

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

**November 18, 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, Jon Shiflett, Ashley, Kuykendoll, Denise DuFort and Nicole Shannon. **Members Absent**: Ben Cwayna and Toni Glasscoe. **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance**: Jameson Smith, Roger Hansbarger, Marilyn Hansbarger, Melissa McGinnis, Susan Dixon, Roger Dixon, Matt Shelton, Jennifer Pattison, Emily Pearson, Katie Dufresne, Kevin Dufresne, Alex Terranova, Kelsey Burzynski, Sara Taylor, Ashley Terranova, Justine and Gordon Paaske, Cindy Zerbe, Don Heriford, Cheryl Heriford, Devon Detmers, Jamie McKennon, Coban Holmer, Sally Jo Nelton, Tim Totten, Angie Stefanick, Melissa Mazzola, Rickie Kuykendoll, Amber Slocum, Ashleigh Lore, John Piper and Kim Manning

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 18, 2024 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Marsh for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 18, 2024 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda were the October 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes, and the teacher hirings of Shawn Campbell, Clarence Bradley and Grant Werner.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS**

- A. Capitol Connections** – In Dr. Glasscoe’s absence, Mrs. DuFort shared she participated in MASB Legislative Update today where they shared information on what to expect during the lame duck session noting possible movement on SB 354, FAFSA, vaping and Open Meetings Act legislation, along with school safety, HB 5659, and HB 6068 which will address a hard cap for insurance.

**B. Eaton RESA** – Mrs. DuFort had no report noting the meeting is scheduled for Wednesday.

**C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation** – President Shannon had no report.

**D. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee** – Ms. Kuykendoll noted at the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting the committee selected the veterans who will be recognized later in tonight's agenda and discussed the instructional staff professional development through the book Cultivating a Classroom of Calm including progression and applicable tools in that training.

**E. Governance Committee** – President Shannon noted she was unable to attend the last committee meeting.

Dr. Barnes shared the committee reviewed Policy 3131 that is on tonight's agenda and shared the district has received the Neola fall update so there will be policy edits coming up in the near future.

**F. Bond Update** –Bond Supervisor John Piper provided updates on the high school chillers and shared new rooftop units have been ordered. He shared the district is waiting on a few state permits to get construction moving at Willow Ridge but noted demolition of the office will begin on Thursday. In closing he shared permits have been obtained for Hayes and the work at the Operations building is in under plan and review.

**G. Superintendent** – Dr. Barnes shared his appreciation in having Wacousta here to present on what is happening in there building and sharing Art Work from Wacousta students is on display in the hallway. He then turned it over to Wacousta Principal Chris Groves.

- a. Principal Groves thank the board and community for the new Wacousta building commenting it is like no other elementary and with all the windows it still maintains the "OPEN" feeling.

Art Teacher Kelly Parsons had select students, Emerson, Claire, Evelyn, Dane Cylis share what they like about art. In closing she expressed how thankful she is for the new building and the room that was designed for art class noting it creates a wonderful experience for the students.

Music Teacher Shirley Reis brought select students who performed.

Counselor Kelsey Burzynski and Dean of Students Sara Taylor shared information on how they are connecting their students to adults throughout the building who the students will feel safe going to with celebration and/or concerns. They shared information about trauma training with Dr. Albrech as well as the book student with Dr. Barnes. In closing, Ms. Burzynski shared

information on her goal to become RAMP certified noting she is documenting what she does and has created an Advisory Counsel that is made up of stakeholders including parents, teachers, and business members who provide her with feedback.

Mr. Groves thanked everyone from the Wacousta community for attending noting he is blessed by the incredible Wacousta community, students and parents.

Dr. Barnes thanked the Wacousta community to coming along with Ms. Parsons, Ms. Reis, Ms. Taylor and Ms. Burzynski, and Sandy the Wacousta Facility Dog.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. MILITARY VETERANS RECOGNITION**

Dr. Barnes noted that last year, the Board of Education adopted a resolution that each November, in alignment with Veterans Day, they would take a moment to recognize military veterans who are currently working with the district or alumni. This year, the Board of Education Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee has selected current Board Member and long time community member, Timothy D. Marsh and current Hayes Dean of Students, Sally Rickstad.

