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

Regular Meeting – January 25, 2016

**MINUTES**

Secretary Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call by Superintendent Brian Metcalf indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Jay Bennett, Sara Clark Pierson, Kim Mulvenna, Brody Boucher and Beverly Winstanley. Vice President Jon Shiflett joined the meeting at 6:10 pm. ***Central Office Administrators***: Brian Metcalf, Andy George, Steve Gabriel, Nancy Rasinske, Norma Schutzki and Mark Deschaine ***Others in Attendance***: John Ellsworth, Evelin Driskor, Darcy Kerr, Teri Mulder, Michelle Hamilton, Erin Snyder, Meghan Ritchey, Erin Ries, Bri Dennis, Kari Oberdarlh, Francie Skarritt, Lorene Kappler, Mark Jones, Diane Garnaat, Dave Jackson, Susie Jackson, Jessica Fuentes, Nancy Nowak, John Legus, Tyler Hubert, Chuck Mills, Anita Mills, Tonya Rice, Melissa Mazzola, Teresa Dyer, Erica Sampson, Erin Ellis, Candace Karrer, Kelly Smith, Abby Taylor, Angel Hojara, Amy Heriford, Denise Dufort, Jennifer Pippin, Melissa Goodrich, Lisa Klingbiel, Dave Klingbiel, Steven Klingbiel, Gail Schafer, Rachel Parish, Louise Heaven, Jenny Kish, Jeanine Cull, Paula Hoffman, Kimberly Shoup, Reid Felsing, Sarah Felsing, Colleen Price, Jim Price, Stacey Dohm, Susan Sowle, Rhonda Bomgaars, Andrea Dionise, Doreen Earle, Kevin Mason, Sheila Dunnigan, Scott Zulewski, Joni Henretty, Cheryl Richardson, Matt Richardson, Dana Schueller, Marty Froman, Flavio Malaga, Kellee Auge, Fred Hutchinson, Melody Parsons, Deborah McMartin-Finkel, Kelly Rodriguez, Kim Spalsbury, Julie Brunk, Michelle Knauff, Annette Kelly, Jennifer Bouck, Teresa Koenigsknecht, Kathy Brown, Matt Pierson, Angela Lutz, Michalene Elder and Kim Manning.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mrs. Winstanley for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the January 25, 2016 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mrs. Winstanley, seconded by Mr. Bennett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the January 25, 2016 Consent Agenda Item, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda were the meeting minutes of the December 14, 2015 Regular Meeting and Closed Session, and the January 11, 2016 Organizational Meeting, Work Session and Closed Session.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Lorene Kappler with Youth for Understanding and Dave Schushaskie with Center for Cultural Interchange presented students to the Board of Education who are attending Grand Ledge Public Schools through our Foreign Exchange Program. Students from Italy, Hungary, Spain, Taiwan spoke to the board about their experience attending Grand Ledge Public Schools and thanked them for their continued support of the Foreign Exchange student program.

### PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

GLEA member John Ellsworth addressed the board on behalf of the teacher crisis team and noted he is not a fan of his title and he does not believe that Grand Ledge Public Schools is in a crisis. He asked again for the board to look for the common ground expressing that Grand Ledge students are teacher's priorities. He noted there are excellent teachers here and several will share how they spend their time making Grand Ledge great. In closing, he noted Grand Ledge has many things to celebrate.

Grand Ledge teachers Jennifer Pippin, Doreen Earle, Colleen Price, Melissa Mazzola, Mark Jones and Katie Grass individually addressed the board to provide information regarding what they, and their colleagues, do to make Grand Ledge great.

Former student Tyson Graham expressed his support of the teachers at Grand Ledge public schools and noted he feels the teachers are stressed remarking they need their planning periods. He expressed his concern about the number of teachers who retired last year and noted they were amazing teachers. In closing he expressed that he feels Grand Ledge is in a decline and hopes he will be able to send his kids to school here.

Parent Scott Zulewski addressed the board expressing concerns about how class sizes are determined and what research is being used to base class size on. He further expressed concern with regard to the support being shown to the teachers by administration and requested that Grand Ledge teachers be shown respect.

### REPORTS

#### **A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- a. **Capitol Connections Report** - Mr. Bennett reported Governor Snyder made his State of the State address last week. He discussed the Flint Water Crisis and there was some discussion with regard to Detroit Public Schools. However, there were no definite plans on how to solve either of these items. Mr. Bennett further noted that SB571 that was signed by the Governor completely prohibits local entities from providing their constituents with pertinent information on ballot proposals 60-days prior to the election. In closing he advised the House Education Committee conducted a meeting regarding the delay is the disbursement of M-STEP scores.

