GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS **Board of Education**

Virtual Regular Meeting – April 12, 2021

MINUTES

President Sara Clark Pierson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Ben Cwayna with his son Grant Cwayna 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 New York, New York, 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 Aaron Yusten, Abby Kenney, Alice Mills, Allison Zakerski, Allison Shumate, Alyssa Cummings, Amanda Brunton, Amanda Hengesbach, Amber Baker, Amber Moody, Amber Swint, Amy Bowers, Amy Heriford, Amy Lowrie, Amy McNamara, Amy Richburg, Amy Stoakes, Andrea Babbitt, Andrea Dionise, Andrew Torrey, Ann Paquette-Lukens, Annie Reik, Ashley O'Neil, Ashley Richburg, Beth Aprill, Beth Schuchaskie, Beth Whisman, Bianca Blackwelder, Bill Albrecht, Braylon Curtis, Brenda Glinke, Brenda Hurless-Sensaliver, Bri Dennis, Brian Diller, Brian Flowerday, Brian McLaughlin, Brian Trudell, Caitlin Christenson, Caitlin Fenby, Carly Waldrop, Carmen Karkau, Carolyn Bovee, Carrie Long, Cathy Fox, Cecilia Jones, Chelsea Hare-West, Chris Austin, Chris Groves, Christie Konieczny, Christina Powell, Christopher Terranova, Christy Lobdell, Christy Price, Claire Mull, Colleen Price, Cory Maar, Cristy Dowker, Cynthia Hoskins, Dale Clark, Laura Clark, Dale Gross, Dan Cwayna, Dani Droste, Danielle Lundstrom, David Jones, Dawne Velianoff, Deanna Kennedy, Denise Green, Diana Brown, Diane Gullett, Doug Waldrop, Mike Johnson, Elizabeth Maciejewski, Elizabeth Wilson, Elly Knaggs, Elyse Fox, Emily Bartlett, Eric Daley, Erica Ledesma, Erin Ballor, Erin Ganga, Erin Ries, Erin Snyder, Ethan Fox, Fred Hutchinson, Graham Couch, Greg Almy, Heather Brown, heather Neely, Heather Schlagel, Heidi Gottleber, Heidi Ransom, Hillary Kohn, Hudson Wonnacott, Jackie Nelson, James Whinnie, Jamie McKennon, Jeff Palacio, Jenn Grantham, Jenna Riekse, Jennifer Mead, Jennifer Pakkala, Jennifer Schafer, Jenny Waybright, Jessica Cornman, Jessica Newton, Jessica Westfall, Jill Dayton, Jill Fillingham, Jill Huisken, Jim Gee, Jim Teahan, Jocelyn Thelen, John David, John Hubbard, Joni Fuller, Julia Rollis, Julie Boruta, Julie Brunk, Julie Douglas, Julie Farrar, Julie Schieding, Karen Batterham, Karlene Ketola, Kat Platte, Kathy Bauer, Kathy Jennings, Kathy Bauer, Katie Dufresne, Katie Fox, Katie Pontifex, Keith Lambert, Kelci Laugal, Kelly Walker Terpstra, Kelli Bohnet, Kellie Foster, Kelly Nevison, Kelly Ploehn, Kelly Smith, Kelly Williams, Kelsey Schwartz, Ken Wright, Kerry Stensen, Kim Mulvenna, Kimberly Abed, Kristen Nunham, Kristen Wren, Kristin Baker, Kristy Merignac, Kristy Moore, Kristy Welch, Lara Hubbard, Laura Guild, Laura Mauren, Laurel Miller, Leesha Lee, Lindsay Weichlein, Liv Higbee, Lonna Blaske, Lucas Terpstra, Lucinda Shier, Mandy Hall, Mandy Leik, Marisa Lay, Marlene Promer, Martha Klusti, Mary Hankins, Matt Junak, Matthew Couser, Megan Bouwens, Megan Soltow, Megan Szczepanek, Megan Weber,

