

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – June 28, 2021

MINUTES

President Sara Clark Pierson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. She 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, Jarrod Smith, Nicole Shannon, Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort, Patrick McKennon, Ben Cwayna. **Central Office Administrators**: Dave Chapin, Bill Barnes, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Holding, Mark Deschaine. **Others in Attendance** Teresa Koenigsknecht, Danielle Nelson, Kim Bowe, Mark Saucedo, Oliva Denny, Abby Jackson, Alice Mills, Melanie Gloden, Lana Gallagher, Jan Wise, Anige Stevens, Macavamia Butt, Kaitlyn Denhouten, Leanna Agheneza, Nell Pizzo, Jon Horford, Colleen Smith, Denise Clarity, Katie Grass, Jill Dawson, Erin Ries, Kelly Langin, Thea Oatman, Michele Childs, D’Anne Golub, Kirsten Ford, Paula McCloy, Shannon Hayes, Cheryl Hayes, William Hayes, Mike Johnson, Bob Atkinson, Jenny Waybright, Tara Kopietz, Maureen Sanda, Lori VanHoesen, Ann Paquette-Lukens, Jason Leitah, Joe Spalding, Kim Laforet, Shari Kissane, Katy Hebert, Patrick Hebert, Carl VanHouten, Tiffany Vallo, Bill Albrecht, Sherri Power, Jeff Sewick, Angela Lutz, Elyse Fox, Rich Pochert, Deb Auge-Pochert, Rachel Marcero, Cardyn Barndardi, Sally Jo Nelton, Tavia Zerman, Frank Holmes, Leesha Lee, Sarah Al-Shaikh, Kyle Kuhns, Amy Atkinson, Donna Osgood, Chad Little, Danis Peck, Ronda Mueller, Will Hayes, Cheryle Hayes, Todd Hovey, Kellie Auge, Marlene Promer, Meghan Thurrott, Debbie Diesen, Jeffrey McNeilly, Dwayne Mason, Michele Lopez, Gail Avery, Howard Pizzo, Rachel Kuntzsch, Lena Schaffer, Theresa Abed, Kim Abed, Greg Almy, Margo Susnjar, Megan Spedoske, Angel Landis, Greg Stevens, John Clore, Katie Casteel, Susan Sixon, Jane McAllister, Christine Weller, Doreen Earle, Julie Douglas, Jill Long, Shawn Bronson, Sky Powell, Erik Atkinson, Gina Johnsen, Valerie Holley, Teresa Miller, Cynthia Zerbe, Tim Totten, Nicole Leitsch, Lindsey Grostefon, Ben Lund, Lisa Nelson, Kiel Gloden, Joni Henretty, Melissa Mazzola, Erica Ledesma, Nick Redman, Ellie Curriston, Michelle Mead, Colleen Price, Jim Price, Jensen Price, Chelsey Martinez, Marcus Davenport, Dan Cwayna, Pat Cwayna, Ashley O’Neil, Amy Whisler, Kylie Heiler, Jason Westra-Hall, Jacqueline Freeman, Lisa Klingbiel, Andrew Torrey, Jim Jones, Eric Lopez, Kelly Denny, Sophia Denny, Raquel Dietrich, Michael Onan, Dorinda Andrews, Ginny Batcheller, Crystal VanWalsum, Aaron Sternaman, Annemarie Reik, Tim Daniel and Kim Manning

TRUTH IN TAXATION / TRUTH IN BUDGETING HEARING

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to OPEN the Truth in Taxation / Truth in Budgeting Hearing.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mrs. DuFort	<u>YES</u>	President Clark Pierson	<u>YES</u>
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>		

The motion carried unanimously at 6:05 p.m.

Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rasinske reviewed the Grand Ledge Public Schools millage rates and funding account rules, debt fund details, debt millage history, comparative debt millage rate, capital improvement (sinking) fund details, noted no changes to the property tax rates noting a decrease of .0023 mills for the capital improvement millage, reviewed the current district funds, revenue sources, provided an overview of how the district used federal and state funds, noted the projected 2020-2021 ending fund balance is at \$10,614,321 or 18.3% of expenditures. She went on to review the projected 2021-2022 per pupil foundation allowance anticipating an increase of \$164 per pupil, while noting a reduction in state aid revenue from Section 11r(4) and Section 11d funds, as well as projecting a decrease of students, and realizing the loss of revenue from the one-time federal relief funds but anticipating the allocation of ESSER II funds to districts in July. She reviewed the 2021-2022 revenue and expenditure summaries noting an anticipated undesignated fund balance for the 2021-2022 school year of \$7,173,252 or 12.4% of expenditures. She noted in closing that the 2021-2022 State budget has not been presented to the Governor and that anticipated federal funds allocations are not included in this initial budget presentation.

