

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**Board of Education**

Regular Meeting – November 8, 2021

MINUTES

President Sara Clark Pierson called the meeting to order at p.m. Jacob 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, Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort, Patrick McKennon and Ben Cwayna. **Central Office Administrators:** Marcus Davenport, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Julie Waterbury, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance** Pat St. George, Pat St. George, Abby Taylor, Crystal Quintanilla-Howard, Sara Mida, Chris Mida, Anisa Hassouna, Jason Devenbaugh, Jim Cotter, Jeff McNeilly, Elise Fox, Alison Walczak, Howard Pizzo, Kim Laforet, Kyle Dymond, Calli OKeefe, Cindy Stoneham, Jody Lyon, Jessica Schultz, Lara Hubbard, John Ledesma, Angel Landis, Kaedyn Hirschman, Bill Clark, Saige Halfmann, Melissa Mazzola, Ben Cook, Donna Ristow, Lana Baker, Kathy Forgie, Tim Totten, Nell Pizzo, Tyler Hubert, Greg Almy and Kim Manning

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 8, 2021 Agenda Items, as presented.**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. McKennon to amend the agenda to include a discussion regarding COVID-19 mitigation and the mask mandate. The motion failed 2-3.**

**Original Motion passed 4-1.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett or the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 8, 2021 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda was the October 25, 2021 Regular Meeting & Closed Session Minutes, the November 1, 2021 Special Meeting and Closed Session Meeting Minutes and the Hiring of Matthew Pierson and Ryan Fritz.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

President Clark Pierson clarified that Matthew Pierson is no relation to her.

**REPORTS**

**A. Capitol Connections Report**

There was no report in Mr. Smith absence.

**B. Eaton RESA Report**

There was no report as the Board has not met since last month.

**C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report**

There was no report in Ms. Shannon's absence.

**D. Governance Committee**

There was no report as the Governance Committee has not met.

**E. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee**

President Clark Pierson reported the Committee did meet in late October and discussed the hiring of the EDI and Student Support position. Talk continued to ensure the district is moving forward to create a more welcoming environment within Grand Ledge Public Schools. There is not date for the next meeting.

**F. Bond Update**

Dr. Mike Johnson provided the board with an update regarding work at Beagle and Holbrook, the pool at Beagle, noted the round-about is complete as the signage is in place, and sharing the track will not be complete with the top surface until the Spring to ensure temperatures are where they need to be to not void the warranty on the surface. He noted planning has taken place to ensure the least disruption for the start of construction at the high school and planning has begun for work at Delta Center and on building the new Wacousta Elementary School.

**G. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Davenport expressed his thanks to the community for their continued support of the Sinking Fund noting this will allow the district to maintain facilities without impacting the general fund. In keeping with sharing the important things taking place in our buildings, this month the High School staff and students will present.

Grand Ledge High School teacher Melissa Mazzola thanked the board for having them and noted there will be several speakers to share what is going on at the high school.

Grand Ledge High School Students Saige and Anissa represented Student Council and shared many activities that have taken place and their work to ensure everyone feels welcome at Grand Ledge High School.

Grand Ledge High School student Braylin represented the Peer Assistance Leadership and Support (PALS) and shared his experience with the program designed to create a positive interaction through peer support and creating a positive school culture.

Grand Ledge High School student Cynthia represented the production class where they create the weekly school news. She encouraged everyone to subscribe to [GLComet TV](#) on YouTube to stay up to date on the latest student news.

Grand Ledge High School Student Katherine represented the Drama Class sharing their upcoming production of Legally Blonde runs from November 18-21 noting this will be the first major production in two years. Tickets can be purchased at [GLMusicals.net](#)

Grand Ledge High School teacher Sara Mida represented the GECKO program noting GECKO stands for Giving Eaton County Kids Opportunities. She shared what the program

does in providing transitional skills, and community and work-based learning with the goal of preparing students for post-secondary education or employment.

Grand Ledge High School teacher Crystal Quintanilla-Howard was there with student Jacob representing the LINKS program.

Grand Ledge High School students Kaedyn & Ben, also representing the LINKS program shared they are planning a sensory friendly dance, kind of like a prom, for their ASD, EI and CI peers who would otherwise not be comfortable attending a regular prom. This is the first of its kind and they are excited to start this tradition at Grand Ledge High School.

President Clark Pierson and Mr. Shiflett both commented on the event noting it is a fantastic idea and they are impressed with the forethought.

Dr. Davenport thanked everyone from the high school. He further thanked his Central Office Leadership Team for their continued commitment to ensure support is being provided to the buildings leaders and staff and expressed his sincere thanks to all of the staff for their continued efforts to help cover staffing shortages. He then turned it over to Technology Director Mark Deschaine.

Mr. Deschaine noted, at the direction of the board, he has begun the process to redesign the board space that will be more conducive to conducting board meetings while still providing flexibility with the room to conduct professional development. He noted this will probably entail moving the room around a bit to install multiple cameras and wireless microphones and a system that will allow us to live stream board meetings for those who cannot attend. He noted the district is not seeking competitive bids yet and he will continue to keep the board updated through the process.

