

**GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
*Board of Education***

General Business Meeting - January 27, 2025

MINUTES

President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Coban Holmes, Matt Oppenheim, Kali Stevens, Ashley Kuykendoll, Denise DuFort, and Nicole Shannon. **Board Members Absent:** Toni Glasscoe. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** John Piper, Dan Klodt, Pete Bucholtz, Crystal Quintanilla-Howard, Cindy Zerbe, Jamie Viecelli, William Lawson, Dave Zerbe, Sally Jo Nelton, Tim Totten, Jan Seeger, Julie Yeakey, Brian Klopp, Jenna Riekse, Ashleigh Shepard, Kimberly Wheat, Nicole Moore, Heather Moon, Melissa Mazolla, Ashleigh Lore, Dave Logel, Brook Ward, Teresa Dyer, and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the January 27, 2025 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Stevens for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the January 27, 2025 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the January 13, 2025 Organizational Meeting and Work Session Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION

A. Knights of Columbus Check Presentation

Dan Klodt and members of the St. Michaels Knights of Columbus presented a check from their Tootsie Roll Drive in the amount of \$2,400 to the Student Services Department.

President DuFort thanked the Knights and everyone involved in the Tootsie Roll drive expressing her appreciation for their efforts and continued support to the students of Grand Ledge Public Schools.

REPORTS

A. CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

In Dr. Glasscoe's absence, Mr. Holmes noted that MASB has finalized their priorities and he feels they are largely in line with things he felt were important.

President DuFort shared the seven priorities established by MASB and noted legislation that may impact public education including House Bills 5450 and 5451, 4095 and 4096, 5659 and 5660, 5549, 5887 and 5888.

B. EATON RESA

President DuFort noted the Eaton RESA Board received an update on their Strategic Plan, began work on the superintendent's evaluation, and updated Neola policies. She shared information specific to the Strategic Plan, the goals established and the data for each of the goals.

C. GRAND LEDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Ms. Shannon shared the board met recently and began brainstorming more ways to raise funds. She reminded everyone the 5K Comet Chase is scheduled for June 21st. Dr. Gabriel shared registration will open on February 1st.

D. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Ms. Kuykendoll noted there is no report. President DuFort noted the committee membership was just established at the board's Organizational Meeting.

E. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Holmes noted there is no report.

F. BOND UPDATE

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided updates on construction work at Neff, Grand Ledge High School, Willow Ridge, Hayes, and Operations/Transportation.

Dr. Gabriel, in response to a question by Ms. Kuykendoll, provided an update on the repairs at Wacousta following the recent leak, specifically in regard to the Intensive Resource Room.

Superintendent Barnes clarified that Mr. Piper oversees ongoing construction and once the construction is complete, Operations Supervisor Kyle Root assumes responsibility for any repairs.

Mr. Piper in response to a question from Ms. Shannon advised construction on the road behind Willow Ridge and Hayes has temporarily paused due to the time of year but he expects the project to be completed on or before August 8, 2025.

In response to questions from Ms. Stevens, Mr. Piper explained a construction firewall noting that it is a double layer of dry wall that provides a one-hour fire barrier between construction and an adjacent room/hallway. He further shared the first design meeting

for the secured entrance at Neff was held last week with another one scheduled for this week. It is anticipated to be complete by September 2025.

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Barnes explained in an attempt to ensure sharing all the great news from around the district, and ensuring an understanding of what each department oversees and what buildings are focusing on, a schedule of presentations has been established that provides a time for building leaders and supervisors to share information with the board. He reminded everyone that last year members of the Central Office Leadership Team presented an overview of their respective departments. Delta Center Principal Teresa Dyer and Transportation Supervisor Pete Bucholtz will present tonight.

a. Delta Center Elementary School

Delta Center Principal Teresa Dyer provided the board with an overview of the instructional practices at Delta Center, building short, mid and long-term MICIP goals, instructional focus, small group instruction, building initiatives and teams, staff training, and grade level successes in reading and math. She further shared data focused on student growth in reading and math.

Ms. Kuykendoll thanked Mrs. Dyer for a fantastic presentation expressing she loves being able to see the methodology and data review that is taking place noting she looks forwarding to seeing more as they continue their data review.

President DuFort noted she has been in the building and you can see the work as soon as you walk in. Kids are always engaged. She commended Mrs. Dyer and her staff for their great work.

b. Transportation Department

Transportation Supervisor Pete Bucholtz shared information regarding the transportation of district students including the number of bus routes, drivers, dispatchers and other staff. He noted the square milage of the district and the number of miles driven and the amount of gas used daily in the two-tiered system of secondary and elementary routes. He shared information regarding apps used by parents and staff to track the buses and find/establish routes. He stressed the importance of bus safety and shared means used to keep the students safe on the bus. He provided an overview of what a day in the life of a bus driver looks like and in closing he remarked the climate of the transportation team is that of a family and support of the team is top down.