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to CLOSE the Truth in Taxation / Truth in Budgeting Hearing at 6:32 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Cwayna requested two items be added to the agenda: addressing return to full-time five-days a week, in person, face to face learning for 2021-2022 and removing mask requirements.

Mr. McKennon supported Mr. Cwayna's additions.

President Clark Pierson noted the District's return to Full-time, Five-days a week, in-person, face-to-face learning for the 2021-2022 school year was already represented on the agenda under the District's Return to Learn for 2021-2022. She approved adding the District's Facemask Requirements to the agenda.

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the June 28, 2021 agenda items, as revised. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the June 28, 2021 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the Administrative Contract Renewal and the Teacher Hirings of David Hardy, Edward Saade, Christine Savage, Holly Bierstetel, Sam Burns, Laura Schramm, Patricia Cudahy, Shannon Hayes, Megan Owen, Megan Thurrott, Madison Brosky, Jennifer Diederichs, Threse Simon, Hailey Butler, Kyle Heiler and Jordyn Watts.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

Mr. Smith provided an update on what is taking place in the legislature that is of importance to public education including the State Aid Budget, additional ESSER II & III funds, legislation that will change election dates, and legislation that would eliminate the Work Keys test requirements. He further noted that bus safety legislation has passed both the House and the Senate and is now being presented to the Governor.

B. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort noted the Eaton RESA approved their 2021-2022 budget, and their final 2020-2021 budget, reviewed the prevention program services and with that put out the Tri-County Community Health Guide. She noted they adopted a 2021-2026 Strategic Plan and CTE Program Agreements were approved. She noted Eaton RESA Superintendent Cindy Anderson has announced her retirement, effective January 1, 2022 after serving the RESA for six years. The RESA will now begin its search for the next Superintendent.

C. Bond Update

District Bond Supervisor Dr. Mike Johnson provided an overview of the bond construction progress at Holbrook, Beagle and on the round-about, noting the round-about will be open ahead of schedule. He noted the district is running into a few delays with supplies which are out of our control. He noted work has begun on the next phase for Proposal 1 dollars.

D. Final 2020-2021 GLPS Extended COVID-19 Data

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Dr. Bill Barnes, in compliance with State requirements, providing the final 2-way communication data for June 2-18. He noted capturing this data entails a tremendous amount of work and he expressed his appreciation for all those involved. He went on to share data from the NWEA testing that corresponds with the goals established by the district for math, literacy and non-standardized assessments tied to our learning throughout the year. He noted we do have gaps to address to ensure all of our students are in a position to be successful. He commended the teaching staff and building administrators for providing three rounds of the NWEA, as required by law, noting this was no small feat in a virtual environment.

He noted he has officially reported all of the data for the 2020-2021 school year and he does not believe he will have to give these reports in the fall. However, the one constant is things change.

E. Superintendent's Report

Interim Superintendent Dr. Chapin noted a great start to summer school program, "Learning at the Ledges" and expressed his appreciation to Dr. Barnes for his leadership. He noted he met with Dr. Davenport prior to tonight's meeting noting he wishes him all good things and expressed he is happy to assist Dr. Davenport in his transition. He advised that Nicole Shannon was elected to the school board with over 6,000 votes. He noted she is still widely supported in the community and he supports her roll on this board of education. He note that while some may believe that he and Mr. Cwayna are sometimes on opposite sides, he noted he is a great thought partner and a good

