

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

**October 28, 2024**

**MINUTES**

President Shannon 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 Barnes indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Tim Marsh, Toni Glasscoe, Ben Cwayna, Jon Shiflett, Ashley, Kuykendoll, Denise DuFort and Nicole Shannon. ***Members Absent***: None. ***Central Office Administrators***: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. ***Others in Attendance***: Coban Holmes, Adrienne Barna, Jenny David, Robert David, Melissa Mazzola, Ashleigh Lore, Jan Seeger, Tim Totten, Sally Jo Nelton, Matt Oppenheim and Kim Manning

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the October 28, 2024 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the October 28, 2024 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda were the October 14, 2024 Work Session Minutes Closed Session Minutes, a leave of absence for Melissa Hinojosa and the teacher hiring of Jordyn Veloz.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS**

- A. Capitol Connections** – Dr. Glasscoe noted she enjoyed attending the MASB Leadership Conference. She further noted that with the upcoming election, there is not a lot of action in the legislature as they prepare to move into their “lame duck” sessions following next Tuesday. She anticipates movement on many bills during the lame duck sessions but has no idea what it is going to look like.

Mrs. DuFort noted it is important to lend our voices to the legislation addressing dyslexia screening.

Dr. Glasscoe asked if there were any concerns about the legislation impacting the FAFSA application and high school graduation requirements and asked Dr. Barnes to communicate any with her so she can have appropriate conversations but she is assured there these will be no a burden on the post-secondary side.

**B. Eaton RESA** – Mrs. DuFort shared information from the annual report as it relates to the different pieces of the annual report and what each has responsibility for and the goals of each. In closing she noted the RESA received its Audit Report and, once again, the RESA had a good Audit.

**C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation** – President Shannon report the GLEF Board awarded approximately \$7,000 in grants across the district. She commented they wish they could have fully funded every grant application, but they do hope with increased fundraising that GLEF will be able to do that in the near future.

Dr. Gabriel shared the Foundation will have its next 5K race in the Spring and information will be shared as they begin gearing up for the event.

**D. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee** – Ms. Kuykendoll noted in their last meeting Dr. Barnes shared about upcoming PD opportunities using the Cultivating a Classroom of Calm book.

Dr. Barnes shared information regarding the book noting it talks about how we can help students learn and addresses behaviors in the classroom, creating a space where students feel like they belong. He noted the second district-wide PD session takes place this Friday.

In closing, Ms. Kuykendoll noted the committee talked more about the new transitional devices and the community leadership proposal.

**E. Governance Committee** – President Shannon noted the board recently addressed Policy 8510 addressing fundraisers and that Dr. Barnes will be getting the NEOLA Fall update soon and the committee will then review the update and begin addressing any matters that need to be cleaned up.

**F. Bond Update** – In Bond Supervisor John Piper’s absence, Dr. Barnes provided updates regarding Neff, Wacousta, the High School and noted we are awaiting inspections to get started on Willow Ridge, Operations and Hayes. Hopeful the elevator here at Sawdon is up and running by the end of the week, and we continue to address a few other residual things that is normal during bond construction.

Ms. Kuykendoll expressed concerns regarding the pick-up line at Wacousta noting there is traffic on both side of Herbison.

Dr. Barnes advised the district has been monitoring this and is paying attention to the matter. He noted we can't announce a plan at the moment.

- G. Superintendent** – Dr. Barnes presented the last area that is part of his Superintendent's Evaluation and shared current progress on Student Growth and Progress Toward District-Wide Goals.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Marsh for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Amendment Resolution, as presented.**

Dr. Barnes thanked Mrs. Waterbury for her expertise, professionalism and understand not only of the numbers but how those numbers impact our district. He commented she has helped make him a better superintendent and has put the district in a good spot financially.

