

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

Special Meeting – March 11, 2021 Live Stream  
And  
Special Meeting – May 12, 2021 Virtual Meeting

**MINUTES**

President Clark Pierson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Patrick McKennon led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call by President Clark Pierson indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Sara Clark Pierson, Jarrod Smith, Nicole Shannon, Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort, Patrick McKennon and Ben Cwayna. ***Others in Attendance (This represents all others in attendance for either or both May 11 & 12, 2021)*** Aaron Sternaman, Aaron Yusten, Abby Kenney, Abigail Burmeister, Alfred Gabriel, Alice Mills, Alison Gaffner, Allison Bengel, Allison Zakerski, Alyson Hayden, Alyssa Murphy, Amanda Gabriel, Amanda Garza, Amanda McNew, Amanda Salmon, Amber Baker, Amber Moody, Amber Swint, Amy Bowers, Amy Ellsworth, Amy Heriford, Amy Kruppe, Amy Lowrie, Andrea Dionise, Ann Paquette-Lukens, April Stopczynski, Ash Gobbell, Ava Hinton, Becky Krawczyk, Ben Kohn, Beth Aprill, Beth Leonard-Posey, Beth Schuchaskie, Bev Bair, Beverly Hinton, Bill Albrecht, Bill Barnes, Brandi Bauer, Bri Dennis, Brian Flowerday, Brian Wethy, Bridget Cheney, Brittney Gonzales, Cali Montana, Cara Pfund, Carla Postell, Carlie Koets, Carly Waldrop, Carrie Mathew-Crowner, Cassie Graven-Watts, Cathy Fox, Cathy Kier, Cecilia Jones, Charles Millbrook Chelsea Hare-West, Chelsey Martinez, Christin Sandell, Christina LaCasse, Christy Lobdell, Christy Price Chuck Pleiness, Cindy Zerbe, Colleen Lee, Mitchell Lee, Colleen Price, Craig Chapman, Craig Kahler, Cristy Dowker, D'Anne Golub, Dana Justice, Dan Cwayna, Darrin Gyurich, Dawn Rice, Dawne Velianoff, Deb Auge-Pochert, Debbie Richmond, Debbie Scott, Denise Green, Doug Waldrop, Dave Chapin, Stacie Gibson, Dwight Handspike, Elizabeth Dean, Ellie Darnell, Elyse Fox, Emily Charter, Eric Leopold, Erica Deters, Erica Ledesma, Erica Stoll, Erika Resh, Erin Ries, Erin Zulewski, Greg Almy, Greg Stevens, Harriett Dean, Heather Algrim, Heather Lamb, Heather Vanderlaan, Heidi Fortress, Heidi Gottleber, Howard Pizzo, Nell Pizzo, Iris Cleveland, Jace Harpe, Jamie McKennon, Jamie Viecelli, Janda Craig, Jason Westra-Hall, Jen Haakenson, Jen McCloud, Jenn Grantham, Jenna Riekse, Jennifer Haakenson, Jennifer Mead, Jennifer Short, Jenny Deja, Jenny Kish, Jenny Waybright, Jeremy Babcock, Jessica Bucholtz, Jessica Cornman, Jessica Westfall, Jill Ford, Jill Mangrum, Jill Rycus, Jim Brandt, Jim Gee, Jocelyn Thelen, Jody Lyon, Joe Thomas, John David, John Ellsworth, John Hubbard, John Mills, Jon Horford, Joy Sullivan, Judy Ellsworth, Julie Cecilia, Julia Rollis, Julie Boruta, Julie Brunk, Julie Douglas, Karen Batterham, Karlene Ketola, Kathy Jennings, Kathy Schoenfelder, Katie Casteel, Katie Dufresne, Katie Fox, Kayla Hines, Keene Beach, Kellee Auge, Kelli Bohnet, Kellie Ward, Kelly Dunham, Kelly Nevison, Kelly Smith, Kelly Webster, Kelly Williams,

Ken Wright, Kim Abed, Kim Cotter, Kim Mulvenna, Kirk Crouner, Kirsten Nunham, Krissy Delaney, Kristen Heine, Kristy Welch, Lara Hubbard, Laura Konen, Laura Mauren, Laura O'Connor, Laurel Miller, Lauren Whaley, Leanna Agheneza, Leesha Lee, Lindsey Fender, Lisa Klingbiel, Lisa Nelson, Lori Smith, Lucinda Shier, Margo Susnjar, Marie Capra, Marisa Lay, Mark Davenport, Mark Deschaine, Mark Johnson, Mark Jones, Marlene Promer, Matthew Couser, Meaghan Jacobs, Megan Bouwens, Megan Spedoske, Megan Weber, Melissa Hinojosa, Michael Reynolds, Michael Dillard, Michelle D'Alessandro, Michelle O'Meara, Michelle Pfaff, Michelle VanDuine, Mike Bauer, Morgan Cross, Jen Bouck, Nancy Folkertsma, Nancy Rasinske, Nancy Sly, Nancy Clark Coleman, Nate Moore, Nikki Almy, Nikki Piggott, Nola Cockroft, Olivia McCormick, Pat St. George, Patty Sanchez, Patty Waterman, Paula Dunn, Pete Bucholtz, Rachel Kuntzsch, Rachel Parish, Rachel VanDeven, Raelyn Hemple, Randy Hubbert, Robert Hovenkamp, Ryan Shannon, Ryleigh Scott, Sandy Guild, Sara Haase, Sara Herman, Sara Holding, Sara Taylor, Sarah Crowell, Sarah Felsing, Sarah Hopper, Sarah Sullivan, Scott Millbrook, Sean Stevens, Shawn Bronson, Shirley Ries, Stacy Nelson, Stephanie Dulmage, Stephanie Taylor, Steve Baker, Steve Delaney, Steve Gabriel, Sue Hemple, Susan Sowle, Taegan Byers, Tamela Jones, Tamra Hunt-Williams, Tana Fedewa, Tara Barnhill, Taylor Brush, Teresa Dyer, Teresa Miller, Teresa Reed, Thaa Dill, Thea Oatman, Paula Oatman, Theresa Abed, Therese Edgett, Threse Simon, Tim Brininstool, Tim Marsh, Tim Totten, Tish Janes, Todd Marsh, Todd Snyder, Tonya McGill, Traci Gentilozzi, Tracy Smith, Tricia Brentar, Ursula Averill, Vicki Wenzlick, Whitney Craig, Zack Zulewski and Kim Manning

