

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – September 27, 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 and Patrick McKennon. ***Central Office Administrators***: Marcus Davenport, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. ***Others in Attendance*** Melissa Mazzola, Susan Dixon, Roger Dixon, Troy Stroud, Kris Stroud, Elvira Hernandez, Tara Kopietz, Jeff McNeilly, Elyse Fox, Kathy Brooks, Kyle Dymond, Jaden Deibel, Howard Pizzo, Nell Pizzo, Tim Totten, Lucinda Shier, Kristen Andriessen, Greg Almy and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. DuFort requested the Agenda be amended to adjust the current New Business Item A to Item B and add New Business Item A: MASB Superintendent Evaluation Training prior to the Closed Session.

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 27, 2021 agenda items, as revised. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 23, 2021 Consent Agenda Items, as revised.

Included on the Consent Agenda was the Meeting Minutes of the September 13, 2021 Work Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Mr. Smith noted the State Aid Budget has been presented to the Governor as well as a few other pieces of legislation being introduced such as the annual request to remove the state date requirements, but these pieces of legislation have seen no action.

B. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort noted they received a presentation from the mental health services team noting each district within the RESA is receiving services through the RESA in addition to what is provided through the district. She noted she and Jack Tempse will be attending the MASB Leadership Conference on behalf of the RESA next month. Additionally she advised Dr. Sean Williams has been named the next Superintendent of the Eaton RESA

and will take over January 1, 2022 as current Superintendent Cindy Anderson retires. She noted Dr. Williams has been a member of the RESA Staff for a number of year and has held several different positions, most recently as the Assistant Superintendent, which will ensure a smooth transition. She shared details from the Eaton RESA Annual Report and reminded members the County Area School Board Association (CASBA) meeting will be held on October 26, 2021 and encouraged members to attend.

C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report

Ms. Shannon noted the Foundation has sent out their 2021-2022 teacher grant applications and has scheduled an October 20, 2021 meeting to review the applications and award grants. She will provide more details following that meeting.

D. Bond Update

Dr. Mike Johnson provided a detailed update on the bond construction across the district noting that Holbrook is almost finished, work continues at Beagle with work on the Beagle pool taking place with an anticipated completion in February 2022. He shared the M-43 round about is complete noting the light poles were installed last week. The High School track project is moving along and is expected to be complete in December 2021. In closing he advised planning for the High School fine arts and athletic facilities continues and planning for projects at Delta Center and the new school for Wacousta will begin in the week.

E. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Davenport expressed his thanks to all of our staff, students and parents for a successful return to in person learning. He noted there have been a few obstacles but the building leadership is adjusting as necessary. He shared the district is working with continued staffing shortages for teachers, teacher assistants and bus drivers, as well as adjusting lunch menus due to supply chain shortages. He shared the district's new Chief Financial Officer, Julie Waterbury will join us on Monday, October 4, but she has already been instrumental in attending necessary meetings to ensure the district continues to move forward. Additionally, the district has hired multiple home-bound educators to address the ever-changing obstacles of COVID-19 and quarantining. In closing he shared that he will be visiting each of the school buildings over the new two weeks to visit with the building leaders to gain a solid understanding of the current challenges they are facing on a daily basis.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. McKennon read the rules for addressing the board.

There was no public comment on agenda items.

OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF BOARD GOVERNANCE POLICY GP206 – BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Board Governance Policy, GP206 – Board Meeting Agenda, as presented.

Discussion noted this was presented at the September 13th meeting. It establishes a definition of for disturbing the peace at a school board meeting noting this is aligned with the City of Grand Ledge ordinance. It removes the reference to delegations and streamlines the public comment to one place on the agenda to remove any confusion with speaking on agenda items or non-agenda items.

The motion carried unanimously.

**B. APPROVAL OF OPERATIONS POLICY FD300 – NAMING A NEW FACILITY / RENAMING AN EXISTING FACILITY
Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools
Board of Education to approve Operations Policy FD300 – Naming a New Facility /
Renaming an Existing Facility, as presented.**

Discussion noted former Board Member Tim Marsh provided the board with history regarding the initial development of this policy in the early 90's. The policy is being revised to remove the requirement that someone must be deceased for at least five-years before a facility could be named after them. However, the person must not be currently employed by the district. It additionally now established that the board, as a whole, will receive recommendations for naming or renaming facilities and make the determination. It was stressed the board will not be naming the facilities, but will receive recommendations from the community. Additionally, it was noted that naming a facility should be done through a ceremony type event.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MASB TRAINING SESSION

Mrs. DuFort shared that the board is required, by law, to evaluate the Superintendent on an annual basis. She noted she has spoken with Dr. Davenport and he is comfortable using the MASB tool for his evaluation. She shared MASB is hosting a virtual training session on October 5 and with the Board President's approval, members can be registered to attend this training. Mrs. Manning will take care of registering members.

President Pierson approved the training. And Mrs. Manning will register President Clark Pierson, Ms. Shannon, Mr. Shiflett and Mr. McKennon noting that Mrs. DuFort has already been trained in the evaluation tool through the Eaton RESA and other dates will be looked at for Mr. Smith.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tim Totten addressed the board regarding masks.

Kristen Andriessen addressed the board regarding masks.

Susan Dixon addressed the board for clarification on the current mask policy.

President Clark Pierson noted there are currently two mask policies. The first, is a federal law that addresses the requirement to wear a face covering when using public transportation (i.e., busses), and the recent Barry Eaton District Health Department Emergency Order that requires face covering, regardless of vaccination status, when in any school building.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Mr. McKennon thanked everyone for another few weeks of kids in school under very challenging times. He thanked Dr. Davenport for taking the time to meet with each of the board members individually. In closing he encouraged the administration to establish a quarantine check list that provides everyone with what to expect during a quarantine.

Mrs. DuFort thanked Dr. Davenport and Mr. Ellsworth for their continued communication to families and sharing all the positive things taking place in the district.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of receiving Attorney/Client Privilege Communication, as per Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The motion carried unanimously at 6:48 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:24 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

President Clark Pierson noted that the Board of Education received two appeals to recent Freedom of Information (FOIA) denials. Under Section 10 of the Freedom of Information Act, the appeals are considered received today, September 27, 2021.

B. APPEAL #1

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to partially grant and partially deny the FOIA appeal 48-A and authorize Board President Clark Pierson to work with legal counsel to send appropriate notice to the appealing party and ensure all other legal requirements are met. The motion carried unanimously.

APPEAL #2

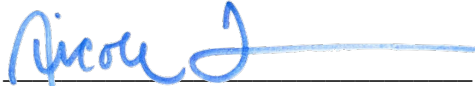
Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to deny the FOIA appeal 51-B and authorize Board President Clark Pierson to work with district legal counsel to send appropriate notice to the appealing party and ensure all other legal requirements are met. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

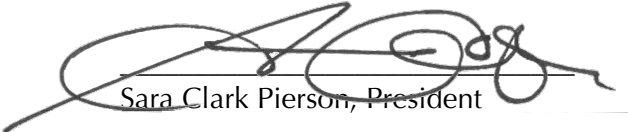
The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Sara Clark Pierson, President