President Clark Pierson expressed her thanks to Mr. Deschaine noting it is important to the board to ensure those who want to view a board meeting but are unable to attend in person have the opportunity to watch from home making the district more accessible to the entire community.

Further clarification noted this will not provide for interactive board meetings. Those wishing to make public comment to the board will still need to be in attendance, in person, to make public comment.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. McKennon read the rules for addressing the board.

Pat St. George addressed the board to welcome Dr. Davenport and expressed his support of the idea of streaming board meetings noting seniors who do not have students attending school are still members of the community and as a taxpayer he feels the board could do a better job of communicating with them.

Scott Martzke addressed the board requesting accountability noting there is no state mandate for masks and asking why this board feels it has the authority to impose a mask mandate and requesting that parents and legal guardians should be able to review curriculum on the website as well as a digital list of all library books.

Jeff McNeilly addressed the board regarding masks, emails not being answered regarding the June 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting, transparency with regard to the curriculum, the current bathroom situation and mandating vaccines for students.

Kathy Forgie addressed the board regarding masks and encouraging parental choice.

Tim Totten addressed the board with regard to the election in Virginia and transgender access to restrooms.

Jason Devenbaugh addressed the board asking why no one has replied to the email, claiming the board is not keeping their oath to uphold the Constitution of the US and the State of Michigan, and advising he will run for school board in 2022.

Kim Laforet addressed the board thanking them for moving forward to provide a better experience for board meetings being streamed, expressing there is no accountability to curriculum transparency and asking why it isn't on the website and advising she will run for school board in 2022.

Lara Hubbard addressed the board regarding masks and providing her view of the June 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Kyle Dymond addressed the board to thank them for their continued work, recognizing the support of the community with the passage of the renewal of the Sinking Fund, the board's responsibility to ensure the safety of all community members when making public comment and ensuring all voices are heard, thanking the board for the continued mask mandate and encouraging parents to talk with their student's teachers with regard to lesson plans.

James Cotter addressed the board to congratulate them on the renewal of the sinking fund noting this should show them the confidence the community has in their leadership and the support they have from this community as a whole and thanking them for their good work and continuing to put student and community safety first.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. APPROVAL OF GRAND PIANO PURCHASE**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to the use of Technology Capital Project Funds in the amount of \$33,830 for the purchase of a Kawai GX-3 Grand Piano from West Michigan Piano, LLC, as presented.**

Dr. Gabriel noted the grand piano currently located in the high school auditorium is nearly 50 years old and has reached the end of its useful life. She shared that High School Choral Director Sheri Peterson obtained competitive bids from three vendors and visited each vendor's showroom to play each model. It is her recommendation the district purchase the Kawai GX-3 noting West Michigan Piano will deliver the new piano, upon approval and will remove the old piano at no charge.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of a Sinking Fund Invoice in the amount of \$5,785, as presented.**

Mr. McKennon noted this was from an order placed in April for a mechanical dock leveler.

**The motion unanimously.**

**C. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 1 BOND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$357,194.66, as presented.**

Mr. McKennon noted this covers invoices for demolition at Holbrook and Beagle, music suite work at Beagle and a few other miscellaneous items such as furniture, electrical work, painting and fire protection.

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

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

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$729,373.34, as presented.**

Mr. McKennon noted this covers invoices for the pool at Beagle and work to complete the hallway connection from the main building to the STEAM room and music suite noting this should be complete after the holiday break.

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

**E. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 2 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 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$136,767.85, as presented.**

Mr. McKennon noted this is for invoices pertaining to the Fine Arts and Athletic wing at Grand Ledge High School.

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

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD**

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Dr. Bill Barnes clarified that the high school and middle school curriculum guides, as well as the library collection guide are on the website. Additionally, the kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade standards are available on the Academic Services

page on the website. Furthermore, there are links available on the academic services page for sites used district wide. All of this is available for viewing.

Mr. McKennon noted parents can also contact building administrators or their student's teachers to obtain curriculum information. He clarified that the district has never discussed a vaccine mandate for students and this is not on the list of anything we are considering. He thanked the students and staff from the high school for sharing all the good things going on in the high school and noted the board looks forward to hearing all the amazing things going on in the district. He again thanked the staff for everything they are doing in another year like no other.

Mrs. DuFort expressed her thanks to the community for their continued support by renewing the sinking fund millage. She reiterated Mr. McKennon noting that everyone is doing the best they can to cover the needs of the students and families in these extremely challenging times.

President Clark Pierson thanked the voter expressing her deep gratitude to those who have trust in the board and district. She expressed she knows Grand Ledge will continue to grow and the board and administration will continue to be great stewards of this district for all of our first-class staff and students.

Dr Davenport thanked everyone in the community, staff and our students recognizing this has been a difficult year but noting everyone is up for the challenge regardless of the circumstances we will continue to work in the best interest of our students.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Sara Clark Pierson, President