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

Regular Meeting – October 26, 2015

**MINUTES**

President Winstanley 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 Brian Metcalf indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Beverly Winstanley, Kim Mulvenna, Linda Wacyk, Brody Boucher and Jay Bennett ***Central Office Administrators***: Brian Metcalf, Andy George, Steve Gabriel, Nancy Rasinske, Norma Schutzki and Mark Deschaine ***Others in Attendance***: Sara Sutherland, John Ellsworth, Sue Gardner, Dawn Anderson, Michele Strasz, Kellee Auge, Anthony Machniak, Russell Misner and Kim Manning

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the October 26, 2015 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mrs. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the October 26, 2015 Consent Agenda Item, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda were the meeting minutes of the September 28, 2015 Regular Meeting, the October 12, 2015 Work Session and the October 12, 2015 Closed Session.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment.

**REPORTS**

**A. Capitol Connections Report** - Mr. Bennett advised there is another road funding bill that has passed the House of Representatives. The bill includes \$600M out of the general fund, which in turn could come out of education. He further reported legislation is being considered to make board member attendance mandatory to cast a vote. This only applies to public school boards, not charter school boards or university boards. He continued advising that Senator Pavlov is now chair of the Senate Education Committee noting he does not have a long history of doing things positive for public

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education. In closing he noted he attended the MASB Annual Conference, as did Ms. Wacyk, where they covered several legislative topics including 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading initiative noting it does have some good things like students getting the help they need before 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, but that retention is still in there even though research shows retention does not work.

- B. Eaton RESA Report** – Mrs. Clark Pierson advised at the last board meeting they were presented with the audited balances noting she cannot accept the audit when they are just receiving balances. She did advise that the auditor’s found some past practices that caused confusion and payments that never existed before. In closing she advised a new Superintendent will start at the RESA at the end of November. Dr. Cynthia Anderson will take the helm bringing 18 years of experience from the Ingham ISD. She comments she has a lot of depth with knowledge of special education and a variety of curriculum matters. She believes she will be a good fit for the RESA and is looking forward to learning quite a bit from her. She commended Don Sovey commenting he has “done a wonderful job” as Interim Superintendent.
- C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation** – Mr. Bennett advised that he was unable to attend the last meeting but the group is beginning to plan for the next Breakfast of Champions.
- D. Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Committee** – Mrs. Mulvenna advised the City has purchased the “Rounds” property adjacent to the Boy Scout Park. She further reminded Grand Ledge residents there is an election on November 3 advising that no one is running for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward but Thom Sowle is a write-in candidate. She also noted the committee will be voter to change the Charter Amendment that would allow candidates to pay a filing fee versus gathering signatures. She strongly supports this change to the Charter.
- E. Superintendent’s Report** – Superintendent Metcalf reported the Strategic Plan Focus Groups have concluded and Mr. Gardner will present his findings to the board on November 9<sup>th</sup>. He expressed his appreciation to everyone that volunteered to meet and give guidance in the creation of surveys that will be used later this year. Dr. Metcalf commended our Varsity boys and girls basketball teams for being recipients of the 2014-2015 Top 100 Sportsmanship Award from the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan. He also congratulated the Women’s Cross Country team for their 2015 CAAC Blue Division Championship. Dr. Metcalf provided the board with details of a joint project between the district and the Grand Ledge Lion’s Club to provide a windbreak at the track / softball complex. And in closing, he advised that early next week the district will launch an update to our website noting the new look will provide the district with a mobile friendly presence.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Early Middle College Program**

The board received a presentation from Eaton RESA Assistant Superintendent Sue Gardner along with Dawn Anderson and the Director of the Capital Area College Access Network, Michelle Strasz on the Capital Region Early Middle College (E/MC) Program noting this is a five-year high school program designed to allow a student to earn a high school diploma while also earning an associate’s degree, an E/MC technical certificate or 60 transferable

credits at no additional cost to the student.

**B. Academic Services Update**

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Steve Gabriel advised the board that last April and May the district was administering the newly implemented M-STEP. The purpose of this new assessment was to “get results and feedback”. Heading into November and we still don’t have results back from Spring. He advised the district does have raw scores, but this information means nothing. There are no cut scores, no benchmarks. So, we don’t know how we stack up to other districts, the previous MME and MEAP. He further noted that the state is bracing districts to be prepared for scores to be low in comparison to previous tests. He further provided the board with an overview of what going on in the Academic Services Department including professional development. He noted that this Friday is a professional development day and he is excited that the elementary will continue working on phonics along with reading. The reading portion will be a teachers leading teachers PD Middle School will continue work on their yearly goals and the High School will work on school wide reading and taking a first look at the new SAT set for this Spring. In closing he noted that he has enjoyed being out in the buildings over these past few months and is impressed with the work being done and building principals using the data to make critical decisions as well as helping us guide our curriculum and instruction decisions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF**

Mr. Boucher congratulated the cross county team as well as the basketball teams noting the sportsmanship banner will be a great banner to hang at the high school. He further congratulated the football teams and thanked everyone who attended and participated in the focus group meetings noting he attended one of the community member forums noting it was a very full table and a very fruitful discussion. In closing he expressed he is looking forward to the new look of the website.

Mrs. Mulvenna commended the sportsmanship awards noting that in this day and age it speaks volumes to the lessons our students are learning regarding respecting others. She also commended our student athletes on the Fallen Heroes Memorial they do each year and the tribute.

Superintendent Metcalf encouraged everyone to get their tickets to see the Grand Ledge High School production of Mary Poppins November 12 – 15.

President Winstanley noted that Grand Ledge Public Schools has great things happening, even the littlest things add up and help contribute to our students’ success. She noted she was pleased to see the Early Middle College presentation and thanked Ms. Gardner and her associates for sharing and looks forward to what we can do to help prepare to bring this program to the students of Grand Ledge. In closing, she thanked all the staff for all they do, every day, to contribute to the success of Grand Ledge Public Schools. “Bravo Zulu” as they say in the military for a job well done.

**CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations**

Motion by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Bennett 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(c) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Mr. Bennett	<u>YES</u>	President Winstanley	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Boucher	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Wacyk	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>

The motion carried unanimously at 7:07 pm

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:35 pm

**APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE CONTRACT**

**Motion by Mrs. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mr. Bennett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the contract with MEA/NEA Unit IV – Teacher Assistants, Health Care Assistants, Bus Assistants, Adventure Club Head Caregivers and Adventure Club Caregivers, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

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Linda Wacyk, Secretary

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Beverly Winstanley, President