

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Virtual Regular Meeting– February 22, 2021

MINUTES

President Clark Pierson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Interim Superintendent Dave Chapin indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Sara Clark Pierson, remotely from Eagle Township, Clinton County; Jarrod Smith remotely from Delta Township, Ingham County; Nicole Shannon, remotely from Oneida Township, Eaton County; Jon Shiflett remotely from the City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County; Denise DuFort remotely from the City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County; Patrick McKennon remotely from Oneida Township, Eaton County; Ben Cwayna remotely from City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County. **Central Office Administrators**: Dave Chapin, Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance** Allison Bengel, Alyssa Cummings, Amber Moody, Andrew Torrey, Ann Paquette-Lukens, Ashley Cook, Beth Schuchaskie, Bianca Blackwelder, Bill Albrecht, Brenda Seelman, Brian Flowerday, Briane Dennis, Chelsea Millbrook, Chris Groves, Christin Sandell, Christy Price, Cindy Zerbe, D'Anne Golub, Dan Cwayna, Dawne Velianoff, Debi Cole, Diana Magiera, Doug Waldrop, Mike Johnson, Ellie Darnell, Elyse Fox, Erica Deters, Erica Ledesma, Erik Barnhill, Erin Pribble, Erin Ries, Erin Snyder, Ethan Fox, Greg Almy, James Whinnie, Jamie McKennon, Jeff Sewick, Jenn Grantham, Jenny Deja, Jenny Waybright, Jeremy Babcock, Jesse Clark, Jessica Westfall, Jill Dayton, Jill Rycus, Jocelyn Thelen, Jody Klaver, John Hubbard, Joni Fuller, Julie Brunk, Kali Rot Stevens, Katie Casteel, Katie Dufresne, Katie Fox, Katie Grass, Kellee Auge, Kelli Bohnet, Kelli Conaty, Kelly Smith, Kelly Williams, Ken Wright, Kim Mulvenna, Kristin Baker, Lacy Schneider, Laura Clark, Laura Kendall, Laura Mauren, LeeAnn Dayton, Lucas Terpstra, Lucinda Shier, Madison Stoddard, Marlene Promer, Matt Junak, Meghan Joseph, Melissa Mazzola, Michael Reynolds, Michelle VanDuine, Mike Bauer, Mike Ostertag, Molly Cool, Jen Bouck, Nick Crofut, Nicole Leitch, Nola Cockroft, Rachel Vandeven, Scott Millbrook, Sean Stevens, Susan Sowle, Taylor Brush, Teresa Miller, Todd Marsh, Tonya McGill, Traci Gentilozzi, Tracy Smith, Vicki Wenzlick, William Lawson and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. DuFort asked for Item F to be added to the Agenda to approve revisions to Board Policy GP 206 that pertains to public participation in Board Meetings.

President Clark Pierson approved the addition to the agenda.

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the February 22, 2021 Agenda Items, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	President Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the February 22, 2021 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the Meeting Minutes of the February 8, 2021 Work Session Virtual Meeting and the Administrative Hiring of Scott Millbrook as the Assistant Principal for the Hayes Intermediate School.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	President Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Dr. Steve Gabriel provided the board with an overview of the interview process and the recommendation to hire Scott Millbrook to serve as the Assistant Principal Mr. Gabriel – Part of the restructuring Hayes becomes a 5/6 building. Part of that is hiring an Assistant Principal of the Hayes Intermediate School.

CHECK PRESENTATION

President William Lawson from the Grand Ledge Knights of Columbus Council 7311 presented the Special Services Department with a check in the amount of \$2,193.98 from their Tootsie Roll Fundraiser.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Mr. Smith provided the board with an update regarding what is taking place in the legislature that could impact public education including the State Aid Budget, Senate Bill 46 and House Bills 4199 and 4499.

B. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort advised provided the board with an update regarding the most recent meeting of the Eaton RESA Board including a presentation from the Career and Technical Education Department, the Strategic Plan Update, updated the COVID-19 Learning Plan, completed Superintendent Anderson's Annual Review and extended her contract for another year, had a discussion on the 3% health care contribution and approved legal counsel.

C. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

President Clark Pierson in conjunction with Patrick McKennon and Jon Shiflett provided an update with regard to the work of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee noting they are working in small groups on areas of interest and hope to have concrete steps by June that can be presented to the Board.

D. Bond Update

District Bond Supervisor Dr. Mike Johnson provided the board with a detailed update on the bond construction throughout the district and provided some photos of the construction. In closing he noted construction remains on schedule and all contingencies funds remain in good standing.

E. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Chapin provided the board with a detailed upon on the district's plan for in-person and online instruction moving forward and addressed some pending issues including what March 1st means, when parents will begin to register for 3rd trimester, the metric, how parents will know when, and if, we have to reduce in-person instruction, or increase in-person instruction, screening students for they come to school each day, following the five mitigation strategies recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, how families communicate if there is a positive COVID test within the family and communication from schools regarding bussing and additional logistic.

A detailed discussion among the members addressed the upcoming parent survey for third trimester, getting to the green phase, Grand Ledge bringing students back similar to Waverly, Lansing, East Lansing and Okemos, returning to a hybrid program versus a five-day, full-time in person schedule, the plan is still subject to change pending conditions, bringing students back full time at the start of third trimester while still allowing an online option and the possible impact of Spring Break.

President Clark Pierson took a moment to provide an update on the Superintendent Search noting a community survey is available on the district website and encouraged everyone to take a moment to participate, the Board will hold a Special Meeting on March 3 specific to the Superintendent Search to finalize the profile and application, she reviewed the complete timeline and advised information regarding the Superintendent Search, including the specific timeline is available on the district website.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Secretary Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

District Employee and GLEA Representative Melissa Mazzola address the board regarding Greg Almy and his character and commitment to the district as a teacher and as the President of the teacher's union, letters of agreement, what the union represents and explaining the union does not dictate whether the district returns to in-person learning or not noting that decision rests solely with the Board of Education, teachers did not choose virtual learning and expressing this was created by the COVID-19 global pandemic, noted she is saddened by the actions of some of our community, explaining teachers are struggling with working and supporting their students just like others in the community and noting this has been hard on everyone and expressing COVID-19 has divided this community and it is time to get past it.

Scott Millbrook addressed the board to thank them for their support of his hiring and noting he is looking forward to returning to the district.

Diana Magiera from Troy, Michigan addressed the board to encourage the students returning to full time in-person instruction, noting her student has been in school since November 2020, noting this has been difficult on all of us, but especially the children.

Community Member and Parent John Hubbard addressed the board to encourage the students returning to full time in-person instruction, expressing he feels under the current metric the green phase is unattainable, thanked Mr. Cwayna, establishing a plan to get to the green phase and rescinding the board.

District Employee and GLEA President Greg Almy addressed the board to "defend his honor" regarding a picture that surfaced of him coaching a wrestling match at a moment when his mask has slipped down and advising he is diligent about wearing a mask but feels it was easier for some people to publicly crucify him but when evidence was given to show there was no relevance to the claims, it was met with silence. He encouraged everyone to find something to be grateful for instead of something that drags you to dark places.

Community member and district parent Dawne Velianoff addressed the board in support of 100% full time in-person instruction, expressing her support for teachers but doesn't feel they support parents, setting aside the metric and noting she doesn't appreciate the non-transparency.

Community member and district parent addressed the board in support of full time in-person instruction and noting this is taking too long.

Community member and district parent Jill Dayton addressed the board in support of full time in-person instruction, noting one of her children has an IEP and expressing she does not feel her child will meet one of the goals of the IEP in a virtual realm noting they have fallen so far behind not being face to face. She noted she is happy with twice a week but expressing students need full-time instruction,

Community member and district parent Erica Ledesma addressed the board to thank the administration for the snow day last week, provided data on full time in-person instruction throughout Michigan School Districts, new guidelines put out by the CDC still support the Grand Ledge metric and expressed her support for the continued use of the metric, thanked the board for putting the safety of its students, staff and community first, noted the district has an extensive 32-page plan posted on the website for the students return to learn and thanked the board and everyone that is involved in this complex issue.

Community member and district parent Nick Crofut addressed the board noting their extremely difficult position, expressed his appreciation for teachers, noted he calls Greg Almy a friend and a great guy. He stated he feels the district has lost sight of its purpose and needs to get back the basics of education.

Community member and district parent Lucas Terpstra addressed the board commenting he is glad students are returning two days per week but they need more, noted his student has been attending school under his IEP to receive services but stated he was told that will not continue when students return on March 1, expressing his frustration with the short notice for the return of students with little information being shared and giving a shout out to the Delta Center and Willow Ridge teachers.

Community member LeeAnn Dayton addressed the board to express her continued frustration with online learning and supporting the students return to full time in-person learning noting she wants kids to be safe, but COVID is not going away so we have to learn to adapt.

