

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Committee of the Whole / Work Session – September 13, 2021

MINUTES

President Sara Clark Pierson 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 Marcus Davenport indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Sara Clark Pierson, Jarrod Smith, Nicole Shannon, Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort, Patrick McKennon, Ben Cwayna. **Central Office Administrators**: Marcus Davenport, Bill Barnes, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance** Tim Marsh, Melissa Mazzola, Cassandra Graven-Watts, John Ledesma, Kristen Andriessen, Nell Pizzo, Jason Devenbaugh, Tara Kopietz, Scott Martzke, Kristina Stroud, Marlene Promer, Kari Wilson, Kyle Dymond, Jim Cotter, Lucinda Shier, Tim Totten, Greg Almy, Julie Waterbury, Howard Pizzo and Kim Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. McKennon read the rules for addressing the board.

John Ledesma addressed the board regarding doing a great job. Appreciate all the work you guys are doing.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. AMENDMENTS TO BOARD GOVERNANCE POLICY GP206 – 1ST READING

President Clark Pierson provided background and an overview of the revisions to Board Policy GP206 to include removal of item c under Public Participation which addresses a delegation wishing to address the Board and adding a section to address disturbing the peace at a school board meeting. President Clark Pierson noted the disturbing the peace section is modeled after the City of Grand Ledge Ordinance as used by the Grand Ledge City Council.

A detailed discussion among the members clarified the disturbing the peace language to address a School board Meeting. It was further suggested implementation of one public comment segment for board meetings to help remove confusion regarding comment on agenda items versus non-agenda item. Consensus for this was received from the board.

Motion by Mr. Shiflett seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to waive the first reading of Board Governance Policy GP206. The motion carried unanimously.

President Clark Pierson advised the policy will be brought back for board approval at the September 27, 2021 meeting.

B. OPERATIONS POLICY FD300 – NAMING NEW FACILITIES & RENAMING EXISTING FACILITIES

President Clark Pierson advised the board has received some suggestions with regard to naming new facilities that are being constructed. She reviewed Operations Policy FD300 that addresses naming new facilities and renaming existing facilities. She expressed her suggestion to remove the sentence that states the person must be deceased at least three years.

Mr. McKennon advised he asked Tim Marsh, a former member of the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to come and provide background information regarding naming facilities within the district.

Tim Marsh shared he served on the Board of Education from 1992 to 2001. He provided background with regard to the implementation of a facility naming policy following the naming of Boughton Field that was done without input from the Board of Education in 1993. He further shared that Beagle Middle School was named immediately after Superintendent Ken Beagle retired, while he was still alive and that Neff Elementary School was named after the Neff family as they provided the funds to build the school. He noted with several new athletic venues, the Board has a once in a generation opportunity to name the facilities after individuals who have had a profound impact on the students of Grand Ledge Public Schools.

Discussion among the members provided consensus to remove the person shall be deceased but the person must not currently work for Grand Ledge Public Schools. It was further discussed that the board, as a whole, should make the decision to name any new facility within the district.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE HIRING

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Administrative Hiring of Julie Waterbury as Chief Financial Officers of Grand Ledge Public Schools, as presented.

Mrs. Waterbury introduced herself to the board, providing her background and expressing she is thrilled to join the district and bring her previous school experience, as well as her well rounded business experience.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF TEACHER HIRINGS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve teacher hiring of Philip Hengesbach, Charles Lupton, John Renn, Ryan Sisco, Brittini Belbeck, Randy Cusack, Joseph Bush, Julie Kushman, Steve Weaver, Samantha Weaver, Lucinda Shier and Emily Escue, as presented.

Dr. Barnes provided background information on the group of teacher hirings noting they are an outstanding group.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF 2021-2022 EATON COUNTY YOUTH FACILITY CURRICULUM GUIDE

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2021-2022 Eaton County Youth Facility Curriculum Guide as presented.

Dr. Barnes noted the Eaton County Youth Facility is one of the district's shared partnership programs. It provides services to a unique group of students with unique needs. In accordance with pupil accounting rules, the Board of Education must approve the curriculum guide for this program.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Library Collection Development Guides, as presented.

