

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Committee of the Whole / Work Session – August 8, 2022

MINUTES

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

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Acting Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members Present:** Jon Shiflett, Nicole Shannon, Jarrod Smith, Sara Clark Pierson, Denise DuFort, Ben Cwayna and Toni Glasscoe. **Board Members Absent:** None. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Karen Frisbie, Cindy Zerbe, Sara Taylor, Lucinda Shier, Nell Pizzo, Howard Pizzo, Ashley Kuykendoll, Ashley Oneil, tim Totten, Kyle Dymond, Kim Laforet, Greg Almy, John Piper and Kim Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Smith provided an overview for making public comment to the board.

Ashley Kuykendoll addressed the board thanking everyone as we gear up for a great year, expressing concerns regarding timing of supply lists, bus routes and transportation processes and congratulating Dr. Barnes noting she hope to continue progress under his leadership.

Tim Totten addressed the board regarding the state of the superintendent search suggesting they lean toward Christianity, God and the Bible noting God was shoved out of the classroom over 100 years ago. He also questioned if there was any update on a DEI Administrator being hired.

Kyle Dymond addressed the board thanking them for their continued support of the fine arts within Grand Ledge Public Schools, noting he hopes the board will support the purchase of a trailer for the band on tonight's agenda, commending the arts programs for their inclusive nature and commending Dr. Barnes noting he is nothing but kind, knowledgable and informative and expressing his support for making his appointment permanent.

Kim Laforet addressed the board thanking Dr. Barnes and congratulating him as Interim Superintendent and expressing her appreciation for the work he has done and his strong commitment to the district over the year but expressing she believes it is prudent to post the job, interview candidates and choose the best person for the job noting she is counting on the board to live up to being transparent.

Ashley Oneil addressed the board wishing Dr. Davenport the best and commending Dr. Barnes on his appointment to Interim Superintendent expressing her appreciation for his close ties and tireless work. She expressed she believes an interview process for the next superintendent is prudent and shared concerns regarding the need for more space to expand Adventure Club for those families in need.

Cindy Zerbe addressed the board thanking them, the administration and all district staff noting the last few years have been challenging but noting everyone has risen to the challenge. She commended the summer learning program and its overwhelming success. She commending the board on appointing Dr. Barnes Acting Superintendent and encouraging the appointment be made permanent noting he is very qualified and expressing she does not believe it is prudent to waste any more time. She wished Dr. Davenport all the best.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Superintendent Replacement Process

President Shiflett opened the floor to the board members regarding the superintendent replacement process.

A detailed discussion among the members noted we have missed the hiring season, not making the community wait longer, Dr. Barnes is very well known in this community and has been successful in everything he has done, this has been and is a transparent process, the board is required by law to have a superintendent at all times, expressing Dr. Barnes will do a great job for the district if appointed, noting it was mentioned we have one of the finest candidates in the state in our midst, owing it to the community to think this through in a logical way, conducting an outside search noting this would mean waiting another year, not using the same search firm if we go back out for a search, not shooting from the hip, recognizing there has been a lot of changes in the leadership team and Dr. Barnes represents stability, feelings that the last search was not productive and not being impressed with the firm that conducted the search, this is a critical time as we are starting a new school year, expecting to see a lot more people here tonight but maybe it is because they are all in agreement with the appointment of Dr. Barnes, noting we went outside the Grand Ledge family during the last search, expressing this process has not been a secret, it has been on the local news stations and in the paper, Dr. Barnes is well known and well respected by those in the education community, not using a search firm and doing the work ourselves, not understanding how the board can be more transparent in this process than they have been noting the members are here sharing their thought process, expressing excitement because not many organizations have the opportunity Grand Ledge has, commenting Dr. Barnes has been in the interview process throughout his career, Dr. Barnes knows this district and has been a valuable member guiding us in providing the best learning environments for our students during COVID, noting Dr. Barnes has the support of Dr. Davenport and former Interim Superintendent Dr. Chapin and noting the Michigan Association of School Boards would advise against a search at this time.