District employee and parent Briane Dennis addressed the board to give her perspective as a parent and a paraprofessional in the district noting she sees all the hard work and dedication of all staff, from custodians up to administration, being put in to bring students and staff back, she noted she respects the work of the board of education, expressing her support of Greg Almy noting he is an amazing person who puts his whole heart and soul into everything, like every other employee of this district. She expressed she is looking forward to supervising the learning labs and noting the district has done so much to ensure the employees feel safe upon their return including providing information and the opportunity to receive the vaccine. In closing she thanked everybody.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MARCH 4, 2021 AUTHOR ASSEMBLY

Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services Dr. Bill Barnes provided the board with the details surrounding the opportunity for the district to partner with Holt Equity and Access Team, Capital Area District Library, Waverly Community Schools, and some other districts and organizations around the area to bring Kwame Alexander and Nicky Grimes for an Author Assembly on March 4, 2021 noting 90 classrooms will be participating in this event. He noted this event will be live streamed on YouTube through the Holt Equity and Access Team.

B. 2020-2021 BUDGET UPDATE

Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rasinske provided the board with a detailed update on the 2020-2021 budget noting there was no per pupil proration from the State as was projected in June 2020 and the receipt of Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds of \$350 per pupil. She reviewed what the Coronavirus Relief Funds were used for including the purchase of the Florida Virtual Online Learning Platform, Air Filtration Systems for all district buildings and Devices (laptops / Chromebooks) for online learning. She presented the total revenues and expenditures for 2020-2021 as of February 2021 and reviewed additional changes that may still impact the final 2020-2021 budget.

C. APPROVAL OF PARTICIPATION IN SECTION 105 & 105(C) SCHOOLS OF CHOICE FOR 2021-2022 Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2021-2022 Participation in Section 105 & 105(c) Schools of Choice to include limited options for Kindergarten through 12th Grade, as presented.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Chapin in conjunction with Executive Director of Technology Services Mark Deschaine provided the board with details surrounding their recommendation to the board.

Roll Call Vote

Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	President Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF PROPERTY TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution transferring 0.149 acres of district property to the Michigan Department of Transportation in order to maintain proper access for the non-motorized trail adjacent to the roundabout, and authorize Interim Superintendent Dr. David Chapin to execute the Quit Claim Deed, as presented.

Mr. McKennon noted it may be helpful to provide the blueprint on the district website under the Bond page for the community to review and understand what is being approved.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>
President Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF BUS PURCHASE

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the use of Bond Funds in the amount of \$379,852 to purchase four (4) conventional, 77-passenger school buses from Midwest Transit, as presented.

Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rasinske provided the board with information regarding the recommendation presented to the board.

Roll Call Vote

Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>
President Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

F. Board Policy GP 206 – 1st Reading

Mrs. DuFort noted this revision will bring Board Policy GP206 in line with board practice with regard to person identifying themselves with their name and jurisdiction versus their name and address. This item will be brought back for approval at the March 8, 2021 meeting of the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON - AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Mr. McKennon thanked Dr. Barnes for his work on the Author Assembly, noted he was saddened this past week expressing no matter how hard we work as a community there are still people out there to divide us. He apologized to Mr. Almy expressing he did not need to go through this incident and detailing the many things Mr. Almy has done as a teacher, parent and community member. He commended the district and community for the way they stood up to defend Mr. Almy and likened what transpired to internet bullying. He noted the district did its due diligence and investigated the incident and found the claims against Mr. Almy to be bogus. He expressed he feels this incident was handled very poorly by adults while our students watched.

Mrs. DuFort noted she is excited about the Author Assembly and would love to participate. She noted she called Mr. Almy over the weekend to let him know how much she appreciates him and everything he has done over the year. She thanked the staff and administrators for all they have done to prepare us to move forward in these pandemic conditions.

Ms. Shannon noted now that Schools of Choice has been decided, she asked when Kindergarten Round-up would take place.

Mr. Ellsworth advised he is working with Mr. Deschaine and getting the Kindergarten Round-up information ready to be rolled out very soon. Information on the round up will be shared in school newsletters as well as via the district's social media sites and will be prominently posted on the district website.

Dr. Barnes thanked everyone for their comments on the Author Assembly and noted he will share information with Dr. Chapin so any board members who want to participate can.

CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations & Attorney/Client Privilege

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations Strategies and to receive confidential Attorney Client Communication, as per Section 8(c) and 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976..

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>	Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>
President Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously at 8:48 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvene in Open Session at 10:37 p.m.

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE CONTRACT

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Contract with the Grand Ledge Food Service Unit III, MEA/NEA, as presented.

Roll Call Vote


President Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Shiflett	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. McKennon	<u>YES</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>YES</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Attest:



Sara Clark Pierson, President