
GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – November 23, 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, Jay Bennett and Jon Shiflett ***Central Office Administrators***: Brian Metcalf, Andy George, Steve Gabriel, Nancy Rasinske, Norma Schutzki and Mark Deschaine ***Others in Attendance***: Bruce Dunn, Melissa Mazzola, Tonya Rice, Jill Rycus, Joni Henretty, Tina Dewey, Shawn Bronson, Susan Sowle, Annette Kelly, Jennifer Bouck, Julie Alexander, Doreen Earle, Francie Skarritt, Melody Parsons, Candace Karrer, Katie Grass, Lindsey Grostefon, Sheri Tulloch, Cathy Fox, Louise Heaven, Lori Kennedy, Michelle Hartman, Lisa Klingbiel, David Klingbiel, Dana Schueller, Kellee Auge, Tracy Smith, Amy Heriford, Denise Green, Mike Richey, Amy Firtl, Kurt Root, Beth Johnston, Matt Sydlowski, Kimberly Shoup, Kevin Mason, Mackenzie Faerber, Jeanine Cull, Jennifer Pippin, Gail Schafer, Anthony Machniak, John Ellsworth, Michelle Knauff, Fred Hutchinson and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Bennett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 23, 2015 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Ms. Wacyk for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 23, 2015 Consent Agenda Item, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the meeting minutes of the October 26, 2015 Regular Meeting and the Closed Session, the November 9, 2015 Work Session and Closed Session and the leave of absence for teacher Christina Holmes for the 2015-16 school year.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. 2015/16 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rasinske provided the board with an overview of the 2015-2016 Budget Amendment including information pertaining to transparency disclosure, unexpected changes in the 2014-2015 audited revenues and expenditures, the adopted and amended projected fund balances outlining the details for the change in the fund

balance including contractual bargaining agreements that have been settled and noting this fund balance reflects the settlement of the teacher contract under the current offer on the table.

B. 2014/15 AUDIT REPORT

Bruce Dunn of Maner Costerisan provided the board with a detailed overview of the district's 2014/2015 financial statements noting the key point of the audit is to take our financial statements, run several tests on those statements and provide an opinion. He noted Grand Ledge Public Schools has always done a very nice job of ensuring accuracy in their financial reporting and the 14/15 ending fund balance is accurate. He advised the Board of Education Audit Committee is actively involved in ensuring the financial viability of the district and he met with the audit committee to review the district's audit in great detail. Mr. Dunn reviewed the pension accounting and upcoming changes to GASB, as well as the general fund, capitol projects, sinking fund, debt millage, noting that the district looks out for its taxpayers and refunding the bonds saves the taxpayers money – not the district. He would recommend the district maintain a 10-15% fund balance to allow for the elimination of the need to borrow to sustain the district before the first state aid payment. He remarked that running a school district is a tough job in today's climate. The uncertainty of the road funding package and the Detroit Public Schools bail out will more than likely be hard to swallow, but it is coming. He noted Grand Ledge Public Schools works hard to have the fund balance it does have but advises it is going to get tougher in the next six months.

C. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. Capitol Connections Report** - Mr. Bennett reported on legislation regarding vouchers, banning paid leave for union activity and electric choice. He also noted the Senate is looking at alternatives for GED programs. In closing he noted that while school districts take 2-3 days off for the Thanksgiving holiday, the legislature is taking two weeks off.
- b. Eaton RESA Report** – Mrs. Clark Pierson was not in attendance but Mr. Bennett advised that he, along with two other board members from other districts are working with MASB on assisting in the development of a Strategic Plan for the Eaton RESA. He noted his disappointment that all school districts under the RESA did not send representatives to provide feedback for this strategic plan.
- c. Grand Ledge Education Foundation** – No report at this time.
- d. Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Committee** – Mrs. Mulvenna advised the Master Plan for the Parks & Recreation Department is expiring. If there is no Master Plan, the committee cannot apply for grants. Therefore, the committee sought bids to provide a Master Plan for all the parks in Grand Ledge and that bid was awarded to The Spicer Group.

D. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Metcalf commended the Varsity Football Team on a great showing at the playoff game last Saturday noting they fought well. He noted the band also attended the game. He expressed how proud he was of all the students; the

team for their wherewithal and the band for their determination to support the team during some very unpleasant weather conditions. They all represented Grand Ledge!

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

GLEA member John Ellsworth advised the board he has been named the teacher crisis team leader. He remarked he believes we will be able to make better choices to avoid a crisis and help us move forward. He encouraged “rethinking” and reflection on the approach and direction taken with teachers. He advised he is happy to help with some of that reflection by sitting down over a cup of coffee or a “root beer”. He hoped the holiday season would provide an opportunity to do some “rethinking” and allow us to “get our house in order to battle Lansing” while moving forward in a positive, reconstructive way.

Dave Klingbiel noted the wonderful Mary Poppins performance that boasts six sold shows that showcased 120 student performers. He noted this is a great place for students to express themselves.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of MRIC Resolution

Motion by Ms. Wacyk, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution for the district to join the Michigan Retirement Investment Consortium, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of 2014/15 Audit

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Ms. Wacyk for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to accept the 2014-2015 District Audit, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of the 2015/16 Budget Amendment Resolution

Motion by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Ms. Wacyk for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2015-2016 Budget Amendment Resolution, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Technology Purchase

Motion by Ms. Wacyk, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the use of Sprint Funds for technology purchases, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF

Mr. Bennett remarked that Mary Poppins was incredible noting that his family enjoyed it immensely. The playoff football game was one heck of a game. Tomorrow students complete the first trimester, two more to go.

Mrs. Mulvenna noted that after listening to Mr. Dunn's presentation on the audit, it is concerning to think the legislature believes there is money to take from the general fund for the road package. Common sense tells you there isn't.

Mr. Boucher expressed his appreciation to the educators for coming tonight noting that being married to an educator, he understands. He advised if someone has a better idea on how to make this work, he is open to hear it, as are all the members of the Board of Education. However, he and his fellow board members will not allow the district to be "run into the ground". He advised that as a Union, GLEA is welcome to perform its own audit and he encouraged them to do so if they believe there is something being hidden. He expressed since he has joined the board it has been nothing but an "echo chamber of bad news". He remarked he has never been at board meeting where the topic of conversation was, "What are we going to do with all this extra money?" He noted custodians, bus drivers and teacher assistants have all given concessions. But, this board is open to suggestions. In closing he remarked that he is "not here to challenge you" and that he's not "trying to be disrespectful." He expressed his disappointment that a bond can't be passed in this community, which could assist in maintaining the financial viability of the district. In closing he remarked the board would be more than happy to hear ideas.

President Winstanley affirmed all the members of the Board support what Mr. Boucher said. She noted the board is capable and willing to sit and discuss this with you, but have a responsibility to stay financially sound. She thanked everyone for taking the time to be here. She commended the students and staff for the wonderful performance – Mary Poppins noting this is just another example that we are still out there doing the best for our students and working hard for them. She congratulated Coach Bird and the varsity football team on a great season. In closing she remarked, "This really touches me personally. What we should spend our money on and what we shouldn't spend our money on. But know, I will never be willing to sit here and talk about cutting programs that contribute to our students' growth."

CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations

Motion by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Wacyk 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:

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

The motion carried unanimously at 7:14 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 8:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION – Superintendent’s Annual Review

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. Bennett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of conducting the Superintendent’s Annual Review, as per Section 8(e) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously at 8:01 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 9:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT’S CONTRACT EXTENSION

Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the contract extension with Superintendent Dr. Brian L. Metcalf, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Linda Wacyk, Secretary

Beverly Winstanley, President