conversationalist. He supports Mr. Cwayna's roll on this board as well. Additionally, he noted that Dr. Dorinda Carter is his friend and a long-time colleague. He expressed he believes she is being widely misrepresented to this Board of Education noting she has widespread respect across the country. He remarked she is his friend and colleague and his vehemently supports her. He noted it has been one year since he came to Grand Ledge, not really knowing what to expect, but noting he will leave here with a very positive image of Grand Ledge and the Grand Ledge Public Schools. He noted he has worked with some really good people: board members, administrative team, faculty, and all the support staff. He noted this past year has required collaboration, understanding and adaptability. He noted there were some good days and some not-so-good days but he is grateful for the many good days. He expressed special citation to Kim Manning, Steve Gabriel, Bill Barnes, Melissa Mazzola and Greg Almy - - and his dear wife. He noted the district is in a very good place with the bond and building reconfiguration noting special thanks and appreciation to those that were active in 2018, contracts in place, a balanced budget, excellent administrative team and faculty, in-person learning next year, and just so much to celebrate. Further he noted again, back one year ago and his first board member with the district, which was virtual, but noting it had over 900 people joining the overwhelming conversation associated with Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. At the same time, the Grand Ledge City Council chartered the "Grand Ledge United" committee to address the same issue, noting several from the school district participate in these meetings. He noted the Grand Ledge United folds directly with the work commissioned by the Board of Education and includes several common participants. He shared a story regarding his introduction to Senator Barrett and Representative Witwer noting both were accessible, polite and appropriate with their understanding of the unique plight of the district, as well as others around the state.

Dr. Chapin then introduced the work of the district Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee appointed and organized by the Board of Education in the summer of 2020. He noted tonight's presentation does not require any action from the board as this is intended for review, debate and agreement over time with widespread input. He advised the report is being presented by Rachel Kuntzsch, Chelsey Martinez, Greg Stevens and Jackie Freeman, all Grand Ledge community members who responded to an open invitation from the Board of Education to participate. Dr. Carter and Ms. Freeman served as co-chairs of the committee – facilitated only. He noted the report, represents a wide range of viewpoints and will be posted on the website, in its entirety, as early as tomorrow.

F. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Rachel Kuntzsch, Chelsea Martinez, Greg Stevens and Jackie Freeman individually presented the board with the report for their specific area of focus including creating a welcoming and nurturing environment, hiring practices, curriculum and professional learning for teachers, staff, administration and students.

Co-Chair Jackie Freeman thanked the board for the opportunity to serve, thanked Dr. Chapin for his vision and support and thanked each of the community members and all those who worked in the background.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. McKennon read the rules for addressing the board.

Melissa Mazzola addressed the board on people being invested in our schools, parents wanting what is best for their kids, teachers wanting what is best for their kids, a willingness to work together, noting the district is not teaching Critical Race Theory but is working on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion following hours of public comment last June. She encouraged everyone coming together with solutions we can all agree on.

Greg Almy addressed the board on safe, meaningful engagement of student learning, welcoming fi e-day, full-day, in-person learning, the teacher association working with the administration throughout the last year and a commitment to continue working with the administration, confirming Critical Race Theory is not being taught, but critical thinking is. In a situation where he can encourage critical thinking he asked three questions: Why are we having this conversation? What could we have done differently? What can we do now to make the situation better? He encouraged everyone to ask themselves these questions and look for ways to make the situation better noting to not do so would be reckless. He encouraged we continue to educate ourselves to be better and do better.

Megan Spedoske addressed the board noting she is a member of the Grand Ledge Alliance for Diversity. She noted this group arose during a time of concern surrounding the former Superintendent. She read the ideas this group created one year ago.

Greg Stevens addressed the board noting incoming fear around the way we are approaching issues of race in the classroom. He noted an article from David French noting the district needs to agree on a common ground to engage the discussion. He noted it can be challenging to talk about race and racism, but it is important to think about how much work still needs to be done.

Rich Pochert addressed the board noting he believes Critical Race Theory should be embraced in teaching as he believes it is the history of America. He supports exposing students to classic literature to provide a perspective.

Deb Auge Pochert addressed the board noting there are a variety of people sitting her at the same moment but all traveled here by different roads. She noted as talk about curriculum – past or future – has different points of views and each of those must be analyzed through critical thinking.

Colleen Price noted she has lived in this community longer than she lived in her hometown. She noted she strives to be the best teacher she can be but believes she can also do better, be better. She noted better kids make a better community. She encouraged holding fast to dreams. She expressed we cannot let the EDI Committee die. She expressed as a veteran teacher she is here with the board and hopes other people will join the conversation.

Valerie Holley addressed the board with regard to Critical Race Theory expressing the teachers misunderstand CRT, expressing she believes it enforces societal systemic racism. She stated the district claims it has no intention of teaching CRT but then works with a CRT theorist. She encouraged review of the definition noting whatever it is labeled it claims white students are entitled and black children cannot success because of the color of their skin. She claimed the district does not have the right to teach CRT.

