

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – November 10, 2025

MINUTES

President DuFort called the meeting to order at p.m. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Coban Holmes, Matt Oppenheim, Kali Stevens, Nicole Shannon, Toni Glasscoe, Ashley Kuykendoll and Denise DuFort. **Board Members Absent:** None. **Central Office Administrators:** Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Adrienne Barna, Wendy Seida, Bill Albrecht, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance:** Nancy Clark Coleman, David Coleman, Tim Totten, Melissa Mazola, Taryn Reyes, James Reyes, John Katie Grass, Karley Rickstad, Taylor Bauchan, John Piper, and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 10, 2025 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the November 10, 2025 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the October 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes and two Closed Session Minutes and the teacher hiring of Matthew Leslie.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION

A. MILITARY VETERANS RECOGNITION

Each November, in alignment with Veterans Day, the Board takes a moment to recognize military veterans who are members of the community or currently working with the district. This year, the Board of Education Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee has selected current community member, James Reyes and current Student Services Executive Assistant, Karley Rickstad.

First Sergeant James Reyes

Retired First Sergeant James Reyes is a proud U.S. Army Veteran who honorably served 20 years as a Field Artilleryman. A native of Killeen, Texas, he enlisted in 2005 out of Arlington, Texas and retired in Grand Ledge, Michigan, on April 30, 2025.

Throughout his distinguished career, First Sergeant Reyes served in a wide range of leadership and technical roles, including Fire Control Sergeant, Recruiter, Master Gunner, and First Sergeant, with three deployments to Iraq and one to Afghanistan in support of combat operations. His final assignment was as the Senior Military Instructor for the Army ROTC Spartan Battalion at Michigan State University, where he mentored and trained future Army officers.

While serving on active duty, he earned both a Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Science and a Master's degree in Project Management, reflecting his commitment to continuous learning and professional growth. He now serves as a Project Manager with the Michigan Lottery, supporting statewide technology initiatives. Outside of work, he remains active in the Grand Ledge community as the Head Coach of the 5th Grade Travel Basketball Silver Team. Originally from Killeen, Texas, he and his family are proud to now call Grand Ledge home and are grateful to be part of such a supportive and welcoming community.

Gunnery Sergeant Karley Rickstad

Gunnery Sergeant Karley Rickstad retired from the United States Marine Corps in February 2025 after 12 years of dedicated service which included two and half years of foreign service.

While serving, Sergeant Rickstad was deployed four times to over 18 different countries. She received two Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medals, four Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Medals, and three awards for the Global War on Terrorism for service in Saudi Arabia, Yanbu/Behrain (Middle East) and Korea.

Karley currently serves the District as the Executive Assistant supporting our Central Office Student Services Department and Executive Director Wendy Seida.

Dr. Barnes expressed thanks to all active service persons and veterans of our community and across the country.

REPORTS

A. CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

Dr. Glasscoe shared information and details about a joint research project between the Michigan Association of School Boards and the Michigan Community College Association that supports college readiness. She emphasized we need to focus on what we are to make sure our students are meeting the K-12 requirements, but also helping along those who are looking at post-secondary opportunities.

B. EATON RESA

President DuFort advised the Board has not met as of today.

C. GRAND LEDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Ms. Shannon shared the Foundation will hold their Night of Stars on December 4th, at 6:00 p.m. in the media center at Beagle to celebrate this year's grant awardees. She also shared information about the upcoming Trivia Night fundraiser and the throwback t-shirt fundraiser. Details on the fundraiser can be found at www.glef.net.

D. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Ms. Kuykendoll shared the committee discussed pro-active measures to engage across all of our building to prepare our families for our curriculum ensuring we are not overlooking our distance learners to ensure we are connecting all of our families and students.

E. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Holmes shared the committee reviewed and approved revisions to board policy 5517.01 which is up for first reading tonight and made some plans for their December meeting that will result in more information in the upcoming meetings.

F. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Kuykendoll noted the committee hasn't met.

Dr. Barnes noted a budget amendment will be forthcoming and will be brought to the Finance Committee first.

G. BOND UPDATE

Bond and Capital Projects Director John Piper provided updates on construction work at the High School, Neff, Wacousta and the Morris property. He also shared that there are enough funds left over in the bond to complete the Delta Center gymnasium and work has begun with GMB and Clark to make that happen.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Barnes shared the district had another successful staff Professional Development (PD) Day on Friday and recognizing the work that goes into planning PD sharing the structure is paying a lot of dividends in the way we think and collaborate. He went on to further discuss the remaining bond funds commending Mr. Piper, former CFO Julie Waterbury and current CFO Adrienne Barna for turning things around and moving us forward in a meaningful and thoughtful manner. In closing he noted the district recently put our Request for Proposals (RFP) for Architecture and Construction Management and noted we received a lot of interest. He is hopeful to have recommendations for the Board's consideration in December.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Secretary Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

Tim Totten addressed the board volunteering to serve as a parent volunteer on the Comprehensive Health Advisory Team and expressed his concerns regarding reproductive health teaching at Grand Ledge High School.

OLD BUSINESS

A. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Holmes advised this was discussed at length in the Governance Committee and now we have something we can review as a whole.

President DuFort shared information regarding a Student Advisory Council model that Traverse City Schools presented at one of her sessions at the Leadership Conference.

A detailed discussion among the members noted that having a student representative to the board has been an ongoing conversation and possibly having a Student Advisory Council as a group that would report to the student who is serving as the student representative to the board, seeing these as two separate items but both great options, not feeling the board would be involved in building a student advisory council, and consensus of the members that the idea deserves more discussion and consideration as it might bring a broader voice to the table and the time already spent on a student representative should not be a factor as the board should want to ensure we are hearing from the students.