Meghan Joseph, Melissa Hinojosa, Melissa Mazzola, Michael Curtis, Michelle D'Allessandra, Michelle Mead, Michelle O'Meara, Michelle VanDuine, Mike Ostertag, Mikjell Brown Shaw, Molly Cool, Morgan Cross, Nancy Lonberger, Nick Crofut, Mick Kuhl, Nikki Piggott, Nikki Racine, Nola Cockroft, Pat St. George, Patty Sanchez, Paula Dunn, Paula Hoffman, Pete Bucholtz, Rachel VanDeven, Ranjit Singh, Ray Garcia, Renee Sommerlot, Rick Whitten, Russ Marlan, Ryan Snook, Sandra Prince, Sara Taylor, Sarah Felsing, Sarah Hopper, Sean Stevens, Shannon Bauer, Shannon Guild, Shelby Logel, Sherry Crouch, Shirley Ries, Stacey Austin, Stacy Nelson, Stephanie Kiser, Steve Baker, Sue Alverson, Sue Horak, Tammy Sue Fletcher, Tammy Szydlowski, Tamra Hunt-Williams, Taylor Brush, Teresa Dyer, Teresa Miller, Theresa Abed, Tiffany Organek, Tim Totten, Tobi Grantham, Tony Thelen, Traci Gentilozzi, Tracy Smith, Tyler Hubert, Vicki Wenzlick, Whitney Craig, Will Rogers and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the April 12, 2021 agenda items, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Shiflett	YES	Mr. Cwayna	YES
Ms. Shannon	YES	Mr. McKennon	YES
Mr. Smith	YES	Mrs. DuFort	YES
President Clark Pierson	YES	•	

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the April 12, 2021 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the Meeting Minutes of the March 22, 2021 Regular Virtual Meeting.

Roll Call Vote

Ms. Shannon	YES	Mr. McKennon	YES
Mr. Smith	YES	Mrs. DuFort	YES
President Clark Pierson	YES	Mr. Shiflett	YES
Mr. Cwayna	YES	•	

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Mr. Smith noted the House and Senate adjourned on March 25 and is scheduled to pick back up tomorrow so there has not been any activity of late. He advised the March 31 deadline for remote meetings has passed and the board is operating remotely now under provisions included in the local state of emergency within the county which allows for the continuation of these virtual meetings.

It was noted to meet in person, there is a limit of 25 persons and the board is happy to be able to continue to provide this format so as to engage the community in the conversations of the board.

B. Eaton RESA Report

There was no report as the next meeting is April 21, 2021.

C. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

The committee will meet tomorrow and discuss a variety of next steps of their established committees noting there will be a much larger report at the next meeting of the board. It was advised the committee is looking to solidify some survey questions and recommendations for administration.

D. Bond Update

District Bond Supervisor Dr. Mike Johnson noted progress is being made every day. He provided an update with regard to construction at Holbrook and Beagle including the construction of the pool at Beagle. He advised the board will take action on a revised MDOT property transfer later in the meeting noting this reflects a change of 100th of an acre added to the transfer as previous approved and noting it does not change the scope of the project or the content of the resolution previously brought to the board. He advised things are moving along well and that it will be a busy construction summer.

E. Superintendent's Report

President Clark Pierson noted the application process in the Superintendent Search closed on Sunday. Thirty-One applications were submitted. The board will meet with Ray & Associates on April 26th to review the candidates and select the candidates for the first round of interviews scheduled for May 3 and 4. Final interviews will be held May 11 and 12.

Dr. Chapin provided a detailed overview of the statement issued by Governor Whitmer on Friday with regard to pausing high school in person learning and youth sports and the work of the administration noting the district, including students, parents and the board, has been dealing with really challenging mixed messages throughout the course of the year. He commended the board for their commitment throughout the year. He advised that following a lot of in-house discussions, the administration would recommend we "stay the course" and continue our current in person learning and athletics noting the district is adhering to the CDC guidelines in addressing mitigation strategies and the fact that the majority of the positive cases are the result of activities outside school. He additionally noted the athletic department is, as required, testing athletes. He advised the district has had to take some steps such as closing Delta Mills Preschool for two weeks following an active positive case that impacted more than one classroom and noting the transportation department has also had some positive cases that has caused the loss of the bus that transports students to Lansing Community College. He presented the school associated cases noting 13 active cases and 12 possible cases that has resulted in 61 students in quarantine. Twenty-nine of the 61 are students from Delta Mills. He again expressed his support to continue providing in-person learning and athletics at this time.