Chief Financial Officer Julie Waterbury provided the board with a detailed overview of the budget amendment providing a good understand of where things lie for the balance of the remaining of the fiscal year. She reviewed the supplemental state aid bill that will provide an additional \$500,000 to the district but noted this is not reflected in the budget as it will not be reviewed until the Spring. She detailed transfers from the Eaton RESA, the Special Education Millage and an increase in the property tax value for the county. She further reviewed increased expenditures referencing increased staffing as the result of increased student enrollment and implementing a monthly retention payment to employees that will begin in January. In closing she referenced an increase to the fund balance of approximately \$117,000 placing us with a 12% fund balance.

Dr. Barnes noted the district has utilized our new facilities management plan to make decisions and those purchases are reflected in this budget and that the board will vote on later in the agenda. He reviewed 31aa monies that were initially removed from the State Aid Budget and then added back with the supplemental budget amendment noting this give us time to ensure future funding. The supplemental freed up dollars the district had set aside and this is what created the opportunity to create the retention bonus of \$100 per month for each employee noting the importance of recognizing the work of our staff. In closing he pointed out, in the fall the district addressed operational needs as well as some additional student needs. Originally we were anticipating less dollars to address these items, but with the additional funding from the state, we have a good budget amendment that allows us to share with our staff and expand supports for our students.

President Shannon noted the district received less money from the State Aid, but we are in better standing which is amazing.

Dr. Barnes noted forethought and thinking ahead and that a lot of people want to attend Grand Ledge Public Schools.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Marsh	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>	Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
President Shannon	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

**B. APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION**

**Motion by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve a 3.0% increase on the top of the scale for one technology support team member who was on the top step of the technology support scale for the 2023-2024 school year, and approve a \$1.00 increase on the top of the scale for one mechanic who was on the top step of the mechanic scale for the 2023-2024 school year, as presented.**

Superintendent Barnes noted the Board had done this for a couple of other positions back in July but we missed these two people. This ensures that employees who are at the top of their scale still receive a step increase in this current year.

The motion carried unanimously.

**C. Approval of Technology Purchase**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Marsh for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Technology Purchase of 1,530 iPads and 400 Apple TVs from Apple in the amount of \$555,320 and 1,530 iPad Cases from CDW-G in the amount of \$25,398 for a total purchase price of \$580,718, using General Fund dollars, as presented.**

Superintendent Barnes noted this was the next item up under our Facilities Management Plan remarking the current iPads are no longer serviceable and if we want to remain a one-to-one district, we need these to operate the classrooms. He referenced the replacement cycle for technology devices in the Facilities Management Plan noting we are not replacing everything all at once and further replacement is budgeted for going forward.

The motion carried unanimously.

**D. Approval of Food Service Delivery Vehicle Purchase**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Purchase of a Ford F-550 from Brown Motors in the amount of \$85,977.00 using Food Service Fund dollars, as presented.**

Dr. Barnes again noted this is included in the Facilities Management Plan and provides a manner to ensure we are spending down dollars in our Food Service Fund while supporting the students with the ability to move food throughout the district.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**E. Approval of Operations Service Vehicle Purchase**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Marsh for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Purchase of a Ford F-250 4x4 from Lunghamer Ford of Owosso in the amount of \$53,361 using Operation Fund dollars, as presented.**

Again, Dr. Barnes noted this was a planned expense under the Facilities Management Plan and will provide savings to the district by allowing us to use older vehicles to plow our facilities thereby reducing costs.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**F. Approval of 2024-2025 Staff Handbooks**

**Motion by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2024-2025 Staff Handbooks for Central Office Supervisors, Central Office Support Staff and Dean of Students Support Personnel, as presented.**

Superintendent Barnes noted that while many of our employees operate under a collective bargaining agreement, or an individual contract, other operate under a handbook. Director of Human Resources Kelly Jones went through each of our staff handbooks to ensure things lined up and reflected current practices across the district, creating consistency.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD**

Dr. Glasscoe questioned the transparency link on the webpage and received clarification regarding what is required, by law, to be housed under our Transparency page and noting that handbooks are located under Human Resources.