Todd Hovey addressed the board expressing his feelings about CRT noting he does not agree with it. He encouraged the school to teach reading, writing and arithmetic.

Cindy Zerbe addressed the board thanking Dr. Gabriel and Mrs. Rasinske for their hard work on the secretarial contract. She noted the secretaries feel valued and respected. She commented this is what Grand Ledge is about. This is how we teach our students and our families. She asked for the board's approval of the contract and thanked them for valuing the work they do.

Debbie Diesen addressed the board noting she is afraid the progress and board and administration has made in addressing racism is in danger. She noted she is trying to reflect on what she is hearing and why. She returns tonight hoping to take in more. She expressed appreciation for the work of the EDI Committee. She noted it is okay if what brought us here tonight or last week was fear, frustration or anger, but that can't be where the process stops noting it requires us to check our emotions and opinions and gather information, discuss, reason, communicate and think critically. These are the skills our teachers teach and this is what we should model for our children.

Ryan Kelley addressed the board requesting that in the upcoming school year the students do not need to wear masks. He further advised the topic of CRT is happening throughout the state and across the USA. He noted he stands with no racism in this state or country but remarked CRT is racist by its teaching and encouraged the board to stand against teaching CRT.

Danielle Nelson addressed the board noting there is plenty in American history to criticize. She noted she believes we all want an inclusive schools that treats all students well. She thanked the Grand Ledge community noting she likes everyone. She thanked the Board of Education for leading us through this. She encouraged the Board to listen to the teachers, parents, students noting we are Grand Ledge and we are proud. She wants racism out of our town.

Ashley Oneil addressed the board regarding the district's required face masks for students noting she believes the children need to be unmasked, to see facial expressions, and to allow our youngest students to see the teacher's mouths for the important teaching of speech sounds. She asked the board to let her make the decision with regard to her child.

Gina Johnson addressed the board with regard to her believe the district is teaching CRT and commenting she moved to Grand Ledge because it is not racist and if it is racist then she will move. She also addressed students not having to wear masks next year and asked the board to submit their resignations or be recalled.

Amber Redman addressed the board advising the board has no right to mask, test or violate her child's freedoms. She claimed Grand Ledge is failing. She called for Nicole Shannon's resignation. She noted she is disgusted by what she saw last week from the teacher's union. She noted the district needs to get back to education. She addressed comments made by a teacher noting the board must address them.

Kim Laforet addressed the board with regard to CRT and claiming they hired someone whose basic philosophy is promoting CRT. She noted the community wants inclusion. She noted everybody has bias's. She stated she believes the board is creating more division and noting we do not want racism in Grand Ledge.

John Hubbard addressed the board noting his Proud to be a Comet sign strikes it for him. He noted he is an alumni and is hoping his children will be alumni. Currently they attend under Schools of Choice. He noted he gets racism and segregation. He noted it was politics that kept his students out of school from September to March. He asked for all the board members to resign except Ben Cwayna.

Jeff McNeilly addressed the board noting that they are trying to fight racism but are creating it. He called Dr. Carter a racist. He noted we don't want that here. He commended Mrs. Zerbe for her treatment of his children and asked why we can't follow what she is going. He asked Nicole Shannon to step down, he ask President Clark Pierson to stop defending her and stating she needs to step down.

Dwayne Mason addressed the board commending them for a fabulous job. He noted the board has been beaten up lately and that is why he is here tonight. He welcomed Dr. Davenport noting he has lived in the district for 21 years and he doesn't see a lot of people that look like him or himself. He embraces change. Diversity is a good thing. He commented Grand Ledge has the best teachers. He thanked the Grand Ledge community for having the guts to do some hard thing. He encouraged everyone to embrace change, embrace diversity.

Michelle Lopez addressed the board noting she believes the board is listening and genuinely cares, even if their values are different, there is respect. She noted parents should have a choice if they want their child to learn about diversity. If diversity is going to be taught it should only be taught at the high school level and a detailed course description should be shared with parents.

Rachel Dietrich addressed the board asking what is equity, diversity and inclusion and why is the board pushing it. She claimed this will teach "white children are bad because they are white and black children are bad because they are too stupid to learn." She questioned what group is pushing DIE and CRT. She questioned how much the board has been paid. She encouraged the board to do something that matters and encouraged the board to go help inner city schools.

