

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

**August 26, 2024**

**MINUTES**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call by Superintendent Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Nicole Shannon, Denise DuFort, Ashley Kuykendoll, Jon Shiflett, Ben Cwayna and Toni Glasscoe. **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, Chris Chester, John Piper, Kali Stevens and Kim Manning

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 26, 2024 Agenda Items, with the addition of New Business Item D, Board of Education Vacancy.**

President Shannon explained Mr. Smith is no longer residing within the boundaries of Grand Ledge Public Schools and is therefore, no longer able to serve as a member of the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education. The board will have a discussion on filling this vacancy.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 26, 2024 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda were the August 12, 2024 Work Session & Special Meeting Minutes and the Teacher Hiring of Ricky Brooks and Heather Hicks.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS**

**A. Capitol Connections** – Dr. Glasscoe questioned how the district tracks and monitors legislation that impacts K-12 education or graduation requirements.

Dr. Barnes noted changes in graduation requirements happen periodically and the district is apprised of those when they come into play. If legislation is enacted, we update our curriculum guides and essential learnings as necessary.

Dr. Glasscoe further shared information regarding the Michigan Guarantee that assists students, living within the boundaries of the district, in offsetting costs to attend Lansing Community College.

**Eaton RESA** – Mrs. DuFort shared statistical participation information from a presentation by Lisa Segal who oversees the Early College program.

**B. Grand Ledge Education Foundation** – Ms. Shannon advised there was no report.

**C. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee** – Ms. Kuykendoll advised the committee met and is working on collaborative partnerships across the community. She commended Dr. Barnes for the tremendous amount of time and effort he has put into this endeavor and shared more information will be shared in the future.

**D. Governance Committee** – Ms. Shannon advised there was no report.

**E. Bond Update** – Bond Supervisor John Piper provided the board with updates on construction as it relates to Willow Ridge, Hayes, High School, Neff, and Wacousta noting the district has received occupancy for the Wacousta building and kids will be thrilled to be in their building tomorrow.

Ms. Kuykendoll shared the excitement of her Wacousta students when they attended the recent Open House. She commended Mr. Piper on his ability to manage the many construction projects the district is undertaking and keeping everything on track and on-time.

In response to a question by the board regarding the HVAC system at the High School, Mr. Piper shared the system is slated to be replaced in August 2025 noting the work can only be done when the building is unoccupied. The chiller, which were ordered a year ago, will not be ready until early 2025 and the switch is not expected until mid-August 2025.

**F. Superintendent** – Dr. Barnes expressed his appreciation for the kind words for Mr. Piper noting the only reason the Wacousta project was done early was because of the pride John had in that project. He noted during school open houses he usually tries to make an appearance at each of the buildings, but this year he wanted to hear and see the reaction for the new building; which was overwhelmingly positive. He shared he is pleased, and impressed, with what was accomplished and thanked Mr. Piper and Mike Dahl with Clark Construction. He noted in the same vein, our high school families got an email tonight delaying the start of the school year for high school students due to temperatures in the building. He pointed out, this is not a construction issue, this is a 1997 chiller issue. He shared that he, along with Dr. Gabriel and Dr. Wright have been monitoring the building regularly and last week, the building was cool and comfortable. This can be associated with the new univents that have been installed, but the chiller can still be a problem. He shared the district has a contingency plan with the purchase of room air conditioning units

for Wednesday, and noting the temperature are expected to cool back down. He noted for the vast majority of our students, grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will start school tomorrow. He shared the district has been monitoring enrollment as there are many who want to be a part of Grand Ledge Public Schools, which speaks to the leadership of the board, the administration, teachers and all of our staff. In closing he shared the district welcomed staff back last Wednesday and many staff participated in three-days of getting together and gearing up for this new year. He noted a book that was left for each member sharing this is a book study with our instructional staff, "Cultivating a Classroom of Calm".

