwayna YES
Mr. McKennon YES
Mrs. DuFort YES

Mr. Shiflett YES
Ms. Shannon YES
Mr. Smith YES

The motion carried unanimously at 7:37 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:44 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT


The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Sara Clark Pierson, President