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to name Dr. Bill Barnes Superintendent of Grand Ledge Public Schools, effective immediately, and direct Board President Shiflett, in conjunction with two other members of the board, to work with legal counsel and Dr. Barnes to develop and negotiate a Superintendent Employment Contract to be presented to the Board at a subsequent regular meeting for final approval.

Dr. Barnes moved to the podium to answer questions from the members and share his vision for moving the district forward where he highlighted the district's newly developed Strategic Plan and outlining the five goal areas, individually, and how they tie to instruction and the operations of the district. Sharing his belief that the Superintendent is the instructional leader of the district and needs to create an environment in which everyone can achieve their goals, being visible and approachable to the students and staff, aligning resources, transparency for all stakeholders, ensuring the fiscal integrity of the district as a whole, ensuring bond projects are getting done in a

manner that the taxpayers trusted us with while recognizing that 2018 dollars are very different than 2022 dollars but keeping the trust of our community, creating improvement teams, not just among the professional staff but with a student improvement team, a parent improvement team, community school improvement team where you meet to discuss and get input on what is working and what is not, being active within the community and maintaining community relations with all the different groups that help support our school district, ensuring alignment within the district, creating coaching conversations with all of our administrators where they have accountability to the Superintendent and the Superintendent has accountability to them, expressing he is not happy with where the district is academically noting we should be the best. He noted a growth mindset has to be continued and that mentality has to be a part of our work day in and day out, but acknowledging we are not alone in this work and there are many around the mid-Michigan area that have created really innovative programs, keeping engaged will help ensure what we are asking kids to learn in the classrooms aligns. He addressed the district processes throughout the pandemic and noting that he has the benefit of hindsight but noting we have to rely on the people that have the expertise and commenting it is hard to go back and relitigate decisions but noting he is proud of the work that was done to create virtual learning environments for students. He reiterated his belief that Grand Ledge Public Schools should be the best in the state and that, to him, is something that we have to strive for. We have to continue to work to ensure all of our students are included, welcomed and affirmed within our district ensuring our programming and work encompasses learning for all students. In closing he shared his plan for continued growth as a superintendent noting plans to participate in the Superintendent's Leadership Academy, continuing membership with the many organizations that support superintendents and the great opportunities they present, building and establishing strong relationships with other superintendents who have been in their positions for a long time as well as working with our Eaton RESA Superintendent whom he has known and worked with throughout his career. He also shared that the Central Office Leadership Team, with new members, has a fresh perspective and sharing that during his transition he was thankful to Dr. Gabriel who was slated to retire postponed his retirement to ensure he wasn't on his own throughout this transition. He shared that Dr. Gabriel cares a lot about this district and the work we are doing and they have discussed him staying on to provide another level of continuity for the district and noting they have a great working relationship. He noted the central office team is one of the strongest he has worked with commenting no one person is going to have done it all and the key is to find a team that has the skill set and he believes that we have that as a central office leadership team, as a building leadership team we have that, and our teacher leaders and employee group leadership is strong and everyone understands how the district works and their roll and is solution oriented noting he would be remiss if he didn't mention the importance of listening to our stakeholders, our community members, noting we are talking about their kids and grandkids, and their visions are important and how we operate together is an important part.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Dr. Glasscoe	<u>Yes</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Cwayna	<u>No</u>	Ms. Shannon	<u>Yes</u>
Mrs. DuFort	<u>Yes</u>	President Shiflett	<u>Yes</u>
Ms. Clark Pierson	<u>Yes</u>		

The motion carried.

Dr. Barnes expressed his appreciation for the opportunity noting he is humbled and honored.

B. Naming New Facilities

A discussion among the members noted the importance of moving forward to establish names for the new facilities and sharing ideas regarding naming the new pool at Beagle after Jason Plight who was a Grand Ledge Public Schools 1999 graduate who died in Afghanistan but while he was attending school was an avid swimmer, suggestions to honor Jim Brandt at the new Track, and the possibility of naming the Auditorium in honor of long time form choir direction Nancy Lange and former band director Mike Kauffman noting both had outstanding careers in the district with stellar, state-wide reputations.

President Shiflett appointed Ms. Shannon, Mrs. DuFort and Dr. Glasscoe to make contact with the suggested honorees and bring information back to the Board on August 22nd.

