
GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – April 24, 2017

MINUTES

President Mulvenna 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 Brian Metcalf indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Kim Mulvenna, Linda Wacyk, Jon Shiflett, Sara Clark Pierson, Denise DuFort and Patrick McKennon ***Central Office Administrators***: Brian Metcalf, Steve Gabriel, Mike Johnson, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Sutherland and Mark Deschaine. ***Others in Attendance***: John Piper, Melissa Mazzolla, Scott Dane, Steve Baker and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the April 24, 2017 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Wacyk, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the April 24, 2017 Consent Agenda Item, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the meeting minutes of the March 27, 2017 Regular Meeting and the meeting minutes of the April 10, 2017 Work Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. **Capitol Connections Report** – Mr. Shiflett advised it is budget season and the Senate will pass the School Aide Budget out of full Appropriations later this week, noting it is anticipated the Senate will go along with the Governor's budget recommendations. The House is expected to take up bills this week regarding the substitute shortage, which would allow retired teachers to come back without forfeiting their retirement benefits. The Senate Education Committee is looking at legislation that would make it mandatory that any school administrator caught stealing money would forfeit part of their pension

- b. **Governance Committee Report** – Mrs. Wacyk noted they are in the implementation and monitoring stage of the Superintendent’s evaluation. The committee will meet again on Friday.
- c. **Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report** – Mrs. DuFort had no report.
- d. **Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Report** – Mr. McKennon had no report but did advise in reference to President Mulvenna’s inquiring from the last meeting, there will be a Grand Adventure Race that will take place on September 24th. The race is being overseen by the Community Recreation Department.
- e. **Eaton RESA Report** – President Mulvenna advised that former GLPS Board Member Jay Bennett was sworn in to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Sara Clark Pierson. She noted Mr. Bennett would run for the Eaton RESA Board during their June Biennial election. Mr. Bennett advised the RESA will present their 2017-2018 budgets at the upcoming County Wide Board Meeting on May 2 and the RESA is in the process of hiring a new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum.

B. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Metcalf advised the asbestos abatement at Delta Mills is complete and we are just awaiting the final air quality test. He further noted this construction project is ahead of schedule, which is a good thing because the district already has several families who have registered their children to attend the Delta Mills preschool in the 2017-2018 school year. He advised that he and Assistant Superintendent Steve Gabriel served on the interview panel for the next Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at the Eaton RESA, noting there were several qualified candidates interviewed and second round interviews will take place next week. In closing he provided the board with a handout to update them with regard to progress toward goals under Teaching and Learning of the Strategic Plan advising the board they will receive a year-end update in June for all three interest areas of the Strategic Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF TEACHER LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion by Mrs. Wacyk, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Teacher Leave of Absence, as presented.

Superintendent Metcalf advised this is a request from Delta Center 6th grade teacher Patrick Helmick noting Mr. Helmick is currently on a Family Medical Leave. This will place Mr. Helmick on a leave of absence for the remainder of this school year and the 2017-2018 school year in its entirety.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER DESIGNATION OF ELECTORAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR EATON RESA JUNE 5, 2017 BIENNIAL ELECTION

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mrs. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Resolution to Consider Designation of Jon Shiflett as Electoral Representative for the Eaton RESA June 5, 2017 Biennial Election with Linda Wacyk as an alternate at its May 22, 2017 Regular Board Meeting, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

DuFort	<u>Yes</u>	Wacyk	<u>Yes</u>
Clark Pierson	<u>Yes</u>	Mulvenna	<u>Yes</u>
Shiflett	<u>Yes</u>	McKennon	<u>Yes</u>

The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. Wacyk for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Payment of Sinking, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. "Just Turf It" Discussion

Athletic Director Steve Baker provided the board with an overview of how the Grand Ledge Community Stadium Project "Just Turf It" came to light and noting it will allow the field to be used for more events. He advised the committee continues to raise funds and they have great momentum. He noted during the initial phase of the process, they looked at several fields throughout Michigan and selected a state-of-the-art product to turf the field. He further explained by turfing the field, it will open up the use of the field to several other groups throughout the district including all the Grand Ledge sports, hosting sports organizations that could be revenue into the district and the community at large, as well as allowing our physical education classes to utilize the field. The field would be busy all the time as there are several community recreation opportunities that could benefit from the project also.

Mr. McKennon expressed he agrees with everything Mr. Baker presented especially with the amount of opportunity this will provide for our students and community.

Mrs. Clark Pierson advised from an economic standpoint she is very supportive but two things hold her back: The Community really needs to understand the benefits of what this project would provide for all of our students and the community at-large. The community has expressed this is a luxury and I was to provide a little more definitive information to the public including the safety aspect of this product, specifically any cancer causing component of utilizing granulated crumb tire materials. In closing she remarked she is not anti-turf but she does not want to jeopardize a future bond proposal by having the community think we are not listening to them. I want to ensure they have the information they need and understand this process and want to hear from the taxpayers.

Mr. Baker advised he has not found any scientific student for health concerns with regard to cancer but he certainly understands the concern.

Mrs. Clark Pierson expressed her thought is if the EPA needs to weigh in on this and can say the potential for cancer is nothing, but she believes the health concern is something that has to be taken seriously. She understands the uniformity of the field; eliminating low spots, hard spots, etc., is beneficial to the players, but feels it is important to research this issue.

President Mulvenna advised the EPA did do a study in 2009 but with the EPA being cut, she is unsure if a new study will be conducted. She noted these are very reasonable concerns.

