
GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Committee of the Whole / Work Session – April 11, 2016

MINUTES

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

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Brian Metcalf indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Linda Wacyk, Jon Shiflett, Jay Bennett, Sara Clark Pierson, Kim Mulvenna, Brody Boucher and Beverly Winstanley. **Central Office Administrators:** Brian Metcalf, Andy George, Steve Gabriel, Norma Schutzki and Mark Deschaine **Others in Attendance:** Jackie Jancek, Vicki Sandstrom, Nancy Lewis, Bill Fleener, Susan Sowle, Nancy Nowak, Annette Kelly, Kevin Mason, Vicki, Roskamp, Ara Parseghian, Beth Johnston, Kristy Welch, Jan Rozich, Bri Dennis, Greg Almy, Stacey Austin, Erin Ellis, Angie Stefanick, Joni Henretty, Melissa Mazzola, Deborah McMartin-Finkel, Tracy Smith, Michelle Knauff, Teresa Dyer, Mark Jones, Colleen Price, Liz Price, Joy Marshall, Kelly Smith, Lisa Klingbiel, Chad Little, Susen Batz, Erica Ledesma, Mary Carlson, Danielle Nelson, Francie Skarritt, Ruth Hancock, Melody Parsons, Kristy Meignac, Linsee Phillips, Jenny Kish, Laura Willoughby, Tony Heriford, Amy Heriford, Emily Williamson, John Ellsworth, Candace Karrer, Rachel Buffenbarger, Fred Hutchinson, Lindsey Grostefon, Jennifer Bouck, Dana Schueller, Doreen Earl, Kellee Auge and Kim Manning.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Andy George, provided the board with a report covering personnel costs in reference to the district's total budget noting 86.6% of the district's total budget is used for personnel. He further discussed the planning process used by Human Resources, current unsettled collective bargaining agreements, student FTE and State allocation and the student enrollment increases over projected student enrollment in addition to the costs associate with the increased enrollment. Mr. George reviewed the costs associated with hiring and retaining the best teachers noting 57% of the total budget is used for teacher salaries, as it has been since 2011. He also covered costs associated with district administrators noting this percentage has decreased from 6.2% in 2011 to 5.7% of the total budget in 2016 and teacher assistant costs have continued to average about 5% of the total budget. He provided an overview of the district's audited fund balances for 2011-12 through 2014-15 and the projected 7% fund balance for 2015-16. However, he advised decisions must be made based on projections and in February 2015 the Director of Finance was projecting a 2014-2015 year end fund balance of 5%. Actions were taken including freezing all hiring and purchasing of technology, textbooks and instruction supports, freezing the purchasing of custodial supplies and building maintenance and repairs were postponed. In addition, custodial work hours were reduced over the summer and bus and vehicle purchases were posted. Mr. George pointed out that in six out of the last seven years, the district has had a deficit budget noting the one-year with a positive budget was due to

Federal Bailout money. He further advised that even with the reductions in 2014-15 in addition to the unexpected revenue received from the state and a large year-end transfer from Eaton RESA, the district still had a deficit budget, just a smaller deficit than projected. He presented the board with the actual monthly costs for personnel from July 2015 – February 2016. In closing he noted that projections are constantly changing with the uncertainty of state funding, student count, retirement costs, collective bargaining agreements, retirements / resignations, personnel on FMLA, substitute costs as well as the cost for fuel, gas, electricity and water.

Mrs. Clark Pierson reviewed information from the district Audit, as posted on the district's Transparency Page, noting the loss of students and per pupil foundation over the last 10-years.

Mr. Shiflett advised legislative budget meetings are taking place and they, once again; hope to have budgets finalized by the end of June.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Parent Erica Ledesma addressed the board to express her desire to keep teacher assistants at the elementary level.

District teacher Stacy Austin addressed the board to express her concerns regarding the increase in class size.

District teacher and GLEA Crisis Team Leader addressed the board regarding the good things that take place at Grand Ledge Public Schools, Senate and House Joint Resolutions that have been introduced to equalize state per pupil funding, passing a regional enhancement millage and the teacher contract.

Two Beagle Elementary students addressed the board to express their support for their teachers.

APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$3,926.66, as presented.

Superintendent Metcalf provided the board with the details of the invoices.

The motion carried unanimously with member Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL380.4203.

ENERGY CONSERVATION UPDATE PRESENTATION

District Energy Specialist Thom Sowle provided the board with a detailed overview of the savings the district has recognized since implementing its energy conservation partnership with Cinergistics.

SECTION 105 AND 105(C) SCHOOLS OF CHOICE DISCUSSION

Superintendent Metcalf advised he is recommending the district participate in Section 105 and 105(c) Schools of Choice for the 2016-2017 school year at 1st – 9th grade. He provided the board with information regarding student enrollment from 2009 to present, along with projections for next year including number of sections. He noted he recommends the district follow the same guidelines as used last year for this process. The board was in agreement with participating in Schools of Choice. Superintendent Metcalf advised he will bring this item back to the board for approval at their April 25th Regular Meeting.

Mr. Shiflett asked for information on how many staff the district would have to hire and how many classrooms the district would need to maintain student class size at 25 across the district.

Mrs. Clark Pierson reviewed student class sizes prior to the restructuring of the district noting that some classes had less than 25 students while others had over 30. The restructuring of the district allowed for the “

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Operations Andy George thanked Mr. Sowle for his presentation and the work he does to coordinate energy conservation measures across the district.

Mr. Shiflett again noted its budget season for the Legislature. Representative Tom Leonard from Clinton County also represents a portion of Grand Ledge Public Schools and encouraged parents and the community to reach out to him as well as Senator Jones and Representative Barrett on education issues.

CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations

Motion by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna 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:

Mrs. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Boucher	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. Winstanley	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Bennett	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<u>Absent</u>	President Wacyk	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously at 7:16 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:43 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Jay Bennett, Secretary

Jon Shiflett, Vice President