Mrs. Clark Pierson further explained the ramifications of SB571 noting this "law" only allows for the date of the election and the specific ballot language to be shared with a

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community 60 days prior to an election. She advised if this legislation is not modified, and or repealed, it will be devastating to the Grand Ledge Public Schools community.

- b. Eaton RESA Report** – Mrs. Clark Pierson noted as all the teachers have talked about their contributions and selfless acts on behalf of the district – she works full-time for the State of Michigan and in the evening serves as a member of the Grand Ledge Board of Education and serves as the district’s representative on the Eaton RESA Board of Education. She advised that she is happy the RESA is starting the healing process following the recent events brought to light with the former Superintendent. She noted on February 6<sup>th</sup> she will participate in an 8-hour retreat with the Eaton RESA Board to begin to establish a Strategic Plan for the RESA. For this 8 hours, she will be paid \$25. But the bigger picture is that by establishing a strategic plan, the RESA will have a plan on how they will operate in the future, and how they will support their constituent district that will be very beneficial to Grand Ledge Public Schools.
- d. Grand Ledge Education Foundation** – No report at this time.
- e. Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Committee** – Mrs. Mulvenna advised that she had been serving as the board’s representative on the Parks & Recreation Committee, but this year Mr. Boucher would be taking over. Mr. Boucher advised that he will be leaving shortly to attend the Grand Ledge City Council meeting so he can be sworn in to serve on the Parks & Recreation Committee.

**D. Superintendent’s Report** – Superintendent Metcalf took a moment to remind everyone that January is School Board Recognition month and providing a detailed overview of what the responsibilities of a Board of Education are. He thanked the members of the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education for giving their times and talents, tirelessly, to ensure the success of our students, and our district. He presented the members with a small token of appreciation.

Dr. Metcalf further announced that the district has launched its Strategic Plan survey and encouraged everyone within the Grand Ledge Public Schools district to visit our website and provide us with their valuable feedback that will be used to guide our new Strategic Plan priorities. In closing, he congratulated GLHS teacher Sara Zeko on being named the 2016 Educator of the Year by the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution Opposing PA 269 (SB571)**

**Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. Bennett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Opposition to Public Act 269 Resolution and instruct Superintendent Metcalf to ensure a copy of the resolution is forwarded to the district’s State Representatives in the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate, as presented.**

Board Trustee Brody Boucher read the resolution.

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**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Mrs. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. Winstanley	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Bennett	<u>YES</u>
Vice President Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Boucher	<u>YES</u>

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

Mr. Ellsworth thanked the board for adopting the resolution opposing PA269 and asked if the resolution could be shared with more people than just the legislators. He expressed his appreciation for standing up for our students and our schools.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF**

Mrs. Mulvenna thanked Lorene Kappler for the home-baked treats.

Superintendent Metcalf advised he has discussed Senate Bill 571 (PA269) with Senator Jones and Representative Barrett and asked that they support and or lead an effort to recall this law. He noted Senator Jones advised there was not any willingness to do this on the Republican side and Representative Barrett noted there was no intension from the house to recall the law. In closing he gave one more shout-out to Sara Zeko, the 2016 Educators of the Year.

Mrs. Mulvenna noted that she, and all her fellow board members appreciated all the input and all the work our staff does. It is noticed by all of us. She went on,

“Speaking on behalf of the board, I would like to make some observations about Contract Negotiations.

First, we have a great district. Our Board is proud of the sustained effort of our teachers, of our administrators, and of our support staff members. We all enjoy the benefit of being on this exceptional team at Grand Ledge Public Schools.

Second, there are always two sides to every story. Our negotiation team has worked hard to reach a resolution to this contract negotiation within the parameters the Board has set. A Board and administrative goal this year has been to assure all of our employees are compensated well to reflect the great work being done in GL. Hence, the Board increased the compensation parameter last August; and the team presented a significantly higher proposal at the table. Even with that movement, it is my understanding that the Board has not received a counter proposal since July 8th of last summer.

Third, I believe that both sides are working hard to reach agreement, and we appreciate the effort by both teams. In the meantime, our teachers are being compensated at levels equal to last year. Importantly, we are not going to negotiate this agreement through public pronouncements at Board meetings, but instead, we will rely on the negotiation process pursuant to existing state law. With that said, our team remains ready to meet and negotiate.

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And finally, while the Board intends to be fair, I am not willing to approve a contract that jeopardizes the financial integrity of this fine district. I am mindful of the financial impact of all legacy proposals that will bind our finances this year, and also have a compounding impact on next year, and for years to come. I believe my fellow Board members feel the same."

**CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations**

**Motion by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mrs. Winstanley 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:**

Mrs. Winstanley	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Bennett	<u>YES</u>
Vice President Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Boucher	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. Mulvenna	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>

**The motion carried unanimously at 7:00 p.m.**

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:18 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

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Jay Bennett, Secretary

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Jon Shiflett, Vice President