Following his presentation Mr. Bucholtz answered questions from board members providing that camera footage from the buses is primarily for internal use only, that bus routing can be a daily task to ensuring the most efficient manner in which to transport student and that the summer is consumed with establishing routes to ensure the start of the school year. He further explained that when there are "glitches" in the apps used by the Transportation

Department, those are shared back with the developer and they have been responsive to the feedback.

Superintendent Barnes further noted that rider data is used on the daily in the transportation department and during budget season to ensure we have the correct number of routes, buses, drivers and the efficiency of the system. Data comes out of the apps and allows us to track it. He further shared that Mr. Bucholtz is great in his position and noted there are many mornings, or afternoons, that you will find him driving a bus. He remarked he is part of the 4 am road check text thread to ensure it is safe for our students and staff to be on the roads and he is very appreciative of him and his expertise.

Mrs. DuFort thanked both Mr. Bucholtz and Mrs. Dyer for coming tonight and the work they do every day. She noted the heightened responsibility of each bus driver ensuring students are transported to and from school safely each day and commented that every driver she has ever met has been very courteous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Totten addressed the board expressing he is thrilled to see Orton Gillingham training taking place, reminisced about his bus driver when he was growing up and honored educator Shannon Sharp who was lost four years ago.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Communications Director John Ellsworth noted Grand Ledge Public Schools is the 2nd largest district in the area, by enrollment. The only district larger is Lansing Public Schools. He noted we all serve as ambassadors for our school district and commended Mr. Bucholtz as a fabulous ambassador and noting the culture of the bus garage is amazing, it is authentic and it is genuine. He thanked the board for their support of Interest Based Bargaining (IBB) noting this is a collaborative endeavor that the One Team is happy to share with other educators at presentations through MASA and MEA conferences and is part of the culture that Superintendent Barnes fosters, working together to improve things.

Executive Director of Student Services Wendy Seida shared that Grand Ledge Public Schools is hosting the Cool School Polar Plunge on February 11, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.. The Polar Plunge raises funds for Special Olympics and provides funds to Unified Schools, which most of our schools are, to support events for disabled and non-disabled students. She encouraged everyone to take a moment to support this wonderful giving opportunity.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Steve Gabriel recognized Mrs. Dyer and Mr. Bucholtz and thanked Superintendent Barnes for inviting our supervisors to present to the board noting they are an important part of what goes on behind the scenes and an important part of what we do. He gave a shout out to everyone involved in International Night.

Superintendent Barnes thanked the Knights of Columbus for their donation and acknowledging the community support for the work we are doing. He thanked Mrs. Dyer and Mr. Bucholtz for their presentations noting this is why Grand Ledge Public Schools is the 2nd largest district in

the area and why people want to be here. In closing he reviewed the district's Belief Statements under the Strategic Plan and noted that our work is rooted in those Belief Statements.

Mr. Holmes thanked the Knights of Columbus for their support, asked if he could just come watch the Polar Plunge and not actually have to take the plunge, reminded everyone tickets went on sale for the next High School Musical, The Descendents, and shared that his kids had a tremendous time at Delta Center and remarking that the numbers provided regarding the Transportation Department was a whole different ball game.

Mr. Oppenheim expressed his appreciation for the presentations acknowledging he understands a lot goes into those presentations and work on the shoulders of the. Staff. He remarked his students have been riding the bus every day since school started and they have had a great experience with great drivers. He appreciated the information about the STEAM night and noted that while he will not be jumping in for the polar plunge he will support the endeavors of those who are. In closing he noted he is looking forward to The Descendents.

Ms. Stevens gave a shout out to Delta Center PE teacher Lynley Watters sharing a conversation with a student who remarked how much help Ms. Waters was in preparing her presentation for International Night.

Ms. Shannon expressed her regret in not being able to make it to International Night but stating she has her tickets for the musical. She challenged her fellow board members to support the Polar Plunge and expressed her excitement about the Unified School events that are happening. She thanked Delta Center noting her students attended Delta Center and had an amazing experience. She gave her condolences to Mr. Totten expressing it is hard to lose a family member. In closing she expressed her support for the IBB process noting it makes things easier on everyone.

Ms. Stevens shared that she received a text from someone outside the district commenting on the amazing IBB presentation by our team at the MASA conference.

Ms. Kuykendoll commended International Night noting it has grown every year and it is a spectacular event. She noted she will be getting her tickets for the musical and congratulated the Pom and Cheer for their recent victories. She gave kudos to Mrs. Dyer and the Delta Center team. She gave a shout out to her students' first bus driver Mr. Monte and their current driver Mr. Jim noting they set the tone for the students' day. In closing she remarked the district shows up to be of service to our students, staff and families, that is why IBB work commenting these people are our neighbors and it provides intent and commitment to be collaborative.

President DuFort echoed the comments from staff and board noting Grand Ledge Public Schools is a great place. She expressed her appreciation for the success of the IBB presentations by the team noting it shows the importance of our role and what that encompasses. In closing, she commended the presentations by the administrators, building leaders and supervisors noting the importance of the information being provided and remarking the board can't do its job without the commitment and dedication of the entire staff.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:


Nicole Shannon, Secretary


Denise DuFort, President