

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

December 9, 2024

MINUTES

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

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Tim Marsh, Toni Glasscoe, Jon Shiflett, Ashley, Kuykendoll, Denise DuFort and Nicole Shannon. **Members Absent:** Ben Cwayna. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Kali Stevens, Jarrod Smith, Shelbi Frayer, Jenny David, Robert David, Tim Totten, Coban Holmes, Ashleigh Lore, John Piper and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the December 9, 2024 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the December 9, 2024 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the November 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

The Board took a moment to thank outgoing board members Tim Marsh, Jarrod Smith, Ben Cwayna and Jon Shiflett.

Dr. Barnes shared we wanted to take a moment to say a few words about the folks that will not be on the board starting in January. Plaque for years of service and GL cookie jar filled with cookies. Mr. Marsh, GL cutting board. Doesn't get a lot of recognition.

Tim Marsh

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Marsh for stepping in to fill an unforeseen vacancy. His past service on the Board of Education made his onboarding seamless. Experience truly made an impact. While only serving this time for three months, he was a valued member of the Board and the Board Bond Advisory. I appreciate his historical knowledge, connectedness to the Grand Ledge community, and thoughtful approach to his role.

Jon Shiflett

Mr. Shiflett was appointed to the Board in May 2012 and won re-election in November 2012 for a term running through 2014. He won re-election again in November 2014 for a term running from 2014 – 2018 and again in November 2018 for his current term running January 2019 – December 2024. While serving on the Board, Mr. Shiflett served as Trustee, Secretary, Vice President and President. He also served the board as their Legislative Liaison and served on the Audit Committee, the Equity Diversity and Inclusion Committee and served as a member of the Board Bond Advisory for 9 of his 12 years on the board. I appreciate Jon’s commitment to the district, his passion for supporting the students, staff, families, and community of GLPS, and his consistent focus on achievement.

Jarrold Smith

Mr. Smith was elected to the Board of Education in the November 2018 election for a term running January 2019 – December 2024. While serving on the board, Mr. Smith served as a trustee, Secretary, Vice President and President. He also served the board as their Legislative Liaison and served on the Board Governance Committee and was a member of the Board Bond Committee since beginning his service on the board in 2019. I appreciate Jarrod’s insights and genuine care for the staff, students, and families of GLPS, as well as his calm and measured approach to his role.

Ben Cwayna

Mr. Cwayna was appointed to the board in February 2018 to fill a vacancy. He was re-elected in November 2018 for a term running January 2019 – December 2024. While serving on the Board, Mr. Cwayna served as Trustee and Secretary. He has also served as a member of the Board Audit Committee since joining the board in 2019 and has been a member of the Governance Committee since 2021. I appreciate Ben’s expertise, especially on the governance committee and his commitment to his values.

President Shannon thanked Mr. Smith for coming back so we could recognize his service to the district, thanked Mr. Marsh for his willingness to step in and Mr. Shiflett for staying the course.

Mr. Shiflett noted that the kindergarten students from when he first joined the board were last year’s graduates. He expressed he has truly enjoyed serving with everyone and proud of the team the board and administration has established and he appreciates what everyone brings to the table.

Ms. Kuykendoll noted she feels the same with what has already been said. She thanked Mr. Smith who was the Board President when she joined the board, Mr. Shiflett for allowing her to “bother” him on a regular basis, and noted that while she didn’t get to spend much time with Mr. Marsh, she appreciates him. She also noted that while Mr. Cwayna was not in attendance, she gives him a shout out noting his thoughtful engagement and his willing to come to the table and be an advocate.

Mrs. DuFort noted she finds it fascinating that the different individuals make a difference to the board with regard to perspective, commenting different voices give us our strength and the ability to listen to one another and benefit from each other's specific knowledge is critical.

REPORTS

- A. Capitol Connections** – Dr. Glasscoe shared information regarding the House Labor Committee changes to PA 152 regarding the hard cap and the impact on budgets. She further shared information House Bills 5174, 5735 and 5549 while noting none of these bills have been reported out of their respective committees.
- B. Eaton RESA** – Mrs. DuFort shared the RESA Board received a presentation by Nate Leale on the new Administrator Mentorship Program in compliance with new state requirements, acted on a MOU with the Black Male Educator Alliance as part of a \$2.5M section 11 grant, approved the GSRP agreements for the year and acted on providing funds to truancy case management.
- C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation** – President Shannon noted the Foundation had a really amazing evening with their Night of Stars, which honors teachers who received grant awards from the foundation and provided everyone an opportunity to see the grants in action. She thanked everyone who participated. In closing she reminded everyone that can still support the foundation by purchasing crock charms and bracelets that are on sale on their website.