Dr. Barnes advised this guide is something the district has had for several years, but hasn't been published on our website. In the district's efforts to be more transparent, we wanted to get this Guide into the review cycle for the board. Dr. Barnes further noted this Guide provides clear direction for a parent to request their student be prohibited from checking out a certain book.

Discussion among the members clarified that librarians are referred to as Media Secretaries in district buildings and noted this needed to be cleaned up in the guide. Additionally, it was noted the Director of Technology oversees the Media Secretaries and that too should be cleared up in the guide.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF MIDDLE SCHOOL DISTANCE LEARNING SCHEDULE

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the middle school schedule to match the high school schedule (5 period day instead of 6) for students enrolled in the Grand Ledge Public Schools Distance Learning classes, effective at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Barnes advised this will bring the middle school distance learners in alignment with the high school distance learners and noting they will have one less elective through Michigan Virtual University under this schedule.

Discussion among the members noted this is not cutting the hours of their school day, it is lengthening the time they are in their core classes.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 23, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of sinking fund invoices in the amount of \$116,036.52, as presented.

Mr. Smith provided information on the Sinking Fund and Bond Invoices noting that the Board Bond Advisory Committee met before this meeting and reviewed all the invoices approving them all to be brought to the full board.

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

H. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 1 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$2,121,592.72, as presented. The motion carried unanimously with President Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

I. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$16.18, as presented. The motion carried unanimously with President Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

J. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 1 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$806,721.31, as presented. The motion carried unanimously with President Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

K. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$1,207,995.93, as presented. 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

Kristen Andriessen addressed the board regarding masks.

Greg Almy addressed the board regarding having kindergarteners back in their home schools.

Jason Devenbaugh addressed the board regarding masks.

Melissa Mazzola addressed the board regarding the start of the school year and new online learning platforms available to students.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Dr. Barnes thanked the board for their support of facility dogs and sharing the impact these dogs have had for our students.

Mrs. Holding shared math recovery training will take place later this week and next week for our K-6 interventionists, that we have an additional school nurse starting on next Monday and a third one starting October 1, 2021.

Mr. Deschaine addressed the network outage from last week noting he did not take the school cancellation lightly and advising some aged equipment is being repaired or replaced to avoid this in the future.

Mrs. DuFort noted she has heard from several community members how excited the kids are to be back in school and a lot of comments about the facility dogs. She expressed how impressed she was with the work of the administrative team, teachers and all of the district staff to get this school year off to a great start.

Mr. Shiflett expressed his appreciation for the Library Collection Development Guide noting libraries are one of the greatest defenders of freedom in this country noting it was librarians who stood up for freedom of speech, freedom of thought and freedom of press assembly. He noted he is excited to see that is still reflected in the district's Library Collection Guide.

Mr. Smith noted how impressed he was with the renovations at Beagle and his thanks to the staff for figuring out how to work around the continued construction to ensure the safety of our students and the successful start of the school year.

President Clark Pierson asked the administration to look into and provide a proposal to the board that will allow meetings to be live-streamed to the public. She took a moment to reflect on the 20th Anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001, noting she was in lower Manhattan and had the opportunity to see some of the ceremonies referencing the World Trade Center attacks stating it was quite emotional. She shared Grand Ledge has lost a few young men over the past 20 years in the war following this attack.

Ms. Shannon noted she has a couple of kids in the district and the start of the school year was great from the late breaking Kindergarten Round-Up where there was excitement in seeing five-year olds making friends, while their parents asked questions about lunch boxes and snow pants to the Open Houses where there was pure joy while students looked for their lockers and tried to find out which friends would be in their classrooms. She thanked the administration and staff for making it a great start to the school year.

Mr. McKennon thanked the staff and administration for the start of a brand new, very different year. He commented he learned something on Wednesday when he asked his kids how excited they were to have the day off and their comment back was not at all. He noted that was an "aha" moment for him.

Mr. Cwayna asked for the mask mandate to be added to a future agenda for further discussion and debate.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Sara Clark Pierson, President