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. 2024-2025 CURRICULUM GUIDES AND ESSENTIAL LEARNINGS**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2024-2025 Curriculum Guides and Essential Learnings, as presented.**

Dr. Barnes noted the board regularly approves the district Curriculum Guide for the high school and elective offerings at the middle and intermediate school.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. 2024-2025 STUDENT HANDBOOKS**

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

Dr. Barnes reviewed the changes for the individual building handbooks as well as a district-wide change to clean up the language and practices around student attendance and truancy. Additionally he noted the Distance Learning Handbook noting there are no specific updates and the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Handbook which was tightened up and nice put together.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the First Amendment to the Superintendent Employment Contract between the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. William Barnes, as presented.**

President Shannon noted she worked with district legal counsel to ensure the recent changes to the laws governing the superintendent's contract were captured appropriately and correctly. She noted the amendment include evaluation language, addition of the superintendent's salary schedule, extending the contract, removal of

the merit pay bonus at the request of Dr. Barnes, and adding Juneteenth as a recognized holiday to coincide with other employment contracts for the district. She shared that Dr. Barnes did not request a closed session and for transparency, he wanted this discussion to take place in open session.

Dr. Barnes thanked the board for their consideration of extending his contract. He noted the evaluation language as well as the inclusion of the salary schedule are part of the new law, but pointed out the salary schedule is not a new salary schedule and it was the one originally agreed upon, it is just being included as part of the contract. He remarked he did think it was important, since the contract is with the Board of Education and board members represent the community, that the community hear the discussion.

A detailed discussion among the members addressed that a salary increase is contingent upon an effective or higher rating on the yearly evaluation, concerns on removing the merit pay and salary schedule in order to retain a highly effective superintendent, and the ability to renegotiate the contract at any time at the request of the board or the superintendent.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **D. Board Vacancy**

A detailed discussion among the members brought consensus to post the vacancy immediately and accept letters of interest, qualifications and resumes from those interested in filling the partial-term vacancy through December 31, 2024. Letters of interest can be submitted until 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2024. It was further decided the board would screen and interview candidates at their September 9, 2024 regularly scheduled meeting. Further discussion on the process noted the board may select up to five candidates to interview, the candidates will be provided approximately three minutes to introduce themselves to the board including why they are interested in filling the vacancy and their qualifications. The board will then ask questions to the candidates (each board members should prepare questions they would like to ask the candidates) and then the board will vote to select the candidate to fill the vacancy.

#### **COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD**

Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Dr. Bill Albrecht noted he attended several of the open houses throughout the district and acknowledged the work of our staff from grounds to maintenance, custodian, secretaries, teachers, just everyone. He further shared the results of our most recent AP testing noting there were 78 students who received scholar honors.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Steve Gabriel commended Mr. Piper for his work overseeing the bond projects noting that the new Wacousta Building was not expected to be completed until November or December and the project was completed well ahead of schedule with the building ready for students tomorrow.

Dr. Glasscoe posed the question of how many students took AP tests.

Mr. Shiflett recognized the outstanding candidates that have filled our vacancies commenting he has known Heather Hicks for quite some time and she is a great addition.

Mrs. DuFort reiterated Mr. Shiflett’s remarks on the great candidates noting this says a lot about where we are. She shared her favorite part of the new Wacousta building is the huge windows in the library.

President Shannon encouraged everyone to check out the high school student parking lot for the senior painted parking spots. She expressed our seniors are extremely talented and it is very cool we allowed them this opportunity.

**CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations & Review of GLPS Security Plan**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe 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 and to review the Grand Ledge Public Schools Security Plan, as Per Section 8(1)(k) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Dr. Glasscoe** YES  
**Mr. Cwayna** YES  
**Mr. Shiflett** YES

**Ms. Kuykendoll** YES  
**Mrs. DuFort** YES  
**President Shannon** YES

**The motion carried unanimously at 7:34 p.m.**

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 8:26 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF LETTERS OF AGREEMENT**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Letters of Agreement between the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education and the Grand Ledge Education Association, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**GLPS SECURITY PLAN**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Grand Ledge Public Schools Security Plan, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

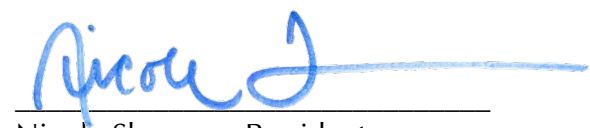
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

  
Ashley Kuykendoll, Secretary

  
Nicole Shannon, President