Dr. Barnes noted he will see the Traverse City Superintendent later this week and will get more information on the Advisory Council and work with Dr. Gabriel, Dr. Wright, and Mr. Ellsworth to get feedback from our students and bring more information back to the board.

B. APPROVAL TO RESCIND BOARD POLICIES AND APPROVE REVISED BOARD POLICIES

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Holmes for the Garnd Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve rescinding Board Policies 1422.02, 1622, 3122.02, 3362, 4122.02 and 4362, and approve Board Policies 1623, 2260, 2260.01, 3123, 4123, 2210, 2266, 2412, 4162, 5120, 7540.02, 8305, 1422, 3122 and 4122 as revised and presented.

Dr. Barnes reviewed the process for policy revisions noting that he and Dr. Gabriel meet with our Neola representative to go over possible revisions, then the Governance Committee reviews the revisions and if they have any questions or concerns we reach back out to NEOLA. The final step is bringing the proposed revised policies to the full board for a first reading and even though we waive the first reading of the policies as they are being recommended, the members have two weeks, or more, to review each of the policy revisions. He noted this is a very systematic and thoughtful process.

A detailed discussion among the members reviewed the revisions and questions were answered.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF NEW COURSE OFFERING

Motion by Mr. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Michigan History virtual course offering at the Middle School level, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. REVISED BOARD POLICY – 1ST READING

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to waive the first reading of revised Board Policy 5517.01.

Dr. Barnes explained the Governance Committee had some questions on this policy so it was pulled back from the group of policies just approved and we consulted with NEOLA to ensure we maintained the legal aspect of the policy.

A detailed discussion among the members reviewed the revisions and questions were answered.

C. APPROVAL OF TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT PURCHASES

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2018 Bond Technology Purchase from RedGuard Fire & Security in the amount of \$42,840.19 for access control upgrades and the General Fund REMC purchase from People Driven Technology in the amount of \$899,936 for Chromebook upgrades for students grade 3 through 8 and Chromebooks assigned to staff, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this was discussed in the Bond and Sinking Fund Committee and approved to be brought forward for the board's consideration.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$82,751.61, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this represents invoices for a sign at Holbrook, the PA system at Operations, partial payment for baseball netting and final trades billings for the Neff secure entry.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF CAPITAL PROJECTS INVOICE

Motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of a Capital Projects Invoice in the amount of \$158,586, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this is for the community stadium scoreboard.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 3 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Oppenheim for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 3 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$680,483.72, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this represents progress billing from Clark Construction, uninterrupted power supply and trade work at the high school.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF PROPOSAL 1, SERIES 4 BOND INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Oppenheim, seconded by Ms. Shannon for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 4 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$59,837.09, as presented.

Ms. Shannon noted this represents progress billing from Clark Construction, furniture for Willow Ridge and Hayes, permits and trade work at Willow Ridge, Hayes, Operations and Wacousta.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF & BOARD

Ms. Seida noted she is proud of Karley Rickstad for her service and is glad she is a part of her team.

Dr. Barnes thanked Mr. Totten for his comments noting we will continue to discuss and work to ensure we are following our processes.

Mr. Holmes expressed his appreciation of everyone's work going into Parent/Teacher conferences.

Mr. Oppenheim shared his experience visiting Hayes Intermediate School and thanking Mr. Leopold for taking the time to show him around. He visited the CI and intensive ASD classes and the technology class and spent time in Mr. Palacios' and Mrs. Savage's classrooms.

Ms. Stevens thanked her colleagues for making her comfortable to engage, she thanked the PTOs for feeding our staff during Parent/Teacher Conferences and reminding everyone to get their tickets for Footloose.

Dr. Glasscoe commended Dr. Barnes for his leadership noting she noticed the change when he became Superintendent remarking he had a plan and he was firm in that plan and it has brought about an uptick in transparency and visibility and she just wanted to ensure he knows that this is seen and recognized.

Ms. Shannon expressed her excitement about the Delta Center gym and thanked everyone for making it happen.

Ms. Kuykendoll extended her thanks to all of our military and veterans in our community and across the United States. She gave a shout out to her colleagues expressing this a very engaged board with passionate people in this space. She went on to share her experience during her recent building visits noting she had a building administrator share with her their appreciation for Dr. Barnes not only for his commitment to instructional leadership but for showing up and being present. In closing she commented we are very lucky to have such a great superintendent.

President DuFort noted she believes her colleagues have covered everything and emphasizing she agrees that we have a great staff and great leadership.

CLOSED SESSION – Material Exempt from Disclosure – Attorney/Client Privilege

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of reviewing Material Exempt from Disclosure – Attorney/Client Privilege, as Per Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>
President DuFort	<u>YES</u>	Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Holmes	<u>YES</u>	Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>		

The motion carried unanimously at 8:53 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The board reconvened in Open Session at 9:41p.m.

CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Dr. Glasscoe for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations Strategies, as Per Section 8(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

President DuFort	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Holmes	<u>YES</u>
Mr. Oppenheim	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Stevens	<u>YES</u>

Dr. Glasscoe	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Shannon	<u>YES</u>
Ms. Kuykendoll	<u>YES</u>

The motion carried unanimously at 9:42 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The board reconvened in Open Session at 10:16p.m.

APPROVAL OF LETTER OF AGREEMENT (LOA) #12

Motion by Ms. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Holmes to approve Letter of Agreement #11 between the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education and the Grand Ledge Education Association, as presented. The motion carried unanimously with Mr. Oppenheim and Ms. Stevens abstaining from the vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Denise DuFort, President