

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

April 22, 2024

MINUTES

President Shannon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Nicole Shannon, Denise DuFort, Ashley Kuykendoll, Ben Cwayna and Toni Glasscoe. Jarrod Smith joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m. **Members Absent:** Jon Shiflett. **Central Office Administrators:** Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Brenton Bell, Margarite Frommert, John Piper, Timothy Totten, Ruthann Jaquette, Jan M. Seeger, Coban Holmes, Ashleigh Lore, Kali Stevens, Dave Logel, Amanda Service, Marcus Service, Melissa Mazzola, Sally Jo Nelton, John Hubbard, Lara Hubbard, Kaysteel Perry and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the April 22, 2024 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Dr. Glasscoe, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the April 22, 2024 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the April 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

- A. Capitol Connections** – Dr. Glasscoe shared information regarding the budget noting it is still being process but there is an increase in the per pupil funding as well as increased funding for at risk English Language Learners. She remarked she would like to ensure the board is having conversation about budget changes and how they will impact our schools.

- B. Eaton RESA** – Mrs. DuFort shared the RESA approved three new paid social worker internships starting with the 24-25 school year and continuing every year after, has purchased K-12 Career Trees for all local districts, increased one full-time position for early on education, and noted the proposed 24-25 budget will be shared at the

County-Wide Board Meeting on Thursday. In closing she shared she has a copy of the School Wellness and Prevention Services presentation that shares what is provided to local districts if anyone would like to look at it and commended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the School Based Health Center that took place this morning.

- C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation** – Ms. Shannon noted the foundation is focused on the upcoming 5K Comet Chase. Dr. Gabriel, who is serving as the Race Coordinator shared an update on the race and noted it is not just a run and participants can walk as well and encouraged everyone to join in the fun.
- D. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee** – Ms. Kuykendoll noted the committee reviewed data that was updated in PowerSchool and had the opportunity to talk about school-based organizations/groups, specifically at the high school, and reviewed and started thinking through the Strategic Plan and moving forward to ensure we are advancing toward goals.
- E. Governance Committee** – Ms. Shannon noted the committee has worked on board policies that will be discussed later in tonight’s meeting.
- F. Bond** – Bond Supervisor John Piper provided the board with an update on the current bond projects including the new Wacousta, Neff and the High School. He shared Willow Ridge and Hayes are in design and development phase with work slated to begin in late August and that heating and cooling updates for the Operations/Transportation Building will also begin at the end of August.
- G. Superintendent** – Dr. Barnes noted the ribbon cutting ceremony for the GL Health Center today was a great event remarking it is one of the nicest health centers around. He commended the construction group, Trumble, and thank Bond Supervisor John Piper for the work to bring the health center to fruition. He also thanks Communications Director John Ellsworth for bringing the ribbon cutting ceremony together.
 - a. **Title Audit** – Dr. Barnes introduced Margarita Frommert from the Michigan Department of Education Office of Educational Supports.

Ms. Frommert thanked the board for the opportunity to speak with them noting she wanted to share the outstanding work of the GLPS Team on the Audit. She provided the board with background information on the audit and everything that is entailed in the process of the audit. While the audit results are not public, she commended Dr. Barnes, Dr. Gabriel, Mrs. Waterbury and Dr. Albrecht for their commitment to the process acknowledging the team knew their stuff and that it is evident these administrators are making a difference and advising the board they can be proud of the GLPS leadership team.

- b. **Business Office Presentation** – Chief Financial Officer Julie Waterbury provided the board with an overview of the duties and responsibilities of the business office.
- c. **Technology Department Presentation** – Executive Director of Technology Mark Deschaine provided the board with an overview of the duties and responsibilities of the Technology Department and answered questions from the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kuykendoll reviewed the rules for giving public comment.

Brenton Bell addressed the board to share information he has heard regarding the reorganization and the perception of adding new position and what is it taking away from teachers.

Tim Totten gave a shout out to choir director Sheri Peterson for the masterwork choir concert. He further expressed his perception of the Fentanyl drug overdose crisis.

Coban Holmes addressed the board regarding the great communication he has been receiving from the district and commending the leadership team for their “super quick, super on spot” communication during last week’s severe weather to ensure parents and families knew what was going on and how things would proceed with student dismissal.

Ruthann Jaquette is the Chair of the City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Committee, of which Dr. Barnes also serves on. She wanted to share that last weekend they held their annual earth day event noting this year’s event concentrated on the clean-up of Oak Park that was devastated during last August’s storm. She shared that approximately 40 young people from the high school volunteered. She commended the students for their hard work noting it is a testament to their character and certainly to GLPS. In closing, she thanked the board for the work they do.

Amanda Service addressed the board regarding an issue with one of her high school students.

OLD BUSINESS

A. REVISED BOARD POLICIES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve Board Policies 0142.5, 2430, 5111 and 5840, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF SERIES IV BONDS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Bond Proposal Series IV Bonds, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Superintendent Barnes expressed his appreciation to the Central Office Team and Margarita Frommert for their presentations. In addressing some of the public comment, Dr. Barnes reiterated that there are no new positions being added and the reorganization is replacing positions that were vacated and not filled to make the operation of the district more efficient and effective reiterating these are replacement positions, not new positions. He noted he has set up times at each of our respective buildings to provide any staff the opportunity to talk with him about any concerns they may have, or just come chat. He expressed his appreciation for the feedback on our communications noting it is important to us to keep our families in the loop and thanked our Communications Director, John Ellsworth, noting he does a great job. He thanked Mrs. Jaquette for coming and sharing the great work of our students. In closing, he noted he would reach out the Service family in the morning to have a more private conversation.

Dr. Glasscoe expressed her appreciation for the focus on teaching & learning. She thanked Mrs. Frommert noting she has confirmed the great work we are doing commenting she hears over and over that GLPS is a leader in many areas.

Mr. Cwayna commented it is great to hear about all the positive things going on, but believes the conversation need to be expanded to include things we can improve on, challenges we can work through as a board.

Ms. Kuykendoll thanked all of tonight's presenters, gave kudos to COLT noting the work is not possible without them and commending the health center and the collaborative partnerships in that space. She shared she had attended the International Night and while the event was outstanding there was a lot of events scheduled that day that made getting around very difficult which could be a conversation for the board in how we are scheduling activities at our facilities.

Mrs. DuFort commended the work of the Governance Committee and the COLT to get the new NEOLA policies in place, having the COLT and building presentations, the implementation of the health center, noting the district is way ahead of where we were while recognizing there is always ways to get better but encouraging everyone to look at how far we have come in such a short time.

President Shannon recognized the Service family noting the board's trust that Dr. Barnes will be in touch to assist them. She further noted the board is here to be problem solvers and support the continuous growth of the district. She thanked Mrs. Waterbury and Mr. Deschaine for their presentations noting she feels they are very beneficial.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll 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(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The motion carried unanimously at 8:30 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in open session at 9:27 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Ashley Kuykendoll, Secretary

Nicole Shannon, President