

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Work Session - January 9, 2023

MINUTES

President Smith called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. He led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Jarrod Smith, Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon, Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort, Ben Cwayna and Ashley Kuykendoll. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Mark Deschaine, Martez Warren and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Tim Totten, John Piper, Aleisha Batiste, Phil Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Dean DuFort, Howard Pizzo, Nell Pizzo, Kim Laforet, Melissa Mazzola, Greg Almy, Chelsea Hare-West, Nettavia Cherry, Marlene Promer, Rickie Kuykendoll, Sally Jo Nelton and Kim Manning

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING HEATHER KLEIMAN

Dr. Barnes led a tribute and moment of silence honoring Grand Ledge Public Schools' long-time Athletic Trainer Heather Kleiman who passed away suddenly on December 26, 2022. He read a statement prepared by Athletic Director Steve Baker: "Long time GLHS Athletic Trainer Heather Kleiman passed away Monday, December 26th at a hospital in Green Bay. Heather was home for the holidays with her family in Escanaba when she became ill and was transferred to a Green Bay hospital where she passed away from complications related to blood clots. As the longest serving Athletic Trainer in Mid-Michigan, Heather's dedication to our student athletes and coaching staff was unmatched. This is a tremendous loss for our Grand Ledge school and community. Heather has served as Comet Athletic Trainer since 2004, more than 18 years serving student athletes from Grand Ledge and Mid-Michigan. The impact on the lives of the students she cared for can not be measured. The ultimate professional, Heather was the calm and reassuring voice to both students and parents on the field and in the training room. She always put the best interest of student athletes at the heart of everything she did and was recognized locally as a leader in her profession. Heather always made the training room at GLHS a welcoming place for all to visit. Her fun sense of humor, honesty and expertise as an athletic trainer set her apart. Heather was an example of all the positive attributes of educational athletics and our students, coaches and community have been blessed to have such an incredible individual in such a vital position. We will never forget her." Dr. Barnes asked everyone to keep Heather's family in their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

Dr. Barnes took a moment to acknowledge that January is School Board Recognition Month. He noted that board members serve in a capacity that is often challenging, often difficult but also often rewarding. He noted that board members work throughout the year and not just two nights out of the month attending Board Meetings; they serve on committees, work with the Superintendent regularly, are in our school and are at school events. He noted being a school board member requires commitment and passion for community service and our board works to make Grand Ledge Public Schools a better place. He thanked the board members on behalf of the administrative team and the district as a whole. He noted there was a small token of appreciation (cookies from our local Flour Child Bakery) at each of the members' places. In closing he thanked the board for the support he has received in his new role over the past few months noting it is very much appreciated. The board received a round of applause.

STATEMENT OF EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT DR. BILL BARNES

President Smith read a statement prepared by former President Jon Shiflett regarding the Evaluation of Superintendent Bill Barnes that was conducted in December:

"At its December 12, 2022 meeting, the Grand Ledge Board of Education held a performance review for the purpose of conducting an evidence-based evaluation rating for Dr. Bill Barnes. The board used the Michigan Association of School Boards Superintendent Evaluation tool. All board members have been trained in use of the tool.

Dr. Barnes provided documentation of his efforts since taking over the position in August. He provided dozens of exhibits supporting his effectiveness as superintendent of Grand Ledge Public Schools.

*During this meeting, Dr. Barnes presented sufficient evidence to demonstrate **effective** performance and as a result, the Grand Ledge Board of Education developed a consensus rating of **effective** for Dr. Barnes' performance for the evaluation cycle ending December 1, 2022. This rating will not affect Dr. Barnes contract or step level.*

The board also explored possible priorities and goals that will inform the next evaluation cycle. The SMART goals presented this evening are the backbone of next year's evaluation.

The board does not like to evaluate superintendents with less than one year on the job. However, state law requires an annual evaluation be completed every year."

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Shannon provided an overview for providing public comment to the board.

Tim Totten addressed the board grading the district and the board and asking for a public apology for what he believes were egregious mistakes.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

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

President Smith noted this includes the meeting minutes of the December 12, 2022 Regular Meeting and Closed Session and the minutes of the December 15, 2022 Special Meeting.

B. APPROVAL OF TEACHER HIRING

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Hiring of Dr. Matthew Allison as a Counselor at Grand Ledge High School, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF CAPITAL FUNDS INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Capital Funds Invoices in the amount of \$211,351.95, as presented.

President Smith noted all the following invoices were reviewed at the Board Bond Advisory Meeting prior to this meeting. These invoices represent work as part of the Fine Arts Center Construction at the High School.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of a Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$4,436.87, as presented.

President Smith noted these address architectural fees associated with the design of the storage barn as is required by law.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$774,913.71, as presented.

President Smith noted this represents invoices for projects at Delta Center along with architectural fees for various other projects.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$499,229.89, as presented.

President Smith noted this represents work for the Fine Arts addition at the high school noting he was excited to hear that the district could receive occupancy approval in April with full completion later in the year.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Mr. Ellsworth thanked everyone for their patience and understanding as we are learning the new audio-visual system that allows us to live stream the board meetings. He noted he did check and as long as someone viewing the meeting turned on closed captioning, it was working. He shared that the meetings are live streamed at: [YouTube.com/@GLPS21](https://www.youtube.com/@GLPS21) noting we will continue to push out information about the live streaming.

Superintendent Barnes thanked Kim Manning, John Ellsworth, and Mark Deschaine noting they spent most of the day today moving tables, ensuring the camera angels were right, and making sure everything was ready to go for tonight's meeting. He thanks Mr. Shiflett for his leadership and guidance during his time as president throughout his transition noting he appreciated his approach and his leadership. He expressed he looks forward to continuing the work with President Smith. He addressed the question regarding the process for replacing the coaching position noting this will be a very in-depth process that will go through a committee with various administrators, coaches, teachers, booster representative and community members. Mr. Baker will spear head the committee. He pointed out that Coach Charter has done a great job serving as the interim coached and he thanked him for his willingness to step into the role to bring the least amount of disruption to the program.

Ms. Kuykendoll sent her condolences to Heather Kleiman's family and friends, welcome Dr. Allison to the High School team and thanked the community for their support putting her in this position. She thanked her family and friends who attended tonight and commented she looks forward to being of service to the students of Grand Ledge Public Schools and the district. She questioned using the Grand Ledge Independent as the means of sharing information about the board and wondered how many people have access to the paper noting she wants to ensure we are engaging the community.

Mr. Shiflett welcome Ms. Kuykendoll to the board.

Mrs. DuFort noted she is pleased with the board's new officers and the new board.

Mrs. Shannon agreed with Mrs. DuFort.

Dr. Glasscoe thanked the board for all the support during her one-year appointment noting it was invaluable; she felt included and welcomed. She noted she looks forward to working with the board commenting everyone serving has a skill set that focuses on community, students and families. She advised she has a work commitment that will keep her from being in attendance at the January 23rd meeting and the County-Wide School Board Meeting.

President Smith noted there is a great team on the administrative side of the room as a great team serving on the Board. He expressed he loves the new technology and he is excited for the year to come.

ADJOURNMENT


The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Jarrod Smith, President