- A. Dr. Amy Kruppe was interviewed at 6:10 p.m.
- B. Dr. Marcus Davenport was interviewed at 7:30 p.m.
- C. Dr. Steve Gabriel was interviewed at 9:05 p.m.

President Clark Pierson recessed the meeting at 10:24 p.m.

President Clark Pierson reconvened the meeting via Zoom at 6:03 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5, 2021.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call by Board President Sara Clark Pierson 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nicole Shannon provided an overview for providing public comment.

Steve Delaney addressed the board in support of Dr. Steve Gabriel.

Cindy Zerbe addressed the board in support of Dr. Steve Gabriel.

Heather Algrim addressed the board noting she has not seen one step from the leadership team, a sincere apology and ownership to the community for harm caused, intentional or not, that happened because of our culture and allowed to fester by this district. She noted she has seen steps, but she believe this critical first piece (an apology) was overlooked and believes an apology would begin the healing.

Nate Moore addressed the board in support of Dr. Gabriel.

Dr. Stacie Gibson addressed the board to express concerns over Dr. Gabriel and asked the board not to manufacture an escape hatch.

Ellie Darnell addressed the board in support of Dr. Davenport.

Carrie Mathew Crouner addressed the board to express his concerns over Dr. Gabriel's consideration for the position of Superintendent.

Margo Susnjar addressed the board to provide her observations of candidates Dr. Davenport and Dr. Kruppe expressing she feels either is very qualified.

Pat St. George addressed the board encouraging them to look outside the district if they want change.

James Cotter addressed the board to express his views over Dr. Gabriel's consideration for the position of Superintendent, noting it is time to heal.

Thea Oatman addressed the board to express concerns for the internal candidate and advising she missed Dr. Kruppe's interview but through Dr. Davenport was great.

Craig Chapman addressed the board to provide his views of the interviews and support Dr. Davenport or Dr. Kruppe.

Megan Spedoske addressed the board to provide her input on the superintendent interviews and advising integrity is doing the right thing even when it's the hard thing to do.

Amber Swint addressed the board expressing she feels Dr. Davenport or Dr. Kruppe could lead the district in a positive direction.

Zack Zulewski addressed the board while Dr. Gabriel has many good qualities, he supports Dr. Davenport's candidacy noting he believes he will bring the sort of change the district needs.

Traci Gentilozzi addressed the board to provide her take on the superintendent interviews and asking the board to not stick with the status quo.

Rachel Kuntzsch addressed the board encouraging them to look closely at the committee they established as a board and use it as a strong consideration in the selection tonight.

Tim Totten addressed the board to support Dr. Davenport's candidacy in light of his focus on excellence in academics.

Dawne Velianoff addressed the board to provide her feedback on the superintendent candidate interviews and in support of Dr. Kruppe.

Denise Clarity addressed the board noting the district needs change, fresh eyes and encouraging the board to remember their words from last June.

John Hubbard addressed the board noting Dr. Kruppe is probably the best candidate for change.

Jon Horford addressed the board asking them to keep with their priorities established for the next Superintendent of Grand Ledge Public Schools.

Cristy Dowker addressed the board to express her concerns with Dr. Gabriel and support Dr. Davenport.

Megan Weber addressed the board commenting she feels we need someone who will be a voice for the special education students.

**BOARD DELIBERATION AND SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

President Clark Pierson , Mr. Smith, Mr. McKennon and Ms. Shannon each provided information garnered through contacting people within the Hazel Park School District and Beecher School District with President Clark Pierson referencing the board knows Dr. Gabriel from his many years of service to the district. The members then each, individually, provided their take away from the candidate interviews.

President Clark Pierson then asked the members to individually share who their first preference is noting she supports Dr. Davenport.

Mr. Smith supported Dr. Kruppe.

Ms. DuFort supported Dr. Davenport.

Ms. Shannon supported Dr. Davenport.

Mc. McKennon read a prepared statement before extending his support for Dr. Davenport.

Mr. Cwayna supported Dr. Kruppe.

Mr. Shiflett supported Dr. Davenport.

President Clark Pierson called for a motion.

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to Name Dr. Marcus Davenport the next Superintendent of Grand Ledge Public Schools pending successful contract negotiations.

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.

President Clark Pierson thanked Dr. Gabriel and Dr. Kruppe noting they will see many successes and expressing the board's appreciation they were interested in serving and the Superintendent of Grand Ledge Public Schools. She confirmed the search firm would reach out to all of the candidates and appointed Mr. Smith and Mr. Cwayna to join her in drafting a contract with legal counsel for Dr. Davenport.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8: 20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Sara Clark Pierson, President