A detailed discussion among the members addressed contract tracing, how students who are quarantining are receiving instruction, continuation of athletics, pausing athletics, indoor extra-curricular activities, inconsistency being a part of this school year, conditions well beyond anyone's control, trying to work with may inputs that have varied over time, the constant moving target, this unprecedented time, families doing what is right for their family, the recent uptick in positive cases, individual actions / choices don't impact just the individual in a pandemic, vaccinations, vaccination being offered to 16-19 year olds, communication from the Barry-Eaton District Health Department, the B117 variant and the board's responsibility to ensure the safety of staff and students, as well as the community and making the best decision they can.

F. GLPS Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Update

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Dr. Bill Barnes reminded the board it is required to take action every month on our Return to Learn Plan and either reconfirm or modify the plan. He noted the district is currently operating under its March 22, 2021 board approval that implemented use of the CDC Metric for the return to school and how we are meeting those requirements. He noted by establishing the use of the CDC Metric, the district is able to use the experts guidance and gives us something to "hang our hat on." He referenced the colors that are associated with each phase (red, orange, yellow and blue) and noted we are in the Red phase that implements cohorting as much as possible, creating as much social distancing as possible, caping classroom at 60%, wearing masks and having shields in place where we can throughout the buildings. He noted the administration is being very targeting in addressing any issues that arise in a building. He confirmed the administration is not recommending we step away from the CDC Guidance but this report is a requirement of our monthly reporting. He went on to share the March 2021 two-way communication data. He went further to report the district is not only dealing with this on a day-to-day basis, but is thinking ahead. He shared the creation of a Summer Learning Team and Virtual Learning Team and provided an overview of what each of the teams will be charged with looking at. In closing he noted it is the district's intent to be able to provide in person learning in the fall, but is looking at maintaining a virtual program as some students have thrived in the virtual format and we would be remiss if we didn't look at offering this opportunity to our students.

A detailed discussion among the members acknowledged the forward thinking statements and how virtual learning might improve the experience for some of our students, being pleased the district is looking to make use of what we have learned over this past year, noting the summer program will run June 28 – August 20 for K-12 students and the district is looking to create flexibility for families by creating modules, and acknowledging the board has not authorized all virtual or all face-to-face learning for next year.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS TO INCLUDE THE GLPS EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN.

Secretary Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

Melissa Mazzola on behalf of the Grand Ledge Education Association addressed the board to express concerns over the board ignoring our Governor and the Barry Eaton District Health Department guidance.

Megan Bouwens addressed the board regarding keeping indoor sports running for our students.

Heidi Gottleber addressed the board regarding not being able to please everyone and thanking them for following the CDC guidelines. She thanked the teachers for an outstanding job.

Theresa Abed addressed the board regarding the United States Department of Education denial of the State's standardized testing waiver and asking the district to share information with parents with regard to their rights.

John Hubbard asked everyone on the school board, except Ben Cwayna, to resign off the school board or face recall.

Tim Totten addressed the board asking for clarification with regard to the community pool not being built at Beagle.

Amber Swint addressed the board to echo Mr. Hubbard's comments.

Nick Crofut addressed the board on the use of data and the difficulty of wade through data and statistics and encouraging them to create an environment where the teachers and community feel going back is a good thing.

Megan Weber and her daughter Arianna addressed the board to thank them for opening Wacousta and expressing all of her students have come home claiming they had the "best day ever".

President Clark Pierson thanked everyone for their comments and it was noted Dr. Gabriel will reach out to Mr. Totten tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF THE GLPS EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN
Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of
Education to approve the Continuation of the GLPS Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, as
presented and approved on March 22, 2021 to include specific guidance from Table 2.
Recommended Prevention Strategies for K-12 Schools and Levels of Community
Transmission from the March 19, 2021 report from the Center for Disease Control; unless
K-12 public schools are specifically directed otherwise from local, state and/or national
authorities.

A detailed discussion among the members noted both concerns (even with extra testing) and support for maintaining sports and extra-curricular activities.

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort to amend the current motion to include the suspension of all indoor sports and indoor extra-curricular activities through April 26, 2021.