ACTION ITEMS

A. RECEIPT OF FOIA APPEAL

Motion by Mr. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Clark Pierson for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to grant Mr. Williams' FOIA appeal and direct the FOIA Coordinator to send written notice to Mr. Williams that the Board took formal action to grant his request.

Mr. Smith noted the district received a FOIA appeal from Mr. William sharing he had requested certain insurance documents related to the District's policy. At the time of the request, the records were not available. Once those records had been received, the District forwarded the requested documents to Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams requested that the board still consider his FOIA Appeal.

President Shiflett requested clarification and was advised Mr. Williams has received the documents he requested but he did not waive the appeal.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF JULY 11, 2022 REGULAR MEETING AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve July 11, 2022 Regular Meeting and Closed Session Minutes, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF TEACHER LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the leave of absence for Jessica Brown for the 2022-2023 school year, as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF BAND TRAILER PURCHASE

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the purchase of a custom band trailer from Premier Custom Trailers, LLC in the amount of \$27,945 using General Fund Dollars, as presented, noting the General Fund will be repaid by the band activity fund after completion of the band program fundraisers. The motion carried unanimously.

E. BID AWARD – DELTA CENTER

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve bid awards to Blue Star, Inc. in the amount of \$71,950 for demolition, Proline Concrete in the amount of \$189,330 for concrete foundations, Moores Trosper in the amount of \$75,800 for concrete flatwork, Lapeer Steel in the amount of \$124,413 for structural steel, Complete Enclosures in the amount of \$263,000 for masonry, Architectural Metal Panels in the amount of \$25,900 for metal panels, Glazing Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$340,450 for glass and glazing, Great Lakes Systems in the amount of \$202,000 for roofing, LJ Trumble in the amount of \$179,700 for general trades, Flairwood in the amount of \$81,970 for casework, Ritsema Building Company in the amount of \$258,520 for walls and ceilings, ASI Signage Innovations in the amount of \$5,619 for signage, Applied Flooring in the amount of \$29,888 for polished concrete floors, B&J Painting in the amount of \$26,000 for painting, Lansing Tile & Mosaic in the amount of \$2,357 and \$29,622 for hard tile and carpet/base/flooring, respectively, Vander Hyde Mechanical in the amount of \$106,855 for plumbing, Mall City Mechanical in the amount of \$986,900 for HVAC, Ewing Electric in the amount of \$295,355 for electrical, LD Clark Company in the amount of \$630,000 for site work, Kent Companies in the amount of \$109,000 for site concrete, American Asphalt in the amount of \$128,490, for asphalt paving, Lawn Sprinkler Design and Sales in the amount of \$134,806 for landscape, Driesenga Associates in the amount of \$24,900 for material testing, and Functional Consulting in the amount of \$7,280 for commissioning with a Construction Contingency of \$359,750 and General Conditions in the amount of \$127,700 for a total subcontractor award of \$4,817,555 noting the board previous approval of pre-construction work in the amount of \$232,204 for a total project budget of \$5,049,759, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this represents the start of work at Delta Center.

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

F. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF CAPITAL FUNDS INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Capital Funds Invoices in the amount of \$144,718.94, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this is for parts of the fine arts work that is eligible under this fund.

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

G. APPROVE OF FOOD SERVICE INVOICE

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of a Food Service Invoice to Stafford Smith in the amount of \$2,072.00, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this represents and invoice for work at the Beagle kitchen.

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

H. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 1 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$48,488.00, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this represents architectural fees.

The motion carried unanimously.

I. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$25,293.33, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this represents budget work for construction at Delta Center and Wacousta.

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

J. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 1 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 1 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$241,162.31 as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this represents work at the Beagle and High School pools noting the majority of work is complete.

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

K. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 2, SERIES 2 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$1,213,527.74, as presented.

Mr. Smith noted this represents construction of the fine arts and track.

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

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Mr. Deschaine congratulated Dr. Barnes and noted he is excited to move in this direction.

Mrs. Jones noted while she did not get an opportunity to work with Dr. Davenport, Dr. Barnes has worked with her since day one and noting she knows quite a few community members who will be very excited with the board's appointment.

