

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – September 25, 2023

MINUTES

President Smith 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**: Jarrod Smith, Toni Glasscoe, Nicole Shannon, Denise DuFort, Ben Cwayna and Ashley Kuykendoll. **Board Members Absent**: Jon Shiflett. **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine, Martez Warren and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance**: Chelsey Steen, Brenton Bell, Sarah Sullivan, Kim Laforet, Sam DiMaggio, Tim Totten and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 25, 2023 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 25, 2023 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the September 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes and the Teacher Hiring of Kayla Koonter.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. 2022-2023 Audit

Jon Ringlein, Senior Manager with Maner Costerisan presented the 2022-2023 Audit noting they are providing reasonable assurance of the numbers and that they are presented fairly. The district has received a clean opinion, which is the highest the auditing firm can give.

B. Capitol Connections Report

Dr. Glasscoe noted information regarding the MASB legislative priorities will be sent to members tomorrow and she will be looking for guidance at the next regular meeting to direct her attention and provided information regarding House Bill 4752.

C. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort noted she was not in attendance at the August 16th meeting but shared the Board received presentations from Career and Tech, Early College and Early Childhood programs. She advised the Board authorized a \$100,000 award notice from the CDC to assist in the implementation of EDI in the tri-county area. In closing she reminded

everyone to get out and vote on November 7th at the RESA has a Special Education Millage on the ballot that will provide more funding for our students.

D. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report

Ms. Shannon advised the Foundation adopted new by-laws at their meeting last week, Teacher Grant Applications are open and will be awarded in October and the Night of Stars to showcase the grant awards will be held December 7th in the Media Center at Beagle. She further shared information regarding new fundraising opportunities the Foundation is looking at while they continue the Comet Chase 5K, they are looking for ways to expand their fundraising.

E. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Report

Ms. Kuykendoll advised the committee met last week and discussed professional development the staff has been engaging in and look at the strategic plan and engaging the community to further support our students and families within the district.

F. Governance Committee Report

Ms. Shannon advised the committee did not meet, but they will be continuing policy review.

G. Bond Update

In Bond Supervisor John Piper's absence, Dr. Barnes provided an update with regard to bond projects throughout the district.

H. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Barnes congratulated our CFO Julie Waterbury and the Business Office Team on Audit. He then introduced Dr. Sean Williams from the Eaton RESA.

a. Eaton RESA Presentation

Eaton RESA Superintendent Dr. Sean Williams provided an overview of the Special Education Millage that will be on the November ballot and the impact it will have for students within the district.

b. Student Services Presentation

Executive Director of Student Services Wendy Seida shared information regarding her department including introducing her staff, the number of students being served through special education programs, 504 plans, nursing support and McKinney Vento, and providing a detailed overview of each of the programs / services offered through the Student Services Department.

I. Ongoing Discussions

Superintendent Barnes advised there is a meeting tomorrow to begin bringing the facilities plan together, noting that everything is currently in pockets and this meeting will be to provide the board with a cohesive report. He also shared that the Human Resources department is working to upload all the ADA and FMLA forms onto our website to provide ease of access and provide staff with the necessary information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

Sam DiMaggio addressed the board in reference to public use of the track and substitute teaching in the district commenting “somebody 6’ tall and weighing 200 pounds is not a child” and sharing his perceived mistreatment by the HR Director and Superintendent.

Brenton Bell addressed the board in reference to inclusion noting he feels the district needs to start making decisions about inclusivity and unnecessary politeness that has nothing to do with education.

Tim Totten addressed the board in reference to the Eaton RESA millage asking for a breakdown by student, and asking if the district will be hiring an EDI administrator and if so, will we be using COVID funds to pay for the position or will the \$100,000 the Eaton RESA received from the CDC be used to pay for the position or is that money earmarked on how it must be used.

OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF NON-DISCRIMINATION LANGUAGE

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the language contained in Option A as the non-Discrimination Language for Grand Ledge Public Schools.

