
GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Committee of the Whole / Work Session – August 8, 2016

MINUTES

President Wacyk called the meeting to order at 6:03 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, Steve Gabriel and Mike Johnson **Others in Attendance**: Dave Kushman, Greg Almy and Kim Manning.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mrs. Winstanley, 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 \$36,851.88, as presented.

Superintendent Metcalf provided an overview of the expenses.

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

B. APPROVAL OF BID AWARD – HIGH SCHOOL RETAINING WALL

Motion by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the bid award to HTA Companies, Inc., in the amount of \$179,185 for the completion of the High School Retaining Wall, as presented.

Superintendent Metcalf provided an overview of this project noting the Baseball booster club is picking up almost \$35,000 of the expenses.

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

C. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FUND BALANCE POLICIES

Motion by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Boucher for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution Establishing Fund Balance Policies, as required by GASB 54, as presented.

Superintendent Metcalf advised this is brought forward at the request of the district's Financial Consultant Bruce Dunn. Member Sara Clark Pierson expressed this has been discussed with the Audit Committee and it was agreed it was in the best interest of the district.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion by Mrs. Winstanley, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve a Leave of Absence to Lauren Brown, a 5th grade teacher at Delta Center for the 2016-2017 School Year, as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE HIRINGS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. Winstanley for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the hiring of Dave Kushman as Assistant Principal at Hayes Middle School, John Szczerowski as Band Director at Grand Ledge High School and Alex Bratschi as a Math and Physics Teacher at Grand Ledge High School, as presented.

Dave Kushman thanked the board for the opportunity to move forward in his career. He advised he had not seen himself becoming an administrator when he first started teaching, but seeing the work of the administrators he has work with in the special education field, he believes this next chapter will allow to continue to serve the students and parents of the district in a broader sense.

Dr. Metcalf advised Band Director, John Szczerowski was selected following an in-depth search to replace Ms. Hsu. This was a detailed process that included input from numerous band students, band booster parents, as well as reference checks and having the candidates teach a class.

Dr. Metcalf further advised the district was very lucky to find Alex Bratschi. He noted there is a shortage of Math and Science teachers across the state. He advised Alex had taught in the Upper Peninsula last year, but has decided to move back toward his home of Charlotte, much to the benefit of Grand Ledge Public Schools.

The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION & PRESENTATION ITEMS

A. 2016-2017 STUDENT HANDBOOKS – 1ST READING

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Steve Gabriel provided the board with a detailed overview of the updates that will be made to the student handbooks for the upcoming school year.

Following an in-depth discussion among the members, the ability to appeal a suspension of 10-days and under will still be provided.

Mr. Shiflett advised the funding for the current 45-Day In-School Suspension Program will not be continued through the county. Discussions will take place with the YES Center to see if there is anything we can join together to provide our students in light of this elimination of funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS

GLEA President Greg Almy advised the board that Phil Cutts, who currently serves as a teacher assistant at Willow Ridge has experience with drug and alcohol programs and could serve as a good resource in researching options to continue / replace the current 45-Day In-School Suspension Program.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF

Board Member Mulvenna expressed her concerns with Public Act 170 that requires districts to teach about Genocide in our curriculum but to date, the Michigan Department of Education has not provided districts with the curriculum. She further expressed her disappointment in the fact that the Michigan State Police required us to remove the Fallen Comet Stickers from our buses in order to pass our State Inspection.

Dr. Metcalf advised there are very specific rules about what can be included on a school bus. When the stickers were first implemented, our Transportation Supervisor had received approval from an MSP Sergeant; however, nothing was ever put in writing. With a new inspector, he was not willing to allow the stickers to stay on the buses.

Mr. Gabriel welcomed Dave Kushman to the Administrative Team noting he has had the pleasure of working with Dave at the High School and believes he will be a great asset to the district in this capacity.

Board Member Mulvenna noted she is pleased the district looks to promote talent from within the district.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Jay Bennett, Secretary

Linda Wacyk, President