Eric Lopez addressed the board stating he knows what racism is. He referenced an incident he encountered when he went to school here. He expressed he doesn't like racism and he doesn't want it taught to his kids. He noted CRT is crazy and teaches division. He stated if the board is going to allow this to be taught they all, except for Ben, need to step down and give their position to a minority noting Grand Ledge has come a long way and this is going in reverse. He noted you can't get rid of racism but it isn't everybody in Grand Ledge.

Tiffany Vallo addressed the board regarding CRT noting equity is the same took as CRT. She noted using equity over equality is a victim mentality. She expressed concerns with Dr. Carter. She noted she believes we need to give everybody an equal chance – equality. Everybody is equal and no one is more deserving than another.

Dawne Velianoff addressed the board recognizing the accomplishments of Dr. Davenport noting he rose above as a black male who is now making six figures. She referenced when she went to school in Grand Ledge students didn't have Martin Luther King Day off, but now the students do. She asks why we don't talk about the small wins and small successes. She expressed she does not disagree with what CRT teaches, but stated it is her job to teach her daughter. Again, she referenced talking about our successes, not about things we are not good at.

Nick Crofut addressed the board welcoming Dr. Davenport. He noted he does not hold optimism that students will be in person next year. He advised the recall is still going. He noted a lot of comments have been made and until those are retracted he cannot take the board seriously. He again noted he is not optimistic about being back in person in the fall.

Michael Perrine addressed the board regarding Mr. Pochert's comments. He noted there is racism at this school, there is racism in Lansing, there is a little bit of a racist is everyone. He noted CRT is a political agenda. He again encouraged getting everyone in a room and discussing these things.

Melanie Gloden addressed the board asking for the termination of a district teacher. She asked them to address the EDI program and curriculum changes on the table to be implemented. She expressed her believe that CRT is pure hatred in its bare bones. She expressed she believes it does not teach out racism, it teaches how to be a racist. She read a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Junior.

Kiel Gloden addressed the board asking that the best interest of the children be put first. He remarked he doesn't want what the board is pushing. He stated the board has lied with comments of no plans to teach CRT but then hiring Dr. Carter. He expressed concerns with Ms. Shannon and comments he believed to be divisive and show disdain. He encouraged an end to the mask mandate, distance learning and the EDI program.

Thea Oatman addressed the board quoting Maya Angelou about doing better when you know better. She expressed her believe it is important to have an EDI committee and get knowledge so we can do better.

Tim Totten addressed the board to express his concerns with regard to CRT teaching.

Andrea Smith addressed the board noting we are not systemically racist, noted Charlotte schools were open all year, masks harbor bacteria and asking the board to let the children be free.

Adam Heikkila addressed the board to express his concerns with regard to CRT and what he believes it does.

Joe Spalding addressed the board with regard to CRT and defending the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior that have been mentioned by several encouraging them to read the full sentence.

John Clore addressed the board expressing it isn't the teachers' responsibility to teach compassion, empathy and kindness, it is their responsibility to teach Math and social students. He asked why we don't address our similarities instead of ripping everyone apart by focusing on our differences. He expressed his hope that Dr. Davenport does a good job.

OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL TO BEGIN 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR IN-PERSON

Motion by Mr. Cwayna seconded by Mr. McKennon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the return to full-time, five-day a week, in-person, face-to-face learning for the 2021-2022 school year; unless otherwise ordered by State Law. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Chapin noted the administration is ready for this motion and embraces the motion.

B. APPROVAL OF FINAL 2020-2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Mr. Smith , seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Final 2020-2021 Budget Amendment Resolution, as presented.

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.

C. APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 DEBT SERVICE & GENERAL FUND BUDGET RESOLUTION

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2021-2022 Food Service, Community Education, Sinking, Student Activity, School Store, Technology Capital Projects, 2019 Bond – Proposals 1 & 2, 2021 Bond – Proposals 1 & 2 and General Fund Budget Resolution, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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>	YES	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF GRAND LEDGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION EMPLOYEE CONTRACT

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Grand Ledge Education Association Employee Contract, as presented. The motion carried unanimously with members Sara Clark Pierson, Jarrod Smith, and Patrick McKennon abstaining from the vote in accordance with MCL 380.4203.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the MEA/NEA Unit 1, Secretarial / Clerical, the IUOE Local 324 Bus Drivers and the Custodial Association Employee Contracts, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF VEHICLE PURCHASE

Motion by DuFort, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Purchase of a 2022 Chrysler Voyager Van from LaFontaine CDJR – Lansing through the State of Michigan MiDeal Purchase Program using General Fund Dollars in the amount of \$28,288, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Motion by Mr. McKennon, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Purchase of Playground Equipment for Neff Preschool from Penchura in the amount of \$129,809.40 and for Hayes Intermediate School from MidStates Recreation in the amount of \$102,488.63 using General Fund Dollars, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. DISTRICT MASK REQUIREMENTS

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to fully revoke and terminate any and all mask requirements effective immediately. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. McKennon read the rules for addressing the board.