A detailed discussion among the members reviewed the language options that were crafted by district legal counsel:

OPTION A

Grand Ledge Public Schools District shall provide equal opportunity and shall not discriminate in matters of employment or enrollment on the basis of age, religion, race, color, national origin, gender/sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, height, weight or marital status in its programs, services or activities.

OPTION B

Grand Ledge Public Schools District shall provide equal opportunity and shall not discriminate in matters of employment or enrollment on the basis of age, religion, race, color, national origin, gender/sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, height, weight or marital status in its programs, services or activities.

Consensus among the member was to table this item and request further consultation with district legal counsel with regard to the Crown Act.

Ms. Shannon withdrew her motion, and Mrs. Dufort withdrew her second of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF 2022-2023 AUDIT

Motion by Mrs. DuFort, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe, for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2022-2023 Audit, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 1ST READING & APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY FM415 (FOOD SERVICE – MEAL CHARGE)

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to Waive the first reading of Board Policy FM 415 (Food Service – Meal Charge) and move for immediate approval of the policy, as revised and presented.

Superintendent Barnes noted part of the implementation of the free school meals program, makes it necessary to update our current Board Policy FM 415 (Food Service - Meal Charge). Under normal circumstances, we would do a first reading and then bring the policy back to the next meeting for approval. However, the district needs to submit documents to the State on October 1 that would include noting updates to this policy. (GP206)

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Mrs. Waterbury gave a shout out to her awesome team in the business office.

Dr. Barnes thanked Mr. Bell for coming to speak to the board noting we have a responsibility to ensure all students feel welcome and are included in our programming. Addressing Mr. Totten, he noted he will look into the millage and breaking it down further but notes it is a very complex formula based on property values. Additionally, he noted we are not using ESSER fund to create any administrative positions. In closing he commented our HR Director Kelly Jones is an outstanding HR Director and he appreciates her and we cannot discuss HR issues in public.

Mrs. Kuykendoll thanked Mrs. Seida and Mrs. Waterbury. She asked Dr. Barnes if he could define what a child or minor in our school district is, by definition, expressing concern that two protected classes as related to in PA 429, the Elliott Larsen Act, which includes weight and height, could be identified as characteristics that an individual would not be a child or a minor.

Dr. Barnes remarked if you are a student at GLPS, you are a kid. We are here to support students they are all our students here at GLPS.

Mrs. Kuykendoll remarked, just to be clear, weight and height do not determine whether a child is a student in our district and will be protected as such while they are present.

Dr. Barnes confirmed Ms. Kuykendoll is absolutely correct.

Ms. Kuykendoll went on to express her appreciation to the young man who spoke noting it is valuable information and encouraged further follow up with him to ensure we are getting all the right information. In closing she thanked Dr. Barnes for reaching back out to district legal counsel.

Dr. Glasscoe gave kudos to Mrs. Seida. She went on to share information on the Great Lakes Reality Labs, noting the district's partnership and commending Dr. Barnes for getting involved with this early on, as did Dr. Williams from the Eaton RESA to offer our students, yet another, outside the box opportunity. She questioned if this partnership might lead to more CTE offerings in the district.

Dr. Barnes advised we began piloted the program in the spring, noting it would be wonderful if we could eventually tie this into CTE, but is too new right now. He further noted that Dr. Gabriel has been working with Vlad and the Eaton RESA to bring on new CTE programming, but it all takes time. He thanked Dr. Glasscoe for recognizing him as bringing this on, but remarked this was a team effort and we have a great team who is very receptive to cool new and innovative ideas.

Dr. Glasscoe questioned enrollment in the program.

Mr. Ellsworth advised we had 27 students in the Spring, noting we are rolling the full pilot this year noting some meetings coming up with our internal team as well as with our collaborators at Eaton RESA and the Reality Lab.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Attest:



Jarrod Smith, President