Dr. Barnes addressed concerns expressed during public comment noting he understands the need to get our school supplies lists out earlier and will work toward improving that for next year, acknowledging he is not aware of the process for bus routes to daycare but will look into this, sharing the EDI position has not been filled and is not posted at this time, and finally acknowledging the need to expand the Adventure Club program but noting the district is limited by staff and Michigan Law but sharing that Human Resource Director Kelly Jones is looking into how we can staff the program differently.

He went on to thank the board for their faith in him and expressed his appreciation to those who showed up tonight. He noted he is excited that tomorrow we hit the ground running. He expressed very few people get the opportunity to be where he is and to be able to come back and serve his home town. He expressed his appreciation to the board, everyone in the audience and everyone watching at home.

Ms. Clark Pierson noted the board still has to negotiate a contract.

President Shiflett, along with Ms. Shannon and Mrs. DuFort will work with legal counsel to draft and contract and begin negotiations with Dr. Barnes.

Mr. Cwayna welcomed Dr. Barnes stating he has no doubt that he will do well and wishing him all the luck.

Dr. Glasscoe noted Dr. Barnes doesn't need luck because he has skill and there is a lot of work ahead of us. She shared she will be at Comet Camp tomorrow as a worker in the auto diesel lab through Eaton RESA, she thanked Mr. Ellsworth for his work on the website and specifically the bond page expressing it provided her the understanding of the phases of the bond. She wondered where the district was with schools of choice applications noting in conversations she has had parents are interested and commending the billboards and the commercials when people fill their tanks at Speedway. She also reiterated that she would be interested in being part of any conversations or brainstorming sessions regarding next year's budget and looking at creative revenue streams.

Administration shared the district has received 400 schools of choice applications, 349 have been approved noting some of those will come and some will not. Further sharing the district has received 42 release applications and 10 of those have been approved. It was noted the budget was projected with 4,781 students and at present the district enrollment is at just a little above 5,000. Last year on August 5, 2021 our enrollment was 4,813 and we are up about 200 from where we were at this time last year.

Mrs. DuFort also praised the new website design noting she has had comments from the community. She expressed that she has every confidence in Dr. Barnes and was heartened by his statements regarding his vision for the district noting she is excited to work with him to see where the district's future goes under his leadership.

Ms. Clark Pierson noted this is a good day for Grand Ledge.

Mr. Smith congratulated Dr. Barnes.

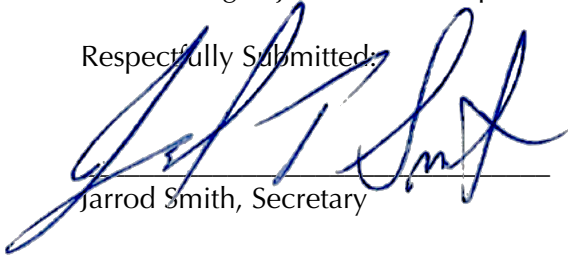
Mr. Shannon congratulated Dr. Barnes and expressed her appreciation for the comments and concerns with regard to the process. She acknowledged Dr. Glasscoe's comments that he has skill so he doesn't need luck commenting, "How lucky are we?" She noted she is proud and excited and acknowledge the district's great leaders.

President Shiflett acknowledged and agreed with all the comments from the staff and board.

ADJOURNMENT

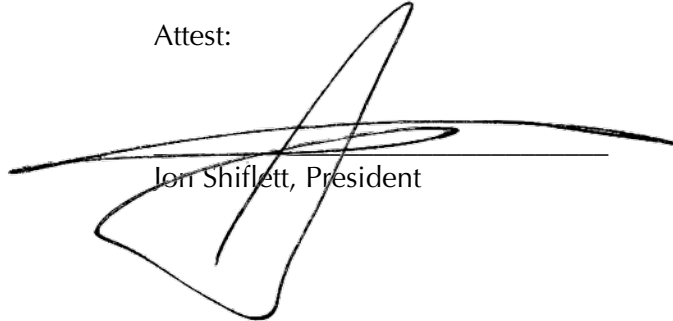
The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Jarrod Smith, Secretary

Attest:



Jon Shiflett, President