Mr. Baker pointed out that there are professional teams that have millions of dollars wrapped up in their athletes that have this surface. Even in the Collegiate Big 10, 10 of the 14 schools have this surface. In fact, every school in the Mid-American Conference has this surface. Of the top 50 schools in the state of Michigan, 44 have this surface.

Maintenance Supervisor John Piper advised the district will realize an approximately \$75,000 cost savings, per year, with the installation of turf, noting this is the cost the district incur years in maintaining the current football, lacrosse and soccer fields.

Mrs. Wacyk commented she loves the idea of expanded opportunities for our students, but expressed concerns with how the scheduling would work.

Mr. Baker advised scheduling is not scientific for him. He pulls all the coaches together and "we figure it out". It is equitable. The same approach would be used with regard to scheduling the community stadium field. Presently, we don't even allow football to practice on the field.

Mr. Piper advised if the Community Stadium were turfed, it would be our intention to not take care of the Boughton Soccer Field to the extent of making it a division 1 field.

Mr. Baker agreed noting he would then look at Boughton along the lines of the Hayes baseball, bronco and marsh fields. In fact the Soccer Club could take some ownership in trying to maintain Boughton field.

Mrs. Wacyk expressed it would be a good idea to have an actual spreadsheet for the community that could show them the cost broke out over 12 – 14 years. Turf vs. grass.

Mr. McKennon again remarked there are so many things that could be, if our stadium is turfed.

Mr. Baker remarked he wants to ensure people understand what our soccer program goes through with not having a facility that meets the standard. Even if the district added a bathroom, there are still many issues with the field. This will allow us to provide a facility for those student athletes that they deserve.

President Mulvenna asked what the ground is at the current football field – clay or dirt?

Mr. Piper advised approximately 60% clay, 40% dirt.

President Mulvenna asked about the costs associated with the upkeep of a turf field.

Mr. Baker noted the costs are minimal. A "groomer" is used over the field once every 100 hours of use.

President Mulvenna expressed she would rather have a multi-purpose field. One that already has bleachers, lights, bathrooms, and concessions.

Mr. Baker pointed out this project was brought to light by parents who wanted to make this a reality. This was not driven by the school district.

Mrs. Clark Pierson noted there have been several community partnerships that have gotten us a long way on projects the district otherwise would not have been able to do, and she strongly supports these partnerships, and while she supports vastly expanding the opportunities for our students, something sort of new, that looks fancy, can be viewed as a luxury. However, in closing she remarked this does seem like common sense and she completely appreciate this project at its core.

The question was raised as to the cost of the total project and where the committee was at in fundraising. Mr. Baker advised it would run approximately \$650,000 and the committee was over halfway there.

Soccer coach Scott Dane addressed the board to advise that he would love to continue to play on Boughton field, but only with bleachers and lights and appropriate restrooms and concessions. He noted that the district hosted Rockford about a week and a half ago and the athletes were asking where they were supposed to change. When Williamston was here, the girls changed in our press box. He commented it is hard for him, in fact, "embarrassing" not to have facilities for the players to change in. And the restroom situation is another concern all its own. He noted the soccer team has been success on the field, but it is difficult when most of the fields played on are artificial turf and your athletes have never played on the surface. He would love to keep Boughton field maintain so they could practice on the artificial turf and when they know they are facing an opponent that has grass, they can get back to their roots and practice at Boughton. In closing he noted the stadium project would be a great opportunity for several of our athletic groups and community recreation.

President Mulvenna advised this topic will be discussed again during the May 22 Regular Meeting on the Board. Persons interested in learning more about the project, or wishing to make a tax-deductible donation may visit the website: GLCommunityStadium.com.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF

Superintendent Metcalf recognized all the community groups that work hard to support the district with the most recent Friends of Wacousta Playground jumping in for the Dream Depot 2.0 and the Bullpen Club jumping in to help with the retaining wall and now the community group

that has raised about half of what is needed for this community stadium project. These community driven projects create an opportunity for great partnerships.

Mrs. DuFort expressed her appreciation for the information noting she has received questions and is grateful for the information so she is prepared to talk to the community at large.

CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations

Motion by Ms. Wacyk, seconded by Mrs. Clark Pierson 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:

Clark Pierson Yes
Shiflett Yes
Wacyk Yes

Mulvenna Yes
McKennon Yes
DuFort Yes

The motion carried unanimously at 7:04 p.m.

RECONENE IN OPEN SESSION

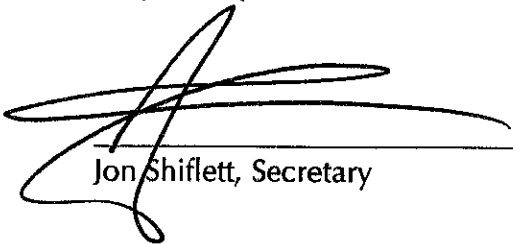
The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:23 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

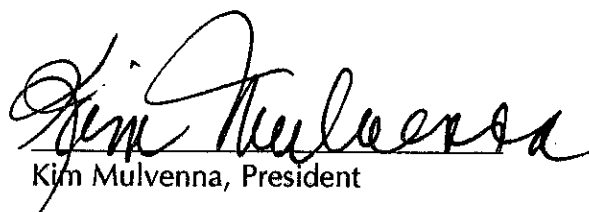
The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Jon Shiflett, Secretary



Kim Mulvenna, President