Deputy Superintendent Gabriel expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Waterbury and wished her the best going forward. He welcomed Mrs. Barna and expressed he looks forward to working with her.

Dr. Barnes also welcome Ms. Barna and thanked the board for their support of all the work. He thanked the board for their questions.

Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Bill Albrecht shared one of our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students was awarded a grant through MACUL (Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning) for a podcast she created. He noted more information will be coming out on the award but he noted he listened to the podcast and it is great. He noted this is just one small sliver of the great work our staff and students are doing. In closing he congratulated Mrs. Waterbury on her retirement and welcomed Mrs. Barna to the team.

Mr. Marsh noted that while staff will be grateful for the additional \$100 a month, some staff recognized a \$200 cut in pay due to increased insurance rates. He remarked this is not the fault of the district, but the fault of our legislators. He encouraged everyone to reach out to their legislators to untie the hands of school districts when it comes to providing their employees with affordable health insurance.

Dr. Glasscoe noted she believes there has been a bill proposed to address the insurance issue. She went on to share she was proud of our IBB (Interest Based Bargaining) team that presented at the MASB Leadership Conference expressing she like seeing people working together, across area that don't normally work well together. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to attend the conference remarking it was "fantastic" and it filled my tank" and thanked the district for supporting opportunities for board members to attend such events to educate them and make them better board members. In closing she thanked Mrs. Waterbury for the legacy of excellence along with the framework and philosophy for our budget.

Mr. Cwayna thanked Mrs. Waterbury noted she has done excellent work for the district.

Mr. Shiflett joked he is so despondent of Mrs. Waterbury's departure that he decided not to run for re-election. But in all seriousness the reminded everyone that it is because of Mrs. Waterbury forethought to split and refinance the bonds that Grand Ledge Public Schools taxpayers will see a \$1.7 million savings. He wished her the best of luck in her retirement.

Mrs. Kuykendoll also thanked Mrs. Waterbury and noted we will miss her. She advised Mrs. Barna that she is coming to work with a great group of people. She went on to encourage everyone to reach out to their legislators on important issues that impact our students, staff and the district as a whole, remarking we are here to take care of the ones who take care of the most valuable assets, our students.

Mrs. DuFort thanked Mrs. Waterbury and expressed her appreciation for all she has done for Grand Ledge Public Schools. She thanked her for making the numbers understandable and for leaving Grand Ledge Public School in a great place. She further shared what she took away from attending the MASB Leadership Conference.

President Shannon thanked Dr. Glasscoe and Mrs. DuFort for attending the Leadership Conference and representing Grand Ledge Public Schools. She thanked Mrs. Waterbury and remarked we are going to miss you. In closing she noted the Trick or Treat event that took place last Friday and thanked Dr. Barnes and members of the IBB team for being so involved in our community.

Mr. Marsh noted that one week from tomorrow our democratic republic allows us to participate as voters and there are two good things on the ballot that won't cost our voters a nickle more and encouraged support of the Grand Ledge Public Schools Ballot Proposals.

**CLOSED SESSION – Attorney / Client Privilege**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of reviewing a letter from its attorneys dated October 17, 2024, as the letter is exempt from disclosure under State law due to the Attorney-Client Privilege, per Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>	Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
President Shannon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Marsh	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously at 7:33 p.m.

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:55 p.m.

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT & MUTUAL RELEASE**

**Motion by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release between Grand Ledge Public Schools and GMB Architects and Engineers, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**CLOSED SESSION – Superintendent’s Annual Evaluation**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of conducting the Superintendent’s Annual Evaluation, per Section 8(1)(a) of the Open Meetings Act.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
President Shannon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Marsh	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>
Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously at 7:57 p.m.

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 9:36 p.m.

**STATEMENT ON ANNUAL EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT BILL BARNES**

President Shannon noted following the evaluation of Superintendent Barnes, the board reached a consensus evaluation score of 100 and gave Dr. Barnes a rating of effective.


**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

  
Ashley Kuykendoll, Secretary

  
Nicole Shannon, President