**Master Sergeant Timothy D. Marsh**

Master Sergeant (E-8) Timothy D. Marsh dedicated over 39 years of service to our Country. He served in the US Navy from March 1972 to June 1976 as an Optical Instrument Repair / Precision Physical Instrument Calibration Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. He served with the Michigan Army National Guard from June 1976 to November 2004 as a UH-1 Repairer, UH-1 Crew Chief, Aero Scout, Platoon Sergeant, Attack Helicopter Company First Sergeant, reaching the rank of Master Sergeant. He served in the US Army from November 2004 to November 2005 at the LSA Anaconda Balad Air Base in Iraq as Production Control NCO Company F Aviation Intermediate Maintenance. He closed out his military career with the Army National Guard serving from November 2005 to June 2011 as a Master Sergeant, Senior Aircraft Maintainer / Staff NCO for Deputy Chief of Staff Safety and Aviation, Joint Forces Headquarters. He was awarded the Presidential Award of Meritorious Service Medal in 2005, the Humanitarian Service Medal in 1978 for Operation Snow Blow and the Michigan Department of Military Affairs Meritorious Service Medal in 2007.

**Sergeant Sally E. Rickstad**

Sergeant Sally E. Rickstad's distinguished military career with the United States Marine Corps spans both active duty and reserve service, marked by commitment, leadership, and exceptional performance in a variety of operational settings.

Enlisting in the Marine Corps on June 4, 2012, Sergeant Rickstad served on active duty until July 1, 2015, after which she transitioned to the reserves until her honorable discharge on April 2, 2020. During her time in active duty, she was stationed in Okinawa, Japan from 2012 to 2014, and later in Quantico, Virginia, from 2014 to 2015, where she contributed to key operations that reinforced her status as a reliable and capable Marine.

One of her most notable achievements came in 2013 when she successfully participated in the Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) off-load for Operations Freedom Banner in the Philippines. Her leadership and dedication played a pivotal role in ensuring the mission's success, highlighting her ability to perform under pressure in a dynamic, multinational environment.

In recognition of her excellence, Sergeant Rickstad was meritoriously promoted to Corporal in 2014. Her personal development was further reflected in her achievement of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Green Belt and the receipt of the prestigious National Defense, Global War on Terrorism and Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, acknowledging her discipline and professionalism throughout her service.

Sergeant Rickstad's legacy is one of dedication to duty, unwavering resilience, and a commitment to her fellow Marines. Today, as she is honored for her service, her contributions continue to inspire future generations of servicemen and women. Her story is a testament to the enduring values of the United States Marine Corps and the sacrifices made in defense of freedom.

Master Sergeant Timothy D. Marsh and Sergeant Sally E. Rickstad were presented with a Certificate of Honor on behalf of the Board of Education and the Grand Ledge Public School District.

- B. WAIVE READING & APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 3131 – STAFF REDUCTIONS / RECALLS  
Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Marsh for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to waive the reading of Board Policy 3131, Staff Reductions / Recalls, and move for immediate approval of the policy, as presented.**

Superintendent Barnes noted this will bring the policy into compliance with negotiated practice.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- C. APPROVAL OF BUS PURCHASE  
Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Marsh for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the purchase of three conventional, 77-passenger school buses from Midwest Transit in the amount of \$452,368.86, as presented.**

Superintendent Barnes noted this is in line with the district's Facilities Management Plan.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. APPROVAL OF BID AWARD – DELTA CENTER FENCING**

**Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the bid award to Property Revolution, LLC in the amount of \$47,606.23 using Sinking Fund dollars for the Delta Center Fencing Project, as presented.**

Superintendent Barnes noted this will install fencing around the perimeter of the Delta Center playground, including new access gates. This will keep students on the playground and restrict access to the parking lot on the south side of the building thereby keeping the kids in a safe and secure area during recess.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**E. APPROVAL OF BID AWARD – GLHV PAVING**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Marsh for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the bid award to Rieth-Riley Construction Company in the amount of \$302,994 for asphalt paving at Grand Ledge High School, as presented.**