Dr. Glasscoe noted she would be writing an “end of year” check to the Foundation and challenged her colleagues to do the same either by writing a check or donating on the website. She noted after seeing the presentations her “heart is full” and she is honored to make a small donation to support the teachers who take this money and do such great things for the students.

Mrs. DuFort noted the Foundation has become stronger over the past five years and is building a great presence throughout the community. She noted the grants teachers are submitting are bringing amazing things to the students.

President Shannon thanked GLEF President, Erica Ledesma, for her boundless energy and enthusiasm.

- D. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee** – Ms. Kuykendoll noted the committee did not meet this month so she did not have anything to report but she looks forward to continuing our work in January.
- E. Governance Committee** – President Shannon also noted the committee did not meet this month so she did not have anything to report but she looks forward to continuing our work in January.

- F. Bond Update** –Bond Supervisor John Piper provided updates on the High School, Willow Ridge, Hayes, and Transportation.
- G. Superintendent** – Dr. Barnes shared the district has finalized its Fall student count with over 5,400 students attending. He noted this shows tremendous growth, remarking he is proud of that, proud of programs we offer, and proud that people want their students here. He shared that Monday marked the fifth Professional Development Day for staff and thanked Dr. Gabriel, Dr. Albrecht and Ms. Seida for the outstanding professional development that was provided to our staff that was aligned to our district goals. He acknowledged that PA 152, mentioned by Dr. Glascoe, is in our contracts and if the changes are enacted, it will affect us but we are confident we can manage that dynamic. He also acknowledged the Black Male Educator Grant Mrs. DuFort mentioned noting he had the opportunity, along with Eaton RESA Superintendent Dr. Williams to meet with the program CEO and expressed his enthusiasm to continue the discussion on what it could mean for the students of Grand Ledge Public Schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

A. BOARD COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

President Shannon noted the board currently has four standing committees, Bond Advisory, Audit, EDIC and Governance. At its' Organizational Meeting in January, the new Board President will make committee assignments, as well as appoint a board Parliamentarian. She opened the floor for discussion among the members.

Mr. Shiflett recommended changing the name of the EDIC Committee.

Mrs. DuFort noted she feels all the committees are still critical and expressed they have done a better job this year of meeting regularly.

Ms. Kuykendoll supporting rebranding the EDIC committee to align with the goals of the committee. She asked Dr. Barnes if he felt the committees were still relevant, if there were any committees the board is missing and for any forethought he may have.

Dr. Barnes commented no new committees come to mind. He noted that currently the Governance and EDIC committee meet once a month unless there are no agenda items. The Bond Advisory meets before the first meeting of the. Month to review anything that is being proposed to be brought forward for board action. He shared the Audit Committee only meets once a year and he believes there is merit to having the committee meet more frequently to allow the opportunity to talk about budget, specifically before a budget amendment is brought to the board. He suggested quarterly instead of just once a year. He believes this will provide a better understanding to the district's budget process and he feels this is important for the members.

Mr. Marsh suggesting renaming the Audit Committee to the Finance Committee and changing the name of the Bond Committee as this committee is not just responsible for overseeing the bond dollars, but Capital Improvement Funds and Sinking Funds as well. He believes renaming the committees is important for the public's sake so they understand what each committee is tasked with.

President Shannon was in support of changing the name of the Audit Committee to the Finance Committee and increasing the meeting frequency.

Ms. Kuykendoll supported the renaming/rebranding and asked if we could work to realign our committees with county-wide committees and using opportunities through MASB to align the committees.

Mrs. DuFort noted the Eaton RESA County-Wide School Board Meetings (CASBA) twice a year. She noted she will speak with Dr. Williams about broadening the topics.

