

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education

Regular Meeting – December 11, 2023

MINUTES

Secretary Shannon 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 Bill Barnes indicated the presence of **Board Members**: Nicole Shannon, Jon Shiflett, Denise DuFort, Ben Cwayna and Ashley Kuykendoll. **Board Members Absent**: Jarrod Smith and Toni Glasscoe **Central Office Administrators**: Bill Barnes, Steve Gabriel, Julie Waterbury, Wendy Seida, Kelly Jones, Mark Deschaine and John Ellsworth. **Others in Attendance**: Brenton Bell, Ashleigh Lore, Kimberly Wheat, Ashleigh Shepard, Teresa Dyer, Destanie Johnson, Jenna Riekse, Melissa Mazzola, Meg McCardell, Erika Sheets, Holden Salmon, Amanda Salmon, Cali Rushton, Luke Rushton, Brock Rushton, Ann Paquette-Lukens, Jaslyn Mann, Tim Totten, Sally Jo Nelton, John Piper and Kim Manning

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett, seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the December 11, 2023 Agenda Items, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll, seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the December 11, 2023 Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Included on the Consent Agenda were the November 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes, the hiring of Chris Chester as the School Safety Supervisor and the Teacher Leave of Absence for Kayla Koonter.

Dr. Barnes reviewed the interview process for the hiring of the district's School Safety Supervisor. He noted it was an outstanding process with multiple good candidates. He shared that Chris Chester, who current serves as our Liaison Officer at Grand Ledge High School rose to the top noting his knowledge, approach and understanding of school safety. He noted Officer Chester is currently a member of the Grand Ledge Police Department and is a nationally certified trainer in multiple areas of school safety. He explained this position will be governed by the Central Officer Supervisor Handbook and school safety grant dollars are being used to fund the position. In closing he remarked he is excited to have him on board and Chris will begin in this new position in January.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Capitol Connections Report

In Dr. Glasscoe's absence, Mr. Shiflett shared the legislature recessed early this year to spend extended time in their districts. He noted this is a great opportunity for you to talk with legislators and remind them of the importance of public education.

B. Eaton RESA Report

Mrs. DuFort noted there was no report as the Board meets next week.

C. Grand Ledge Education Foundation Report

Ms. Shannon noted the Foundation Board continues to meet to begin planning their 5K Chase fundraiser and thanked Dr. Gabriel for taking over the lead on this event. She noted there are lots of exciting things happening with the GLEF.

D. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Report

Ms. Kuykendoll noted the committee did not meet.

E. Governance Committee Report

Ms. Shannon shared the committee did meet and went through the 9000's NEOLA board policies which will be reviewed late in the meeting.

F. Bond Update

Bond Supervisor John Piper provided the board with an update on construction of the new Wacousta Elementary School noting everything is on schedule, bids for construction at Neff Early Childhood Center for the board's consideration tonight, reviewed the bid process for the high school noting some issues with the bids for HVAC and electrical noting these items will go back out for bid on December 19th with post bid interviews the second week of January.

G. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Barnes thanking Mr. Piper for all he does in overseeing the construction projects and keeping Wacousta on track. He then introduced Delta Center Principal Teresa Dyer who, along with staff and students will highlight their school.

a. Delta Center Elementary Presentation

Delta Center Principal Teresa Dyer shared the new and improved DC following bond construction, shared the Delta Center MICIP Goals, explained the instructional focus, small group instruction, and TLT Observations. She shared an overview of the NWEA Reading score increase, continuing education for teachers, and growth from that continuing education.

Delta Center teacher Kim Wheat shared successes in kindergarten, teacher Cali Rushton shared 1st grade success with 1st grade student Brock sharing an example of a secret story about QU and sang the math doubles song. Teacher Kim Wheat shared 2nd grade successes, students Holden and Luke shared 3rd grade successes highlighting the Twelve Days of Giving and how it ties into math standards and learning about holidays around the world. Students Remi, Sophia, Makenna and Jaslyn shared 4th grade successes in math, reading, science and social studies.

H. Ongoing Discussions

Superintendent Barnes noted no new updates since the last meeting but noted he did share a draft of the long-term suspension and expulsion process with board members. He encouraged them to share their feedback so we can get this information posted on the website in January.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Shannon read the rules for addressing the board.

Tim Totten expressed he is heartened to hear about Orton Gillingham training, questioned where the district is at with the hiring of the Student Inclusion and Mental Health Supervisor, shared his experience at a recent Potterville Public School Board Meeting, expressed his appreciation for the board's previous discussion on opening up committee meetings, and questioned if the sex education advisory board is appointed every year.

