

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – April 24, 2023

MINUTES

Vice President Glasscoe 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 Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon, Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort, Ben Cwayna and Ashley Kuykendoll. **Board Members Absent:** Jarrod Smith. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Wendy Seida, Mark Deschaine, Martez Warren and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Joel Clark, Angela Clark, Mark Jones, Bonnie Schuert, Sally Jo Nelton, Brian Johnson, Belinda Johnson, Kim Laforet, Tim Totten, Allyson McCann, Melissa Mazzola, Raymond Gude, Dave Kushman, Eric Leopold, John Piper and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the April 24, 2023 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the April 24, 2023 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the April 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Dr. Glasscoe reported on Senate Bill 162 which will give more flexibility to school districts in hiring counselors.

Mr. Shiflett shared that budgets will be reported from sub committees soon and encouraged persons who feel strongly on the importance of funding public education to reach out to their legislators.

B. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort reported on presentation from Relevant Academy and the Technology Department the RESA Board received. She also noted the Board approved a travel request for a DECA student who is eligible to compete at the national level.

Ms. Shannon asked for clarification on the Relevant Academy program and Mrs. DuFort shared this is a program for students who struggle with standardized programming noting it is an Eaton RESA program even though it is housed here at Sawdon.

Dr. Glasscoe asked and Mrs. DuFort confirmed there are Grand Ledge students participating in the Aviation Flight program.

C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report

Ms. Shannon reminded the Foundation's biggest fundraiser, the 19th Annual Josh Spalsbury Memorial 5K Race is 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 briefly last week and discussed collaborative opportunities within the community. She noted more will be forthcoming in the near future.

E. Governance Committee Report

This report was deferred as the Committee will be presenting policies for review later in the agenda.

F. Bond Update

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided an update with regard to bond construction projects including updates to the Beagle Pool, construction on the Pole Barn is underway, still working on punch lists and with the State of Michigan on licensing for the High School Fine Arts addition, work at Delta Center continues and in closing noting Bids for the new Wacousta build are out.

G. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Barnes welcome Beagle Middle School Principal Dave Kushman, Assistant Principal Eric Leopold and Teacher Mark Jones.

Mr. Jones thanked the board for the opportunity. Then, students Symone Price, Savannah Wright, Ajay Beers, Lynn Gude, and Kendall Wilson from the Beagle Comet Counsel sharing information on the LINKS program, peer tutoring, Greytl the school facility dog, their recent community food drive, STEM electives and the LCC trip that 8th graders took to see options available to take classes during their Junior and Senior years.

Mr. Kushman and Mr. Leopold shared information on their upcoming, May 22nd, Career Pathways Day where students will learn about career opportunities available to them from 40 community members, including our very own Dr. Barnes. They will learn about careers in law enforcement, veterinary medicine, insurance, nursing, aquatic biology, landscape design, supply chain management, electricians and the food industry to name a few.

Dr. Barnes thanked Mr. Kushman, Mr. Leopold, Mr. Jones and the students for the presentation.

Dr. Barnes continued noting we are working on how we handle questions that come up during board members, both from the public and board members. Right now, he will address a couple that came up during the last meeting.

How do we address families that identify as more than one primary race?

Following this question, Technology Executive Director Mark Deschaine worked with our student database software company, PowerSchool, and have developed an update that will allow the option of choosing more than one primary race. However, to implement the update, we must completely shut down PowerSchool. At this time, it is not feasible to shut the system down so the update will be completed in the late fall to early winter.

How does the district name new facilities?

The board had some discussion on this topic in the later part of last year. Since then, there have been a handful of meetings but it is recommended the discussion hold as the board is in the process of implementing new policies under NEOLA. This is addressed in NEOLA in the 7000s. In the meantime, we have researched what some other districts are doing, will gather policies from other district and will provide these to the Governance Committee to have an in-depth discussion, and the board as a whole, can make the decision on the policy implementation at that time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

Andrea Clark addressed the board regarding medical services for her student that the district is unable to include in the IEP.

Joel Clark addressed the board regarding medical services for his student that the district is unable to include in the IEP.