Elyse Fox addressed the board noting she is a proud Grand Ledge teacher and she and her family stand behind the board thanking them for their guidance throughout this past year. She thanked Dr. Chapin for taking on such a difficult roll. She welcome Dr. Davenport. She shared that she understands parents' concerns but expressed students do become a part of teachers' lives noting "we take care of them and think about them." She expressed she will always support people who are near and dear to her and her colleagues are that. She reminded everyone to remember who is watching and encouraged moving forward with a matter of respect.

Sally Jo Nelton addressed the board commenting she has listened to all the people who have spoken. She expressed that parents should teach their children that when they hear something or someone is having a problem with racism or whatever, you don't just stand by, you stand up for what is right.

Jason Westra Hall addressed the board commending on the great success of the first day of summer school. He gave a shout out to Dr. Chapin and welcomed Dr. Davenport. He expressed he is excited for what is going on in this district and is looking forward to next year and the work of the EDI Committee. He noted his interpretation of EDI is that it creates a space where everyone is welcome.

Amber Redman addressed the board expressing her concerns with the district working with contractor Dr. Carter. She played a clip from a couple of Dr. Carter's Ted Talks. She stated she believes Dr. Carter is a CRT Theorist and expressed concerns for the board using tax dollars to pay for these consulting services.

John Hubbard addressed the board expressing concerns stating he doesn't want his children taught CRT. He stated we are people, we are all the same, we're not different. He stated he believes CRT teaches our kids we are different. He expressed his wish that we wouldn't teach all the "bad" stuff we have done and we teach how we are good. He asked for all the board members' resignation, except Ben Cwayna.

Jeff McNeilly addressed the board expressing he hopes we can all work together. It is his belief the board is not listening to parents. He asked Ms. Shannon to step down. He asked for a teacher Julie Boruta to resign and he asked for the immediate termination of the contract with Dr. Carter.

Tiffany Vallo addressed the board expressing her concerns that the teachers are not listening to the parents, not trying to understand where the parents are coming from. There were no reassurances.

Dawne Velianoff addressed the board asking about the laws with regard to bathroom use. She read her email to Principal Kushman and then read her email sent to the Board of Education. She is requesting clarification with regard to gender neutral bathrooms in the school.

Adam Heikkela addressed the board regarding CRT and noting he is attending these meetings to discuss this Marxist ideology.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

President Clark Pierson clarified her statement in the Lansing State Journal with regard to signing recall petitions noting she was in error and what she prefaced addressed the number of signers needed for a recall. The only requirement for signing a recall petition is that you be a registered voter in the district.

Mr. Smith thanked Dr. Chapin for the wonderful job he has done for this district. He welcomed Dr. Davenport noting he looks forward to seeing him at next meeting. He acknowledged everyone who spoke tonight, or in the past, reassuring them that whether people have addressed the board during a Zoom meeting, or in person, the board and administration is listening. He assured the board is present and the board will continue to do its job and keep moving the district forward.

Ms. Shannon acknowledged this has been a very challenging year.

Mr. McKennon noted the board has heard a lot about CRT recently and the board has heard a lot about bias that have been experienced in this district. He noted this is a common ground. He assured parents no one wants to teach a child they are bad. He expressed he believes the district is not that far off.

Mrs. DuFort thanked Dr. Chapin, the great support of the district administrators and recognized the positive things going on in the district. She noted the district has some of the best educators in the state and she is proud to be on the board and support them. She noted she recognizes the community and supports the right to be here and voice concerns, opinions or suggestions. She reassured the board is listening. The district is going to move forward. She encouraged the continued calm discussion about concerns, again noting the board is listening.

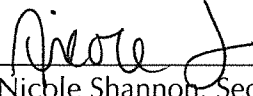
Mr. Shiflett commented parents wouldn't be here if they didn't care.

ADJOURNMENT


The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary



Sara Clark Pierson, President