

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

October 14, 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, Ben Cwayna, Jon Shiflett, Ashley Kuykendoll, Denise DuFort and Nicole Shannon. **Members Absent:** Toni Glasscoe. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Bruce Dunn, Adrienne Barna, Matt Oppenheim, Tim Totten, Coban Holmes, Melissa Mazzola, Ariel Backus, Allyson McCann, Ashleigh Lore and Kim Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Rotary Dictionary Project

Rotarians Ariel Backus and Bruce Dunn provided the board with information on this year's dictionary project noting that every 4th grade student at each of the four elementary schools was given a dictionary. They shared this is more than a dictionary, it is more a resource guide, as it includes states, capitals, past presidents, solar system, water system and many other "resources" that students can use. They explained the funding for the project, noted this is a world-wide program and you can look up "The Dictionary Project" to learn more about the program.

B. Superintendent's Evaluation Update – Instructional Leadership

Superintendent Barnes provided his evaluation update with focus on Instructional Leadership, Section E of the Superintendent's Evaluation Rubric. He provided the established goal and the current initiatives established under each of the goals including Performance Evaluation System, Building Level Leadership, Staff Development, School Improvement, Curriculum, Instruction, Student Feedback, Student Attendance and Support for Students.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. September 24, 2024 Meeting
- b. September 23, 2024 Closed Session
- c. September 27, 2024 Special Meeting

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

B. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE HIRING

a. Adrienne Barna – Chief Financial Officer

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Administrative Hiring of Adrienne Barna, as presented.

Superintendent Barnes provided the board with background regarding the interview process and expressing he is very excited to bring Adrienne onto our team noting he is confident she will be an outstanding member to the leadership team

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Barna thanked Dr. Barnes for his kind words and expressed she is looking forward to working with him. She thanked the board for their trust in giving her the position and the opportunity. In closing she noted the culture, team work and collaboration demonstrated throughout this process is what makes her really excited to join this team and she looks forward to working with everyone.

C. WAIVE 1ST READING & APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 8510 (WELLNESS)

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to Waive the first reading of Board Policy 8510, Wellness, and move to approve the Policy as revised and presented.

Superintendent Barnes noted that with the adoption of the new Neola Board Policies, we knew there would be places where we discovered that the policy is not in line with the district's current practice. Following review of the Governance Committee, it was decided to update the policy, to have some flexibility, but to continue to in compliance with the law. He shared that he worked with the district Food Service Director, Darrin Gyurich, to ensure the district can still conduct fundraiser and other fun activities (i.e., Snack Shop, Kona Ica, etc.), while still meeting the intention of the law and noting that is what is being presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF RELEVANT ACADEMY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Marsh for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Cooperative Agreement between Grand Ledge Public Schools and Relevant Academy, as presented, and authorize Superintendent Bill Barnes to execute the Agreement on behalf of the district.

Superintendent Barnes noted this will allow for the continuation of Comet Academy through Relevant Academy for the 2024-2025 school year. He explained this was a successful program last year in that the student remains a GLPS student, they can still play sports, participate in electrics, go to prom, etc., all while working to make up credits quicker so they can, hopefully, graduate on time. He noted this is a good program that is serving the needs of our students sharing there were a number of kids who only graduates last due because they had this opportunity. He further explained the funding for the program noting the implementation of a designated staff person, Kelly Auge, who oversees the students and is hands on with each of the students going through the program to ensure a smooth transition, checks in on them and helps them get back on track. In closing he noted he is very pleased with the way the program is going and would like one more year of data before bringing a longer contract extension to the board.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 4 BOND BID AWARDS

a. Willow Ridge

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Bid awards for Willow Ridge Elementary to Driesenga & Associates in the amount of \$31,650 for Testing and Inspections, Praise Sign Company in the amount of \$85,467.55 for Signage, Ewing Electric in the amount of \$665,200 for Electrical with a Construction Contingency of \$54,762.23 and General Conditions in the amount of \$23,469.52 for a Total Bid Award of \$860,549.20, as presented.

Mrs. DuFort advised this was reviewed by the Board Bond Committee and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration.