Further discussion among the members clarified this would shut down all indoor sports whether taking place in a Grand Ledge Public Schools building or a building in another district, testing of athletes, the fatigue of this year, and noting reasonable minds can disagree.

Roll Call Vote on the Amended Motion.

Mr. Smith	NO	Mrs. DuFort	NO
President Clark Pierson	NO	Mr. Shiflett	NO
Mr. Cwayna	NO	Ms. Shannon	YES
Mr. McKennon	NO	•	

The motion failed 6-1.

Roll Call Vote on the original motion:

President Clark Pierson	YES	Mr. Shiflett	YES
Mr. Cwayna	NO	Ms. Shannon	YES
Mr. McKennon	YES	Mr. Smith	YES
Mrs. DuFort	YES	•	

The motion carried 6-1.

B. DISCUSSION ON FALL 2021-2022 PLANNING

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 100% Face-to-Face Learning, to the maximum extent allowed by State Law, for the 2021-2022 school year.

A detailed discussion among the members noted not being able to predict what next year is going to look like, the plan is to be able to provide a full-time, face-to-face learning environment next year, this will provide direction for our parents so they can make an informed decision about where to send their student(s) next year, the potential loss of students if there is no guarantee, the board can't make a guarantee but has said this is what we are planning for, setting the board up for failure and another disappointment to the community, we have a virtual platform ready, showing the community where we want to be in the fall and saying it publicly while everyone knows things can change, the vaccination ratio, taking this decision off the plate of the new superintendent, wanting the new superintendent immersed in the discussion, opposing this motion doesn't mean we won't be 100%, face-to-face in the fall it just means we need to be closer to the date to see where Michigan is at, acknowledging 100%, face-to-face learning has always been the goal since the start of the pandemic.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Cwayna	YES	Ms. Shannon	NO
Mr. McKennon	YES	Mr. Smith	NO
Mrs. DuFort	NO	President Clark Pierson	NO
Mr. Shiflett	YES		

The motion failed 4-3.

Dr. Chapin noted the administration is moving forward with the intent to be in person starting the year in a traditional Monday – Friday, face-to-face, five days a week and still offering a virtual program as an option.

C. APPROVAL OF REVISED MDOT PROPERTY TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Resolution transferring 0.150 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 accept the transfer sale of a break in limited access ROW from MDOT, for access to the District's property, for a transportation purpose, and authorize Interim Superintendent Dr. David Chapin to execute the Quit Claim Deed, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

President Clark Pierson	YES	Mr. Shiflett	YES
Mr. Cwayna	YES	Ms. Shannon	YES
Mr. McKennon	YES	Mr. Smith	YES
Mrs. DuFort	YES	•	

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett or the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$195,732.29, as presented.

Mr. Smith provided an overview of the invoices.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Cwayna	YES	Ms. Shannon	YES
Mr. McKennon	YES	Mr. Smith	YES
Mrs. DuFort	YES	President Clark Pierson	ABSTAIN
Mr. Shiflett	YES	•	

The motion carried unanimously with President Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

E. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Payment of Proposal 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$2,157,093.92, as presented

Mr. Smith advised the invoices were discussed and reviewed by the Board Bond Advisory Committee and provided an overview of the invoices.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. McKennon	YES	Mr. Smith	YES
Mrs. DuFort	YES	President Clark Pierson	ABSTAIN
Mr. Shiflett	YES	Mr. Cwayna	YES
Ms. Shannon	YES		

The motion carried unanimously with President Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

F. Approval of the Payment of Proposal 2 Bond Invoices Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to Approve the Payment of Proposal 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$936,212.46, as presented.

Mr. Smith again noted invoices were discussed and reviewed by the Board Bond Advisory Committee and provided an overview of the invoices.

