

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

September 23, 2024

MINUTES

Vice President DuFort called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Denise DuFort, Ashley Kuykendoll, Ben Cwayna, Toni Glasscoe and Tim Marsh **Members Absent**: Nicole Shannon and Jon Shiflett. **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance**: Tim Totten, Coban Holmes, Matt Oppenheim, Sally Jo Nelton, John Piper, Melissa Mazzola, Jon Ringlein 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 September 23, 2024 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 23, 2024 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the September 9, 2024 Work Session Minutes and the Teacher Leave of Absence for Alyssa Arnouts.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

- A. 2023-2024 Audit – Presented by Maner Costerisan** – Jon Ringlein, Senior Manager with Maner Costerisan presented the 2023-2024 Audit noting the district has received a clean opinion, which is the highest the auditing firm can give and they are providing reasonable assurance of the numbers and that they are presented fairly.
- B. Capitol Connections** – Dr. Glasscoe highlighted the details of Senate Bill SB 911 that was passed by the Senate on Tuesday and received clarification on the regional meeting for the district taking place on October 14th.
- C. Eaton RESA** – Mrs. DuFort advised there was no report.
- D. Grand Ledge Education Foundation** – In President Shannon’s absence, Dr. Glasscoe shared the GLEF Teacher Grant Applications are out.

- E. **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee** – Ms. Kuykendoll advised there was no report.
- F. **Governance Committee** – Mr. Cwayna advised there was no report.
- G. **Bond Update** – Bond Supervisor John Piper provided updates regarding bond bids for Hayes, Operations and Willow Ridge and provided updated on construction for Neff, Wacousta and preparations for work at the high school. He shared the district will host an Open House at the new Wacousta Elementary School on Wednesday, October 9th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- H. **Superintendent** – Dr. Barnes thanked Mr. Piper for his work, complimented Mrs. Waterbury on her and the business office team for their work on the audit, recognized the 2024 GLPS Hall of Fame inductees and ceremony commending Dr. Gabriel, Mr. Baker and Mr. Cook for their work in bringing this back, and shared this is homecoming week and he is looking forward to a fun night on Friday.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kuykendoll reviewed the process for providing public comment.

GLEA President Melissa Mazzola recognized the Hall of Fame induction ceremony and shared that she was pleased to announce the district has stopped charging seniors to attend athletic events.

OLD BUSINESS

A. FOIA APPEAL DETERMINATIONS

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to deny the pending FOIA appeal as moot because it appears to have been prematurely filed, as the records have since been produced. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF 2023-2024 AUDIT

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2023-2024 Audit, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF WILLOW RIDGE ELEMENTARY BOND BID AWARD

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll to table this item.

Superintendent Barnes shared the rationale for tabling this item tonight and bringing it back at a Special Meeting later this week.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Superintendent's Evaluation Update – Business & Finance

Superintendent Barnes provided his update with focus on Business and Finance, Section D of the Superintendent's Evaluation Rubric. He provided the established goal and the current initiatives established under each of the goals including Budget Development, Budget Reports, Financial Controls, Facilities Management, and Resource Allocation.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

John Ellsworth reiterated the district received an unmodified and clean opinion audit which is the highest and best our auditors can provide. He thanked Mrs. Waterbury for educating him on budget planning and setting up of systems. He shared that district teacher Gina Edick applied for, and received, a grant in the amount of \$3,200 from the Native American Heritage Foundation which is being used to bring Native American lessons to our students at Wacousta and Willow Ridge noting this is a good example of the kind of staff, teachers we have here at Grand Ledge Public Schools.

Superintendent Barnes expressed his appreciation to the Grand Ledge Education Association for hosting a full staff tailgate last Friday noting it was well attended by staff and their families and expressing his appreciation for the fellowship. He reminded the Board the district is hosting an academic event on Wednesday night to roll out our new translation devices that were purchased using 11t grant funds and sharing we are also using this event for our Student Services Department to share resources and supports for students who have an IEP.

Mr. Marsh commended the board for the creation of the new board member onboarding process noting he and Dr. Barnes used the check list and commented it was a great tool and a great process. He gave Kudos to the Hall of Fame induction ceremony commenting he enjoyed the evening, the stands were full and it was great to see some people receive some long overdue recognition and commending Dr. Gabriel, Mr. Baker and Mr. Cook for the wonderful job they did in bringing this back to the district.

Dr. Glasscoe noted she is sad the district is losing Mrs. Waterbury noting it is comforting when you know you can trust the work and commending her and her team for the consistency when it comes to district finances. She expressed her appreciation that every time she has asked for, mentioned, or suggested something, she has seen it come to pass. She encouraged the district to keep in mind, when scheduling events, that many congregations hold mid-week service on Wednesday nights and her lack of participation is due to her being very active in her church. In closing she shared a colleague shared their grandchildren were attending the district and commenting she may get some calls applauding us for the wonderful things we are doing and possibly sharing suggestions for improvement. She noted she is proud of what we are doing in the district and that people feel comfortable approaching her.

Mr. Cwayna commented Mrs. Waterbury has been a transformational CFO and remarking he hopes she is involved in the process of hiring her successor. He expressed it has been great to work with her and wished her the best of luck and thanked her for the Audit.

Ms. Kuykendoll commented Mrs. Waterbury is spectacular and thanked her for the time she has given the district. She thanked Dr. Barnes for his Superintendent Evaluation Update. She further shared a reminder to families as we get into the throws of the school year that fundraisers are popping up and remarking families should do what is right for your family and your budget but not over extending. She noted Grand Ledge is a strong village where everyone is willing to chip in and do their part and all that pours into making our district a better place.

Vice President DuFort reiterated Mr. Cwayna’s comments about Mrs. Waterbury service being transformational and recognizing the organization she has brought to the district noting it has also benefitted the community. In closing she expressed she is looking forward to the homecoming parade on Friday.

CLOSED SESSION – Attorney / Client Privilege

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Marsh for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Attorney / Client Privileged Communication as Per Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act (Mediation Update - GLPS v. GMB Architects & Engineers).

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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>		

The motion carried unanimously at 7:20 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 8:01 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Ashley Kuykendoll, Secretary

Nicole Shannon, President