Superintendent Barnes noted this is under budget which is an example of the good stewardship on the part of Mr. Piper, Mrs. Waterbury, Clark Construction and GMB.

Mr. Shiflett pointed out the only reason there is a Series 4 of this Bond is because of the foresight of Mrs. Waterbury; which in turn has saved the taxpayers approximately \$1.7M.

The motion carried unanimously.

b. Hayes & Transportation

Motion by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Bid awards for Hayes Intermediate and the Transportation Building to Intertek-PSI in the amount of \$4,245 for Testing & Inspections, Functional Consulting in the amount of \$14,140 for Commissioning, Asbestos Abatement in the amount of \$75,360 for Demolition,

Moore Trosper in the amounts of \$52,675 for Foundations and Flatwork and \$147,950 for General Trades, Complete Enclosures in the amount of \$110,300 for Masonry, Custom Steel in the amount of \$77,860 for Structural Steel, Division 7 in the amount of \$205,730 for Roofing, Eagle Enterprise in the amount of \$28,826 for Metal Panels, Scheper Brother in the amount of \$98,524 for Walls & Ceilings, Niles Construction in the amount of \$31,611 for Painting, Integrity Interiors in the amount of \$154,955 for Flooring, Rayhaven Group in the amount of \$1,896 for Metal Lockers, William Floyd Mechanical in the amount of \$3,737,789 for Plumbing & HVAC, Buist Electric in the amount of \$418,500 for Electrical with a Construction Contingency of \$361,255.27 and General Conditions in the amount of \$154,810.83 for a Total Bid Award of \$5,676,397.10, as presented.

Mrs. DuFort shared this has been reviewed by the Board Bond Advisory and approved to be brought forward for board's consideration.

Superintendent Barnes noted this is well within budget and will create secure entrances and the new road behind Hayes that will impact the traffic flow on Nixon Road.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. 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 \$177,533.75, 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 Sawdon and Wacousta.

Superintendent Barnes noted that Sinking Funds are monies that we can use to maintain our buildings and infrastructure without having to use general fund dollars. He noted this is only possible through the generosity of our community.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 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 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$1,011,797.18, 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.

H. PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 3 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Marsh for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$773,242.23, 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.

I. PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 4 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$121,593.30, 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 and technology.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Superintendent Barnes welcomed Adrienne to Grand Ledge Public Schools remarking he is glad she will be a member of our team. He noted he is proud of the worked that happened during the October 4th district-wide professional development and crediting the team for their work in putting it together.

Mr. Marsh noted he completed his Superintendent Evaluation Training and he is very interested in going through the process noting a lot of changed in the 23 years since he was on the board, noting it is much more methodical which will lend to a more thorough evaluation. He shared details of the cross-country event that took place this past weekend noting it was the 36th year of the event and brings together cross country runner from across the region. In closing he expressed it was great to see the founders of this event, Jim Brandt and Carl Chapman, recognized.

Mr. Cwayna welcomed Ms. Barna.

Mr. Shiflett welcomed Ms. Barna.

Ms. Kuykendoll welcomed Ms. Barna and took a moment to highlight that she received her absentee ballot point out two important GLPS items on the ballot related to the Sinking Fund and our Operating Millage. She noted this presented her the opportunity to educate the other person in her household as to how the sinking fund dollars help the district by supporting our buildings and infrastructure and things that make us Proud to be Comets without impacting our

general fund, while the operating millage is what is required by all Michigan school districts to pay for operations or day-to-day functions of the district. She noted it is not a new millage but a continuation. In closing she encouraged anyone with questions to reach out.

Mrs. DuFort expressed her appreciation for this district and all the hard work. She welcome Ms. Barna.

President Shannon welcomed Ms. Barna remarking it sounds like we found the right person.

CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. DuFort 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, PA 267 of 1976.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously at 7:17 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in open session at 7:41p.m.

GLEA LOA #8

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Letter of Agreement #8 between Grand Ledge Public Schools and the Grand Ledge Education Association addressing Teacher Placement and Decisions on Layoff, Recall, Hiring and Position Elimination, as presented. The motion carried unanimously with member Tim Marsh abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.


ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:


Ashley Kuykendoll, Secretary


Nicole Shannon, President