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

Regular Meeting – September 26, 2016

**MINUTES**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call by Superintendent Brian Metcalf indicated the presence of ***Board Members***: Linda Wacyk, Jon Shiflett, Jay Bennett, Sara Clark Pierson, Kim Mulvenna, Brody Boucher and Beverly Winstanley ***Central Office Administrators***: Brian Metcalf, Mike Johnson, Steve Gabriel, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Sutherland and Mark Deschaine. ***Others in Attendance***: Melissa Mazzolla, Greg Almy, Dana Schueller, Bruce Dunn and Kim Manning

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Mrs. Winstanley for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 26, 2016 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion by Mrs. Winstanley, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the September 26, 2016 Consent Agenda Item, as presented.**

Included on the Consent Agenda were the meeting minutes of the August 22, 2016 Regular Meeting and the September 12, 2016 Work Session.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

District employee and GLEA President Greg Almy expressed his apologies to the board for the last time he spoke to them advising his intent is to speak to the board about issues affecting teachers, but at the last meeting he spoke only of things troubling teachers and did not take the time to thank the board for the 2% bonus given to membership, noting it is much appreciated. He further shared that resolution has been reached regarding Begindergarten and 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Wacousta with regard to student numbers and they continue to work for a resolution regarding teacher longevity pay for 2015-16.

**REPORTS**

**A. AUDIT REPORT**

Bruce Dunn of Maner, Costerisan CPA expressed his appreciation to the board and its Audit Committee commending them for their diligence in ensuring the fiscal vitality of the district. He advised he meets with the Audit Committee, both with and without

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management present, prior to the start of the audit and again after the completion of the audit. He went on to provide the board with a detailed overview of the 2015-2016 financial statements. He advised there are several different numbers within the report and encouraged people to ensure they are pulling the correct number from within the report for what they are looking for. He pointed out the state continues to underfund the pension for Michigan school districts, noting this is a state issue that is not going to go away. He advised the district's general fund balance is 9.5% of expenditures. He remarked while the district's membership has increased over last year, the state's funding in the per pupil foundation has not kept up with the rate of inflation. He reviewed the district's assets and commended the board for refinancing their bonds; which will save the taxpayers \$3.3M in interest over the life of the bond. He reviewed the sinking fund noting these funds are incredibly restrictive and the district does a good job of working within the guidelines established by the state for these funds. He noted the district did have to borrow money just to pay bills and make payroll while waiting for the first state aid payment, which doesn't come in until October. Mr. Dunn further discussed Public Act 75 referencing the 3% pension contribution of employees and PA 300 that exempts the 3% contribution from FICA taxation for 2013, 2014 and 2015 noting everyone is still waiting to see if they will extend the exemption. In closing he thanked the board, the administration and the business office staff noting the business office should be commended for their diligence in ensuring a clean audit as reporting is not getting easier with the increased requirements coming from the State.

**B. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- a. **Capitol Connections Report** - Mr. Bennett reported on legislation regarding restraint / seclusion, zero tolerance, retention and expanding the use of sinking fund monies. He advised he will be attending MASB's legislative priorities setting session and encouraged his fellow board members to let him know what they would like to see MASB focus on over the next year or two.
- b. **Eaton RESA Report** – No Report.
- c. **Board Governance Committee Report** – No Report.
- d. **Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report** – Mr. Bennett advised GLEF is accepting teacher grant applications through this Friday. Application is online.
- e. **Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Report** – On behalf of Mr. Boucher, Superintendent Metcalf advised the boat launch is scheduled to be completed in late October, the steps near the bridge to Island Park are poured and will be open after the guardrail is installed, the East River Street project is slated to be complete by the end of October and a draft of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan has been disseminated to members and will be available to the public for comment and review in October.

- C. Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Metcalf advised the district continues to monitor student enrollment noting a current enrollment of 5,209 but the number continues to ebb and flow and does not reflect students attending the Eaton County Youth Facility or shared partnership students that average about 25-30 students each. He reminded

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Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> is our fall pupil count day He noted the district conducted its 5<sup>th</sup> day of 5D training, the new teacher evaluation model noting there is still one more training session. In closing, he noted construction of the Dream Depot 2.0 begins next Wednesday September 28 and continues through October 2. Volunteers are still needed. who are responsible for teacher evaluations. Number of teachers also included in the training. Major endeavor. Moving into a new evaluation model. One more day of training coming. Help teachers improve, support mechanism, more than an evaluation team. Dream Depot 2.0 construction begins this week on Wednesday, conclude on Sunday. We have turned the lights on at Wacousta, all the equipment and materials up there, for security purposes.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. ACCEPTANCE OF 2015-2016 AUDIT**

**Motion by Mrs. Mulvenna, seconded by Mr. Bennett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to accept the 2015-2016 Audit, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS**

GLEA President Greg Almy addressed the amount of testing at the elementary level.

Mr. Gabriel clarified the testing requirements in accordance with state requirements.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF**

Assistant Superintendent Steve Gabriel welcomed the Lohne Germany Exchange students to Grand Ledge Public Schools. This is an exchange program that has been in the district for 35 years and kicked off this morning with a tour of the high school and tonight the district is hosting a Welcome Pot Luck. He commended High School teachers Amy Firtl and Adam Orange as they have organized this year's event.

Superintendent Metcalf commended Mrs. Rasinske and all the business office staff on the success of the audit. He noted Mr. Dunn lives in our district and takes great interest in the district and our financial status because of his hometown pride.

Chief Financial Office Nancy Rasinske thanked her staff and everyone involved in the audit.

Mrs. Mulvenna asked about the transition to the new accounting software.

Mrs. Rasinske noted the system will go live on May 1, 2017 with the expectation the first payroll payments will take place on July 1, 2017. Additional aspects of the program will be added incrementally.

President Wacyk spoke to the questions posed about elementary testing advising that every test we give has a purpose. She remarked on the early literacy requirements from the state and the tests we utilize, while not used for "high stakes", does provide us with the opportunity to intervene early.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

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Jay Bennett, Secretary

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Linda Wacyk, President