Brenton Bell expressed his disappointment in the book Looking for Alaska by John Green being in the high school library and the student led rally that will take place on Thursday.

OLD BUSINESS

A. BOARD COMMITTEES DISCUSSION

Superintendent Barnes noted he did confer with district legal counsel as instructed by the board noting it is permissible to open the committee meetings to the public but not follow the Open Meetings Act as there is not a quorum of the board serving on committees and the committees are advisory only with no decisions being made by the committee, there is no requirement for posting or public comment during the committee meetings.

A detailed discussion among the members had Mrs. DuFort broadening the discussion to change the board meeting schedule to one meeting per month versus two with concerns expressed about how long the meetings would be if there was only one per month, noting models from other districts who have opened their committees to the public varies by district, noting committees are for board members to collaborate with the superintendent and are set at times that work for the board members and changes in the meeting, i.e., in person moving to Zoom, can happen at the last minute, opening them for transparency sake but if it impinges on the committee's ability to get work done they are shut down, and piloting opening the meetings to see how thing go, . Questions were raised if the board does not open their committee meetings to the public, is there an option to open only a specific meeting, on a specific date to the public or is it all or nothing? It was reiterated that board committees has no decision making authority and all decisions are made at the board table.

Superintendent Barnes noted he will work with President Smith on the Agenda for the Organizational Meeting and ensuring this matter is brought to a vote before any committee assignments are made.

NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF THE 2023-2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION

Motion by Mrs. DuFort seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Amendment Resolution, as presented.

Chief Financial Officer Julie Waterbury provided the board with a detailed overview of the 2023-2024 Budget Amendment reviewing the June Budget, sharing projected increased revenue and projected increased expenditures, setting aside money for cyclical replacement of technology and building maintenance similarly to what is currently in place for busses. In closing she shared the projected fund balance of 12.1%.

Mrs. DuFort asked and received clarification for codes 230 & 240 noting 230 is general administration which includes the board and superintendent and 240 which is school administration being principals and school buildings and codes 280 & 290 noting 280 is central support including those services covered under central office including non-instructional technology and 240 is other support including athletics.

Superintendent Barnes explained the board will receive another budget update in March noting the budget process to start preparing for next year will begin right after break to ensure our next steps, what we need to do and what we need to do better.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ms. Kuykendoll YES
Ms. Shannon YES
Mr. Shiflett YES

Mrs. DuFort YES
Mr. Cwayna YES

The motion carried unanimously.

B. 1ST READING OF NEOLA BOARD POLICIES – 9000 RELATIONS

Motion by Mr. Shiflett seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to waive the 1st Reading of NEOLA Board Policies, 9000 Relations. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Shannon led the board in a review of NEOLA Board Policies 9000.

C. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Motion by Mrs. DuFort seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the appointment of the District School Improvement Team (DSIT) and the Caregiver School Improvement Team (CSIT) as the District Professional Development Advisory Committee.

Superintendent Barnes noted this is because we use PD time as instructional time and these committees are doing the same work so we are asking the board to appoint them to meet the letter of the law.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF SPARROW EATON HEALTH CENTER FORMS & POLICIES

Motion by Mr. Shiflett seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the draft versions of the Sparrow Eaton Consent Form, Consent Policy and Disclosure of Protected Health Information to Report Child Abuse or other Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence Policy, and direct Superintendent Bill Barnes to follow up with Sparrow Eaton on the questions and clarifications provided by the Community Advisory Committee.

Superintendent Barnes shared the forms were reviewed by the Community Advisory Committee who had comments and feedback but to ensure we continue to meet the timeline for the health center, we need to have the board's approval of these draft forms prior to December 31. He noted he will be bring final version prior to the opening.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF 2024 SUMMER TAX RESOLUTION

Motion by Mr. Shiflett seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the 2024 Summer Tax Resolution, as presented.

Mr. Shiflett noted this is an annual resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ms. Shannon YES
Mr. Shiflett YES
Mrs. DuFort YES

Mr. Cwayna YES
Ms. Kuykendoll YES

The motion carried unanimously.

F. APPROVAL OF UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Motion by Ms. Kuykendoll seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the Updated Strategic Plan Goals, as presented.

