

## GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Committee of the Whole / Work Session – April 10, 2023

### MINUTES

President Smith 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 Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Ashley Kuykendoll, Ben Cwayna, Denise DuFort, Jon Shiflett, Toni Glasscoe and Jarrod Smith **Board Members Absent**: Nicole Shannon **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance**: Darrin Gyurich, Melissa Mazzola, Kim Laforet and Kim Manning

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice President Glasscoe provided an overview for making public comment to the board.

Kim Laforet addressed the board regarding a campaign to change the comet logo from Winkie to something more inclusive and the moment of silence being conducted at the high school this week in support of LGBTQIA. She referenced school districts being sued as a result of middle and high school students going through gender identity change. She asked the board and the school's director of equity and inclusion, board member Ashley Kuykendoll, to address this and look for alternative ways. In closing she stated bullying is the biggest problem in Grand Ledge Public Schools and if all people were treated with respect and honor and stating the district needs to stop looking for ways to be inclusive and that bullying is the main thing that needs to be addressed.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### **A. Superintendent Evaluation Update – Governance & Board Relations**

Superintendent Barnes evaluation meeting in early December, discussed, rather than waiting until the end of the year, in rubric, share items on schedule. shared that it was established that he would begin to provide the board with updates throughout the year as they relate to items aligned with his yearly evaluation. This update with focus on Governance and Board Relations, Section A of the Evaluation Rubric. He provided current initiatives established regarding Policy Involvement, Goal Development, Information, Materials and Background, Board Questions and Board Development.

Ms. Kuykendoll requested an update on establishing a process for the board to receive status updates and follow-up for items brought to the board. Superintendent Barnes noted he anticipates having this established in late July to early August.

Dr. Glasscoe questioned if the process could be incorporated into an existing system. Dr. Barnes noted that he and President Smith can have a conversation about incorporating this under the current board agenda.

Mrs. DuFort commented she felt this was a really good overview and appreciated the inclusion of current initiatives noting this will make it easier when the board gets to the superintendent's annual evaluation.

Dr. Barnes asked the board if the format he provided was acceptable to all the members and all agreed it will work well. He thanked the board for their feedback noting he likes the fact this provides transparency to the community so they know what the Superintendent is being evaluated on.

Mr. Cwayna suggested continued use of the presentation and suggested that updates could be noted in a different color to provide for ease of tracking continued progress.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF MARCH 13, 2023 AND MARCH 23, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Meeting Minutes, as presented.**

Dr. Glasscoe offered a friendly amendment to correct the March 13, 2023 minutes to reflect under the Capitol Connections Report the Executive Directors of MCAN and CAPCAN and under Comments correcting colleges to colleagues.

**The friendly amendments were accepted and motion carried unanimously as amended.**

**B. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH COMMON DEBT RETIREMENT FUND**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Resolution to Establish a Common Debt Retirement Fund, as presented.**

Chief Financial Officer Julie Waterbury provided the board with background information and answered questions from the board noting this will eliminate bank fees, allow the district to invest a greater sum and create better efficiencies in record keeping.

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Mr. Shiflett</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Ms. Kuykendoll</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Mrs. DuFort</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>President Smith</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Mr. Cwayna</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Dr. Glasscoe</b>	<b>YES</b>

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER DESIGNATION OF ELECTORAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR E-RESA BIENNIAL ELECTION**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Resolution to Consider Designation of Electoral Representatives for the Eaton RESA Biennial Election noting its intention to name Board Member Denise DuFort as the designated representative of this District and Board Member Toni Glasscoe as an alternate in the event the designated representative is unable to attend, at its May 22, 2023 Regular Meeting.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Mrs. DuFort</b>	<u>YES</u>	<b>President Smith</b>	<u>YES</u>
<b>Mr. Cwayna</b>	<u>YES</u>	<b>Dr. Glasscoe</b>	<u>YES</u>
<b>Ms. Kuykendoll</b>	<u>YES</u>	<b>Mr. Shiflett</b>	<u>YES</u>

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. APPROVAL OF FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT RENEWAL**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Food Service Management Contract Renewal with Chartwells for 2023-2024, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**E. DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATION / PERSON FOR POSTING NOTICES**