Tim Totten questioned where the land donated to the district by David Morris was located, if the district still owned the property or if the land had been sold to the Eagle Mega Site. He further commented on the inclusive logo design.

NEW BUSINESS

A. SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT AND MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATION

Dr. Barnes provided an overview of how the district will use grant allocations with regard to School Safety under Section 97, 97c an 97d and with regard to Student Mental Health under 31aa and the School Based Health Center Planning Grant.

B. 1ST READING OF NEOLA BOARD POLICIES 3000 – PROFESSIONAL STAFF & 4000 SUPPORT STAFF Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education waive the first reading of NEOLA Board Policies, 3000 Professional Staff and 4000 Support Staff. The motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed NEOLA Board Policies 3000 Professional Staff and 4000 Support Staff.

C. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 3 BONDS Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bonds, as presented.

Mr. Shiflett noted this authorization allows for a flexible sale of the Series 3 bonds, which, over the life of the bonds will save the taxpayers of the district \$1.7M.

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. DuFort	YES	Dr. Glasscoe	YES
Mr. Cwayna	YES	Ms. Shannon	YES
Ms. Kuykendoll	YES	Mr. Shiflett	YES

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Dr. Barnes noted the district always appreciates feedback from parents. He pointed out that special education law is very complex and as the Executive Director of Student Services, Mrs. Seida has a very complex job to ensure that we are following the law noting we seek guidance from the district's legal counsel but sometimes this creates challenges commenting he appreciates the job she does. He noted an IEP is an Individual Education Plan and within that plan, we develop an educational plan to help our special education students throughout our district, again noting, these issues are very complex. He noted that the district Bond Page includes all of our bond priorities, including options on the Morris property. And in closing, echoing from the last meeting, the logo design represents our commitment to an inclusive environment, as part of our Strategic Plan, and provides an opportunity to engage our student body to help us design a symbol that shows we are a welcoming place.

Mrs. Kuykendoll thanked Beagle for the presentation, acknowledged the quick response of the operations department to mitigate a ground bee issue at Willow Ridge reminding people if you see something, say something and sharing they can email the Superintendent's office. She further solidified the district's change over from collecting primary race, thanking Mr. Deschaine for his quick response, and acknowledging the district will continue to collect racial demographics as required but will no longer have the requirement for a biracial or multi-racial families to select a primary race to identify themselves. She noted the timeliness of Dr. Barnes presentation on Safety and Mental Health reading a prepared statement addressing persons who have reached out to her to share their concerns for student safety including but not limited to building infrastructure safety, physical safety, and psychological harm by the use of racial epithets towards racial minorities, and more, noting she expects the districts leadership team to fully address these concerns.

Mrs. DuFort thanked the parents and families for supporting their children as we are in the midst of the State Assessment window in addition to supporting the staff.

Ms. Shannon thanked Beagle and Dr. Barnes for ensuring the board sees what is going on in the buildings. She thanked the high school for the invitation to Prom for U that is designed for students with disabilities and sharing the Grand Ledge Education Foundation is a supporter of Prom for U. She thanked Dr. Barnes for the Safety update and further addressed the Dave & Betty Morris property noting that at this time it is the district's intention to build on that property. She acknowledged the board, and everyone in the community, is very aware of the contentious debate over the Eagle Mega Site noting the board and district will continue to do right by our students.

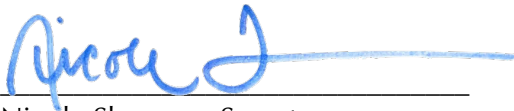
Dr. Glasscoe gave a shout out to Beagle student Ajay for being the only male presenting tonight for Beagle and commending all the students noting they did us proud. She shared LCC will be celebrating the last cohort of college students with the Convocation on May 9th and lastly reminding parents that eligible students from the graduating classes of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 who were impacted by the pandemic have the opportunity to address gaps in reading, writing and math noting information shared from LCC is being distributed through the counseling offices and recognizing that while it is easy to connect with current students, former students may present a challenge.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Jarrod Smith, President