

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

September 9, 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**: 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**: Jan M. Seeger, Brenton Bell, Susan Hazen, Coban Holmes, Tim Marsh, Kristin Wangelin, Tim Totten, Sally Jo Nelton, Melissa Mazzola and Kim Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kuykendoll reviewed the rules for giving public comment.

Brenton Bell thanked the board for accepting his application for vacant position on the board and getting this vacancy filled so quickly. He further asked if any action or an investigation was underway with regard to the allegations against the Holbrook PTA board.

Tim Totten expressed his personal feelings that the board should not appoint someone who is a candidate for the board of education that will appear on the November ballot noting he feels that should be left to the voters. He endorsed Kristin Wangelin. In closing he expressed he feels the board packet needs to be put out sooner.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 26, 2024 MEETING AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

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

B. APPROVAL OF TEACHER HIRINGS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the teacher hiring of Rachel Bullock and Kayla Nguyen, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF INSTANT LANGUAGE ASSISTANT (ILA) ROAM DEVICE PURCHASE

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the purchase of 44 ILA Roam devices in the amount of \$109,959, as presented.

Superintendent Barnes provided an overview of the ILA Roam devices, the funding source and plans for use of the devices.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. RECEIPT OF FOIA APPEAL

Board President Shannon advised there was a FOIA appeal transmitted on August 30, 2024. An appeal is considered received at the first regularly scheduled Board meeting following transmission of the appeal. It is therefore received today, September 9, 2024.

E. PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$113,710.55, as presented.

Mrs. DuFort advised this was reviewed by the Board Bond Committee and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents work at the High School, Wacousta and Neff.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$1,736,822.25, as presented.

Mrs. DuFort advised this was reviewed by the Board Bond Committee and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents work at the High School and Wacousta including architectural and construction management fees.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 3 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$2,085,691.54, as presented.

Mrs. DuFort advised this was reviewed by the Board Bond Committee and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents work at Neff and the High school including architectural and construction management fees.

The motion carried unanimously.

H. PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 4 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$9,675.56, as presented.

Mrs. DuFort advised this was reviewed by the Board Bond Committee and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration. This represents architectural fees for Willow Ridge, Operations and Hayes design planning.

The motion carried unanimously.

I. Selection of Candidate to Fill Board Vacancy

President Shannon noted there were four applications received from persons interested in filling the current board vacancy. She explained the process.

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to interview all four candidates. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board interviewed Brenton Bell.

The Board interviewed Coban Holmes.

The Board interviewed Tim Marsh.

The Board interviewed Kristin Wangelin.

President Shannon asked for nominations to fill the current board vacancy.

Mrs. DuFort nominated Tim Marsh.

Mr. Cwayna nominated Kristin Wangelin.

There were no further nominations.

President Shannon asked for those in support of Tim Marsh being named to filled the vacancy on the Board of Education. Mrs. DuFort, Ms. Kuykendoll and Ms. Shannon supported Mr. Marsh's appointment.

President Shannon asked for those in support of Kristin Wangelin being named to fill the vacancy on the Board of Education. Dr. Glass and Mr. Cwayna supported Ms. Wangelin's appointment.

A detailed discussion among the members noted they feel either candidate would be a great addition to the board to fill this short-term vacancy and explained their individual reasons behind their candidate support.

President Shannon asked again for those in support of Tim Marsh being named to fill the vacancy on the Board of Education. Dr. Glasscoe, Ms. Kuykendoll, Mrs. DuFort and President Shannon supported Mr. Marsh's appointment. With four (4) votes, Mr. Marsh was named to fill the vacancy.

Notary Kim Manning administered the Oath of Office to Tim Marsh.

DISCUSSION ITEM

A. BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

President Shannon noted with Mr. Smith's vacancy, it also created a vacancy on the Board Bond Advisory Committee. She asked if there were any members who would like to fill the vacancy noting she is happy to if no one else is interested.

Mr. Marsh said he would be happy to fill the vacancy on the Board Bond Advisory Committee as he previously served on the Board Bond Committee during his previous tenure on the Board of Education.

President Shannon appointment Tim Marsh to serve on the Board Bond Advisory Committee.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Superintendent Barnes commented it was wondering to see our board policies work the way they are supposed to work. He welcomed Mr. Marsh to the Board and noted his office will reach out to get him up to speed. He invited Ms. Wangelin to join his Caregiver School Improvement Team noting he believes she would bring a great perspective to the group and noting he will reach out to her personally. He followed-up on public comment noting the PTO/PTA and booster groups are not affiliated with Grand Ledge Public Schools as they have their own board and their own by-laws. He noted they are self-sufficient organizations that support the school, but they do not fall under the umbrella of oversight of the school district. He further explained the process as it relates to the publishing of board packet. In closing he expressed how proud he is of all of the staff and the work put in to get the school year off and running. He commented Grand Ledge Public Schools is a rising district for a lot of reasons, but our staff is a big reason.

Dr. Glasscoe noted she looks forward to conversation with Mr. Marsh, and would like to talk with Ms. Wangelin as well, regarding the perspective of career and technical education to learn what more we can do to ensure our students and families understand what is offered and that it is all college, it is called post-secondary education and we have to value whatever path our students choose. She expressed this was a great night and the board's process worked. She expressed her appreciation to everyone.

Mr. Cwayna thanked all the candidates noting everyone did a great job. He welcome Mr. Marsh to the board.

Ms. Kuykendoll also thanked all the candidates and welcomed Mr. Marsh. She expressed how pleased she has been with the steam lined information coming out of our schools whether through newsletters, teacher communication or building/district communication, she expressed it is easy to follow. She shared over the past couple of weeks she has received a couple phising emails and reminded everyone the board will never reach out asking for support of operational needs. She encouraged anyone who might receive this type of communication to forward it to the district. She commended the process for filing the board vacancy noting it was very easy. In closing she commented on the recent school shootings and encouraged parents to continue supporting their students and to reach out to the school or Dr. Barnes' office for resources.

Mrs. DuFort thanked all the candidates. She expressed her strong support for Career and Technical Education (CTE) noting she shared information at the last meeting regarding CTE at Eaton RESA and the number of students being served. She commented she feels we are making progress and students understand there are different paths, but we must do a better job communicating that. In closing she remarked MASB has many opportunities for learning for board members and invited her colleagues to join her and Dr. Glasscoe at the Leadership Conference taking place in Lansing in October.

President Shannon welcomed Mr. Marsh and thanked all the candidates. She commented on the excellent start of the school year.

Dr. Barnes shared that he will be presenting with a group at next week's MASA Fall Conference on "Creating a Post-Secondary Culture" and that he, along with members from the IBB One Team will be presenting on our negotiations process at the MASB Leadership Conference in October.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Ashley Kuykendoll, Secretary

Nicole Shannon, President