Roll Call Vote

Mrs. DuFort	YES	President Clark Pierson	ABSTAIN
Mr. Shiflett	YES	Mr. Cwayna	YES
Ms. Shannon	YES	Mr. McKennon	YES
Mr. Smith	YES	•	

The motion carried unanimously with President Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203

G. Approval of Bid Award – Athletic Fields

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve Bid Awards for the High School Athletic Fields construction to VanLaan Concrete in the amount of \$613,040 for Foundations / Concrete; Complete Enclosures in the amount of \$157,000 for Masonry; Eagle Enterprises in the amounts of \$47,500 and \$98,300 for Structural Steel and Metal Roofing, respectively; Dobie Construction in the amount of \$272,600 for General Trades; Walker Construction in the amount of \$138,000 for Metal Studs / Drywall Ceilings; H & H Painting in the amount of \$9,939 for Painting; Southern Bleacher in the amount of \$269,400 for Bleachers; Vanderhyde Mechanical in the amounts of \$29,300 and \$135,566 for HVAC and Plumbing, respectively; Superior Electric in the amount of \$728,000 for Electrical; Katerberg VerHarge in the amount of \$1,029,500 for Earthwork and Utilities; American Asphalt in the amount of \$483,700 for Asphalt Paving; Twin Lakes Nursery in the amount of \$373,730 for Landscape and Irrigation; Astro Turf Corporation in the amount of \$739,657 for Field Turf; Dewitt Fence in the amount of \$196,657 for Fencing; Soils and Structures in the amount of \$12,970 for Soils Testing; Knight Watch Services in the amount of \$2,726 for Commissioning, with a Construction Contingency of \$386,465, General Conditions of \$108,041, Electrical Service Fees of \$75,000, Wetland Permit Fees of \$9,000 and Temporary Staging Area Fees of \$108,832 for a Total Bid Award of \$6,021,233, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Shiflett	YES	Mr. Cwayna	YES
Ms. Shannon	YES	Mr. McKennon	YES
Mr. Smith	YES	Mrs. DuFort	YES
President Clark Pierson	ABSTAIN	•	

The motion carried unanimously with President Sara Clark Pierson abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melissa Mazzola addressed the board to clarify the teachers are not suggesting the board shut down the schools, just ensuring the district follows our local health department guidance.

Dawne Velianoff addressed the board asking why Ben's suggestion to be on the agenda was denied, why there was no discussion on the summer programming, and asking where the funds are coming from for the program, keeping the schools open and noting moving forward to recall the full board except Ben.

Ethan Fox addressed the board about recognizing the senior class with a scholarship through a

Sandra Price addressed the board to express she feels the high school students are not getting enough face-to-face time with the two day per week schedule.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Dr. Chapin thanked the board for the dialogue and thanked the community for their input noting he understands this is difficult for everyone. He addressed Ms. Price to explain the high school schedule.

Dr. Barnes addressed the standardized testing waiver noting the district will not be addressing parent rights as it varies at each level but building principals will be providing information specific for their grade levels and testing.

Dr. Gabriel complimented the students and staff on the recent socially distanced musical and commended them for thinking outside the box.

Mr. Cwayna addressed his motion earlier in the meeting and asked that it be put on the agenda again for further discussion noting virtual school is a presumption as we don't know what it is going to cost.

Mr. Smith noted he agrees with Mr. Cwayna in virtual school may not happen based on cost but noting he feels his motion is aspirational noting everyone on the board has discussed our desire, our commitment, our believe and our expectation.

President Clark Pierson granted Mr. Cwayna motion to include his motion on the next agenda.

Mr. McKennon recognized the teachers, staff and administrators for stepping up. He recognizes student athlete Lizzy Maurer on her all-state gymnastics award, noting the team took 3rd.

Mr. Shiflett noted he believes there is a wrestler who took all state as well.

Mr. McKennon confirmed female wrestler Carly Zineski won the state championship.

Mrs. DuFort recognized the district being named 2021 Communities for Music Education noting we are one out of 14. She went on to thank the students, staff and administration noting their work has been phenomenal this year in an environment that is changing minute by minute.

Ms. Shannon recognized the musical award noting her feels bad for the students who were unable to have the same experience as in previous years but noting her expectation is we will be back, in force, next fall.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations Strategies and receiving Confidential Attorney / Client Communication as Per Section 8(c) and Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

Roll Call Vote

Ms. Shannon	YES	Mr. McKennon	YES
Mr. Smith	YES	Mrs. DuFort	YES
President Clark Pierson	YES	Mr. Shiflett	YES
Mr. Cwayna	YES	•	

The motion carried unanimously at 8:55 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 10:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Sara Clark Pierson Presiden