In closing it was noted that further discussion at the January Organizational Meeting will include:

- Renaming of the Bond Advisory and EDIC Committees
- Transforming the Audit Committee
- Keeping the Governance Committee

B. APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2024-2025 Strategic Plan Goals, as presented.

Superintendent Barnes shared progress on District Wide Goals, individual building specific goals, and communications and community engagement goals along with the goals established for the 2024-2025 school year.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF GLPS TESTING PLAN

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Grand Ledge Public Schools Testing Plan, as presented.

Superintendent Barnes shared the District Testing Plan for the Spring 2025 testing cycle.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF SUMMER TAX RESOLUTION

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2025 Summer Tax Resolution, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

President Shannon	YES	Mr. Shiflett	YES
Mr. Marsh	YES	Ms. Kuykendoll	YES
Dr. Glasscoe	YES	Mrs. DuFort	YES

The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF FACILITY UPGRADE UPDATE

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Facility Upgrade Update, as presented.

Superintendent Barnes reviewed the priority projects, as well as what will be addressed if dollars allow and projects that may require additional funding.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Marsh for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund invoices in the amount of \$31,025.00, as presented.

This represents work at Neff and Sawdon.

The motion carried unanimously.

I. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 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 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$175,056.62, as presented.

These invoices represent work at Wacousta.

The motion carried unanimously.

J. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 3 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$499,284.62, as presented.

This represents invoices from Clark Construction and GMB as well as work at the High School and Neff.

The motion carried unanimously.

K. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 4 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Marsh for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$134,237.31, as presented.

This represents work at Willow Ridge and Hayes.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Dr. Barnes expressed his appreciation to Mr. Shiflett, Mr. Marsh, Mr. Smith and Mr. Cwayna and noted he is looking forward to working with our new board members. He further shared that he served as a judge for the [Future Cities](#) Project at Hayes today. He noted the student submissions were incredibly innovative and while they could only pick six (6) finalists, all of the submissions were super impressive.

Mr. Marsh commended the Beagle Choir for their performance at the Grand Ledge Area District Library on Friday ahead of the parade. He remarked on last night's 60 Minutes segment on Khanmigo, an AI-powered online tutor that could change the way teachers work and students learn remarking he feels this could be very promising in the future. In closing he reminded everyone of the upcoming Collage Concert at GLHS on Wednesday and Thursday evening.

Dr. Glasscoe remarked she cannot wait until she can spend more time taking advantage of the wonderful things going on throughout the district. She further noted she would like to learn more about the wall of plaques at the high school as Lansing Community College would like to do something similar. She gave a shout out to GLHS teachers Melissa Mazolla and Dave Logel for the impact they have had on her grandson recognizing their extra care and extra effort and commending them for seeing each student as an individual. In closing she wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mr. Shiflett thanked the staff for their patience with him over his last 12 years noting they have been truly wonderful and allowed him to go from very confident and unformed to very confident and educated.

Ms. Kuykendoll thanked the outgoing board members noting they will be missed. She further commented that it "tis the season"; first snow day, whooping cough emails, and reminded everyone to be mindful and take care of ourselves. Cover your cough, wash your hands and stay home if you don't feel well.

Mrs. DuFort noted there is so much good work going on in the district right now, which is reflected in the number of students who are attending here. She wished everyone Happy Holidays and noted she is looking forward to continuing the work.

President Shannon welcomed the new board members, thanked Mr. Marsh and Mr. Shiflett commenting to Mr. Shiflett that he has become a really great friend noting it was helpful to have him here, encouraging, thoughtful, and fun and commenting she will continue to harass him in her personal and professional life.

CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations Strategies, as per Section 8(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Marsh	YES	Ms. Kuykendoll	YES
Dr. Glasscoe	YES	Mrs. DuFort	YES
Mr. Shiflett	YES	President Shannon	YES

The motion carried unanimously at 7:56 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 8:14 p.m.

APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 STUDENT CALENDAR

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2025-2026 Student Calendar, as presented. The motion carried unanimously with Mr. Marsh abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

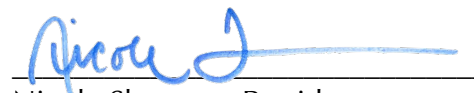
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Ashley Kuykendoll, Secretary

Attest:


Nicole Shannon, President