Superintendent Barnes noted a large portion of this project is being funded through the Health Center Grant with the remaining portion being funded through Sinking Fund dollars. He noted without the grant, the project would have been fully funded through the Sinking Fund.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**F. APPROVAL OF BID AWARD – HAYES & OPERATIONS CASEWORK**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the bid award to Flairwood in the amount of \$64,920, with a Construction Contingency of \$4,544.40 and General Conditions in the amount of \$1,947.60 for a Total Bid Award of \$71,412 using Proposal 1, Series 4 bond dollars for the Hayes Intermediate and Operations Building Manufactured Casework, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**G. APPROVAL OF TECHNOLOGY BOND PURCHASE – HIGH SCHOOL AV**

**Motion by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the technology bond purchase from Daktronics in the amount of \$26,108.00 and LiveSpace in the amount of \$288,136.26 for a total project cost of \$314,244.26 using bond funds for the high school audio visual project, as presented.**

This project will install audio/video equipment in the Main Gym, Auxillary Gym, Media Center, Cafeteria and Technology Lab as well in install Score Boards in the Main Gym.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund invoices in the amount of \$66,779.35, as presented.**

This includes high school fencing and renting the chillers, work at Sawdon, and remaining items at Neff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**I. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 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 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$580,020.44, 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 Ms. Kuykendoll, 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 \$395,341.44, as presented.**

This represents work at the high school and consulting fees for the technology purchase.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, 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 \$44,005.60, as presented.**

This represents work from GMB and shelving storage for the Willow Ridge office move.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD**

Deputy Superintendent Steve Gabriel recognized Executive Director of Human Resources Kelly Jones and her husband, Arthur, for their military service noting Kelly was recognized last year.

He further commended the production of Mean Girls recognizing the huge commitment of our students and staff.

Superintendent Barnes also thank Kelly Jones and reiterated she was recognized last year. He shared he attended the production of Mean Girls on Saturday commenting it was a great show and that it was wonderful to see all the kids on staff, as well as the kids off stage running things. He thanked Wacousta for being here tonight and gave a special thanks to Kelly Jones and our Human Resources team for closing out our Open Enrollment for insurance. In closing, he welcome Adrienne Barna, our new CFO commenting she is a wonderful addition to the team and has brought a great sense of collaboration.

Mr. Marsh noted the district was able to accommodate the CAAC Blue Girls Swimming and Diving Championship over the weekend noting this was a great way to present the district and the facilities. In closing he noted he also attended Mean Girls commenting it was very well done and he was at the high school today to help put the pit cover back in place.

Ms. Kuykendoll also recognized the Mean Girls production, gave a major shout out to the Lions and gave special recognition for the district's participation with the Eaton RESA in bringing marketing students and staff together to help ensure the development of the program, bouncing ideas around, sharing how they can tap into grant funding. She commented it was an amazing endeavor. She gave a shout out to our Wacousta speakers and performers tonight, noting everybody loves their new building. She reminded everyone as we enter the holiday season to be thoughtful of our community giving. In closing, she thanked Mrs. DuFort for her book that arrived in the mail.

Mrs. DuFort also recognized the production of Mean Girls noting it was amazing noting she believes this may have been Mrs. Petersen's last event as she prepares for retirement. In closing, she wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

President Shannon thanked the community for supporting both of the items on the November ballot that will allow the district to continue our fiscal responsibility. She welcomed the three new board members, Kali Steves, Matt Oppenheim and Coban Holmes and thanked Mr. Marsh for stepping up to fill the board vacancy and Mr. Cwayna and Mr. Shiflett for their many years of service to the district on the Board of Education. In closing, she noted it was a personal tragedy that she was unable to get tickets to attend the production of Mean Girls as tickets were sold out.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

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Ashley Kuykendoll, Secretary

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Nicole Shannon, President