

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education

Regular Meeting – August 22, 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 Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Jon Shiflett, Nicole Shannon, Denise DuFort and Ben Cwayna. Toni Toni Glasscoe joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m. **Members Absent**: Jarrod Smith and Sara Clark Pierson. **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance**: Kim Laforet, Jan M. Seeger, Melissa Mazzola, John Piper, D’Nita Tico, Ashley Oneil, Kyle Dymond, Sally Jo Nelton, Julie Tadgerson, Kim Abed, Ashley Kuykendoll, Allyson McCann and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 22, 2022 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the August 22, 2022 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda was the August 5, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes, the August 8, 2022 Work Session Minutes, Administrative Contract Extension for the Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services, and the Teacher Hirings of Sara Gooley, Kymberlee Davis, Erin Kowalesky, Stacy Kruse, Angela Buckland, and Emily (Grierson) Baker.

The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Barnes expressed his appreciation and thanks to Dr. Gabriel for his willingness to stay on with the district and reassuming the roll of Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services. He shared he is excited for the new members joining our team and thanked Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Seida for working hard to fill open positions noting this is not the end of our hiring process for the year.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

President Shiflett shared that everyone is out campaigning for the November election and encouraged everyone to talk with the candidates sharing the importance of public education to our community and our kids.

B. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort shared information on the presentation from the Career and Technical Early College and sharing a student who attended Relevant Academy spoke sharing her experience and the support she received through the program, noted contracts were signed, addressed the shortage of psychologists and that she attended the Eaton RESA kick-off for staff and commended the speaker, Jay Marks.

C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation

Ms. Shannon noted GLEF is gearing up for the next round of teacher grants for the 2022-2023 school year and planning for an event to honor last year's grant recipients.

D. Bond Update

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided the board with an update on the landscaping outside the Beagle pool area and the track, noted construction at Delta Center noting temporary fencing will go up this week and sharing the band classroom and choir classroom at the new High School Fine Arts will be ready to go by the end of August.

Mr. Cwayna asked for clarification on the issue with the new pool at Beagle regarding the diving well.

Mr. Piper and Superintendent Barnes provided a detailed overview of the concerns and noted the district has addressed the concerns whereby the new pool will go to a one diving board well which bring it into the recommendations established by MHSAA. It was further noted that the pool passed inspection and was in compliance with all state authorities and this change was done out of an abundance of caution and at no cost to the district.

Dr. Barnes thanked Mr. Piper sharing he is happy to have him assuming this roll and thanking Dr. Johnson for his years of service to the district as the bond supervisor.

E. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Barnes noted kids return to the classroom next Wednesday. Opening Day for staff is next Monday with an all-staff presentation in the morning and then staff returning to their buildings for staff meetings and begin working in their classrooms. He shared information regarding the kindergarten launch noting he was at Delta Center's launch before the meeting and it is working well for our newest students. He noted we have approximately 70 more kindergarten students this year than last and commenting we have exceeded our budget projections but noting that all numbers remain fluid until count day. He shared we currently have 376 approved schools of choice applications and 29 approved release students with more still coming in. He shared the District Leadership Team met last Thursday and Friday to get the year off right, talk about the strategic plan and policies and procedures. In closing he shared at the last meeting there was questions about our COVID protocols for the school year noting information is still being gathered from the health department but communication will be going out to families this week noting protocols are lessened even more than last year and it should look very much more like business as usual noting he is excited to start the school year and commenting it is a good time to be a comet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

Scott Martzke addressed the board regarding active shooter events, referencing training that Grayling Public School District has undertaken, and discouraging keeping security plans in a silo noting he believes it is better to publicly announce staff training, alarm systems and where cameras are, which he stated would be a deterrent to the shooter. He played a video of the Uvalde incident noting the perpetrator entered through an open door and commenting the district must prioritize school safety.

Stacy Erwin Oakes address the board congratulating Dr. Barnes, expressing excitement about the school year and asking the board to support legislation which would make the collection of biometric information illegal once it is introduced in the Michigan legislature in the fall sharing her communication with a member of the Michigan legislature.

Kim Laforet addressed the board questioning the pool at beagle sharing it is her understanding the pool was built to NCAA standards and not MHSAA standards questioning how that was approved and asking how much it is going to cost the district to fix. She further shared that several schools have pulled out of competing and that the MMA has pulled out completely and will not allow their swimmers here in Grand Ledge. In closing she questioned a window in the coaches room that looks into the locker room.

Dawne Velianoff addressed the board congratulating Dr. Barnes and commenting on doors being left propped open, the issue with the pool at Beagle, flags not being addressed specifically Black Lives Matter flags noting students need to come to school to learn.

Ashley Oneil addressed the board asking to give her time to Scott Martzke. This request was denied.

NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION ON EATON COUNTY YOUTH FACILITY STUDENT RECEIVING DIPLOMA

Dr. Barnes noted implementing this practice would represent a change in how we do business and will require board approval so he wanted to start a discussion. As you know we oversee the Eaton County Youth Facility. Recently, there were a couple of students who had enough credits to receive a diploma. The district would need to establish requirements for this diploma and the board would have to approve those requirements. He noted these are few and far between, but when we have an instance where a student can receive a Michigan Merit Curriculum Diploma, it seems it would be in the best interest of the student to allow them that opportunity. He shared he is gathering information from the state and looking into the feasibility noting many facilities across the state do allow these students to receive their diploma and would welcome a discussion among the members.

Ms. Shannon asked if we have the administrative capacity to handle this and what it would mean for the district.

Mrs. DuFort expressed she would support giving the students the opportunity to receive their diploma sharing this is a big event for any student.

B. APPROVAL OF 2022-2023 MHSAA MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2022-2023 Michigan High School Athletic Association Membership Resolution, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Dr. Glasscoe	YES	Mrs. DuFort	YES
President Shiflett	YES	Mr. Cwayna	YES
Ms. Shannon	YES		

The motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF 2022-2023 CURRICULUM GUIDES

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2022-2023 Curriculum Guides, as presented.

A detailed discussion among the members commended the inclusion of the flowcharts for visual learners, questioning why Intro to Computers is an elective and if this curriculum shifted toward recommendations included in the EDIC report.

Dr. Barnes advised logistically, the cost of running the Intro to Computers course and the ability to have enough certified teachers to teach the course make it prohibitive to offer to all students and clarifying curriculum guides do not outline the day-to-day instruction a student receives but provides an outline of courses we are able to offer our students.

The motion carried.

D. APPROVAL OF 2022-2023 STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2022-2023 Student Handbooks, as presented.

Dr. Barnes noted the student handbooks are a living document and periodically, throughout the school year, the district leadership team will be reviewing the handbooks for further updates, which will be brought back to the board for discussion and approval, but this provides us the starting point.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Executive Director of Student Services Wendy Seida shared she is hosting a community meet and greet on Wednesday, August 24th from 9:00 – 11:00 am and 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Students, parents and the community can come in and meet and talk with her.

Dr. Barnes commented if people sitting at this table looked surprised by comments made regarding groups pulling out of competing at Grand Ledge it is because this has not been communicated with him as the Superintendent. He reiterated the MHSAA has recommendations, but not requirements and stating there has been no communication from MHSAA that we cannot

hold meets at our new facility. He shared further detail noting MHSAA recommends a depth of 12 feet and the NCAA recommends 11 feet. The diving well at Beagle is 11.5 feet. He again shared the Beagle pool is entirely up to code and has been approved by the necessary agencies for occupancy and use. However, out of an abundance of caution the district opted to go to a one diving board well and reiterating there was no cost incurred by the district for this change. He went on to point out we have a responsibility to ensure students feel safe, seen and heard in their classrooms, students should feel like they are a part of their school, emotionally and physically when they walk into their school. He commented we have a great relationship with our first responder partners and last Wednesday's AVI training was a great learning experience for all involved noting we, as a district, learned a great deal.

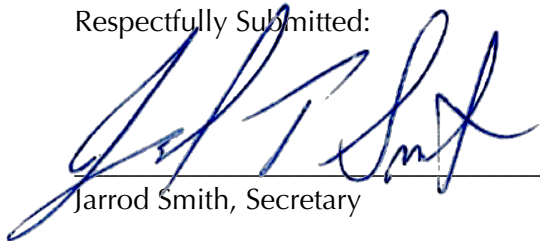
Mrs. DuFort noted she is excited to start the new year and has heard from several parents and families they are excited with the change from kindergarten round-up to the kindergarten launch providing the students an opportunity to be in their building prior to the start of the school year.

Dr. Glasscoe apologized for being late noting Lansing Community College started classes last week and she has had the opportunity to speak with many Grand Ledge graduates who are starting their post-secondary education. She further shared that she does not 100% support any organization that she is a part of, but she trusts the school district will deal with issues noting Dr. Barnes is very responsible and will do what is best for students.

ADJOURNMENT

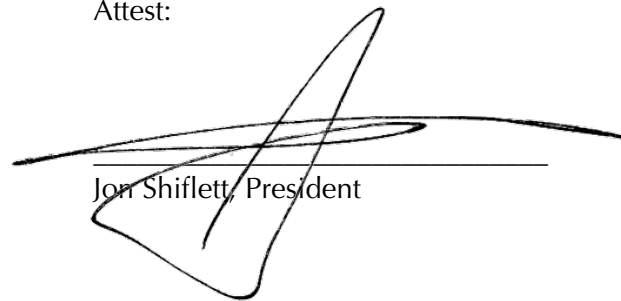
The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Jarrod Smith, Secretary

Attest:



Jon Shiflett, President