**Motion by Mrs. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to designate the Lansing State Journal as the official newspaper for publication purposes and delegate the Superintendent, or his designee, as the person responsible for posting the Board of Education's transactions. The motion carried unanimously.**

**F. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF CAPITAL FUNDS INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Capital Funds Invoices in the amount of \$266,860.08, as presented.**

Mr. Shiflett noted all of the upcoming invoices were reviewed by the Board Bond Advisory Committee and have been approved to be brought forward. This set of invoices represent allowable expenses at the High School Fine Arts renovation.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**G. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$141,365.86, as presented.**

Mr. Shiflett noted this represents work at the pole barn, updates to the IT room at Sawdon and the installation of LED light fixtures, graciously donated by Farm Bureau Insurance Company, at Operations, Hayes and Neff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$290,356.42, as presented.**

Mr. Shiflett noted this represents bond work at Delta Center.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**I. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES**

**Motion by Mr. Cwayna, 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 \$486,978.31, as presented.**

Mr. Shiflett noted this is for work on the Fine Arts addition.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD**

Dr. Barnes reminded the board our Schools of Choice window opened today and noted we have had quite a bit of interest already and that our enrollment campaign will be kicking off shortly bringing back our billboards, some graphics at gas station pumps and some television ads. He addressed tonight's public comment making it clear that Winkie is still Winkie, sharing one of our Smart Goals under the Strategic Plan was for our kids to design a logo using Winkie to show our commitment to being a place that is inclusive where everyone is welcome. He shared we launched the contest last Friday where students at all grade levels have the opportunity to use Winkie in a design that shows Grand Ledge Public Schools are welcoming places. Then, students, parents and the community will have an opportunity to vote on which design they like best, but all students who submit a design that meet the criteria, will have their design displayed somewhere in the district. With regard to bullying and activities at our High School this week, when we talk about addressing bullying, the district has a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) that addresses behaviors. This week there are some activities happening at the High School that are calling attention to the fact that nationally, that students in the LGBTQIA+ community are often bullied or harassed at a far greater rate than their peers. Our PALS put together a program to call attention to that fact and help our students understand that is not acceptable here and that we need to reflect on how our actions and behaviors to ensure that all students in Grand Ledge Public Schools understand they are welcome and a part of our school community. This week they are doing a few activities that highlight our LGBTQIA+ community and ensuring that students have an opportunity to reflect on how their behaviors impact their classmates.

Mrs. Kuykendoll also addressed the public comment from tonight apologizing noting she meant no disrespect and was simply caught off guard by the mention she serves as the District's EDIC Director. She clarified that she does not serve the district as the EDIC Director and serves only as a member of the Board of Education and a subsequent member of the Board's EDIC Sub-Committee. She noted the activities at the high school were not presented to or through the EDIC Committee and was done through the district to cultivate an inclusive environment. Additionally, she noted she would like to bring the naming of district facilities back to the forefront suggesting that the new Athletic office space at the high school be named in honor of Heather Kleiman, she thanked Paula Dunn for all she does for Adventure Club and asked Dr. Barnes for an update on the summer learning program and registration.

Dr. Barnes noted he is hopeful to have information regarding the summer learning program our by the end of the week sharing he, Dr. Gabriel and Mrs. Brentar have a meeting on Wednesday to finalize the plans.

Mrs. DuFort noted the artwork on display in the hallway this month if from Beagle and remarking she is amazed by the talent of our students and that it is nice to see it in the building.

Dr. Glasscoe shared our student will be celebrated for the final cohort of the Early College at LCC on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. She commented she was singing Mr. Ellsworth's praises and questioned if there was a way we are tracking where families are coming from so we can ensure we are getting a good return on investment for our wonderful marketing plan.

Mr. Ellsworth noted one of the questions on the application is their home school district and we know where we are putting the billboards so we are able to connect the dots. We also have a question on what advertisements they have seen and a question on why they are choosing Grand Ledge Public Schools.

Mrs. Kuykendoll asked for the administration to review the application for enrollment as it relates to the race of your child and asking for a primary race noting she would like to see this reevaluated to be able to wholly and authentically allow the students to be who they are.

Mr. Deschaine advised our enrollment forms are designed around the requirements from the State of Michigan.

Dr. Barnes noted the administration will look into this and work within the guidelines we are given from the State.


**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Attest:

  
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Jarrod Smith, President