Superintendent Barnes noted these updated goals are rooted in data and while they are ambitious, they are used to drive the work of the district. He noted having this process of continually analyzing and updating our goals keeps them at the forefront and keeps us accountable to our Strategic Plan.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. APPROVAL OF BID AWARDS – BOND – NEFF EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Motion by Mr. Shiflett seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Bond Bid Awards to Functional Consulting Services in the amount of \$9,180 for Commissioning, Blue Star in the amount of \$54,950 for Selective Demolition, Dobie Construction in the amount of \$67,200 for Rough Carpentry and General Trades, Division 7 Building Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$86,140 for Roofing, VanderHyde Mechanical in the amount of \$49,750 for Plumbing, Myers Plumbing & Heating in the amount of \$718,000 for HVAC and Hydronic Piping and Buist Electric in the amount of \$63,700 for Trade Base Bids totaling \$1,048,920 with a construction contingency of \$73,424 and general conditions in the amount of \$20,978 for a Total Bid Award of \$1,143,322 for renovations at Neff Early Childhood Center, as presented.

Mrs. DuFort noted the majority of this cost is for HVAC updates.

The motion carried unanimously.

H. APPROVAL OF BID AWARDS – BOND – NEFF EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Motion by Mr. Shiflett seconded by Mr. Cwayna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve Sinking Fund Bid Awards to Functional Consulting Services in the amount of \$3,800 for Commissioning, Blue Star in the amount of \$20,000 for Selective Demolition, Division 7 Building Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$218,663 for Roofing, Eagle Enterprise of Michigan, Inc. in the amount of \$69,040 for Metal Wall Panels, and Myers Plumbing & Heating in the amount of \$60,250, for Sinking Fund Trade Alternate Bid contracts totaling \$371,753 with a construction contingency in the amount of \$26,023 and general conditions of \$7,435 for a Total Bid Award of \$405,211 for renovations at the Neff Early Childhood Center, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF CAPITAL FUNDS INVOICES

Motion by Mr. Cwayna seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Capital Funds Invoices in the amount of \$31.97, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Mr. Cwayna seconded by Ms. Kuykendoll for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 1, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$2,427,193.07, as presented.

Mrs. DuFort noted this is for Wacousta.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Mrs. DuFort seconded by Mr. Shiflett for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Proposal 2, Series 2 Bond Invoices in the amount of \$13,576.89, as presented.

Mrs. DuFort noted this is work at the Fine Arts.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Superintendent Barnes noted there is another Governance Committee meeting for next week on Wednesday at 5:30 to finish up the NEOLA Policy Review. In answering questions raised in public comment he shared that we are currently in the process of interviewing for our Student Inclusion and Mental Health Supervisor noted we have many outstanding candidates and we are following the same process used for our School Safety Supervisor with hopes of finalizing the process before the holidays, the Sex Education Advisory Board is not brought annually but is brought back to the board with any changes to the membership, the Library Collection Guide is available online on the Academic Services webpage and outlines how books are chosen for our libraries which is a board approved document, we have a responsibility to ensure that we are living up to the ideals in our Strategic Plan to create an inclusive environment. There was a concern raised about conversations happening at the high school and again we need to ensure students can elevate their voices in a safe and productive manner. He remarked he trusts Dr. Wright's leadership and how that happens at the high school. In closing he remarked about the great job Delta Center staff and students did and thanking Mrs. Waterbury for pulling together the budget amendment.

Ms. Kuykendoll thanked Delta Center and Mrs. Waterbury.

Mr. Cwayna noted he had a conversation with a community member and she asked me to pass along that she would like to see us provide more information about our school events and happening to senior citizens communities noting a lot of them like to come to the plays, musical and athletic events.

Mrs. DuFort expressed her excitement in the hiring of Chris Chester noting he has done an amazing job for Grand Ledge Schools coupled with his background and certifications she is excited to have him on staff in this new role. She shared she went out and toured Delta Center and being a former

staff person, to see the extra corridor is huge in the ability to get kids moving through the halls without the over-crowding. She remarked on the music and art room. She further shared she was able to attend the Education Foundation's Night of Stars where teacher grant recipients share their awards and how they are using them noting there were so many teachers there who are so excited to receive these funds. In closing she wished the staff, students and their families Happy Holidays.

Mr. Shiflett noted he will commit to being better at powering on his microphone in 2024. He further committed to running in the Foundation's 5K fundraiser.

Dr. Barnes also committed to running in the 5K.

Ms. Shannon thanked Mrs. DuFort for bringing up the Night of Stars expressing her apologies for the oversight on her part. She shared International Night will be held on April 13, 2024 at Beagle.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Cwayna, seconded by Mrs. DuFort 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:

Mr. Shiflett YES
Mrs. DuFort YES
Mr. Cwayna YES

Ms. Kuykendoll YES
Ms. Shannon YES

The motion carried unanimously at 8:24 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 9:22 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Nicole Shannon, Secretary

Attest:



Jarrod Smith, President