

**Minutes of Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
**The Board of Trustees**  
**Gull Lake Community Schools**

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A Board of Education Regular Meeting of the Gull Lake Community Schools was held on the 21st day of October 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Thomas M. Ryan Intermediate Media Center, Richland, Michigan.

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**3. Roll Call**

**A. Present**

Desiree LaDuke, Eddie Keene, Laura Zervic, Krystal Scott-Rhodes, John McCann (arrived at 7:16 p.m.)

**B. Absent**

Carole Mendez, Mini Paulose-Murphy

**C. Staff Members**

Superintendent Christopher Rundle, Deputy Superintendent Lisa Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instructional Technology Drew Bordner and Recording Secretary Danelle Wheeler

**D. Guests Present**

Paul Liabenow, Bonnie Liabenow, Kelly Wendzel, Corey VanDyke, Suzy Barrett, Rob Woodrow, Bruce Krogel, Lynnette Walker, Danielle Buckmaster, Carmen Maring, Tia Vacha, Deputy Adam Kelm, Don Eastman, Ariela Spartz, Jen Salinas, Desiree Mills

**4. Plante Moran Presentation on Annual Financial Audit**

Corey VanDyke of Plante Moran presented the results of the financial Audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The audit went well, and we were given an unmodified opinion, which is the highest level, in accordance with accounting principles. The Board commended Plante Moran, the Business Office Team, and the Finance Committee for all their hard work.

**5. Communications/Public Comments**

**A. Public Comments**

Tia Vacha – Teacher & GLEA President: Addressed the Board to highlight happenings around the District including the Ryan Rally that raised \$39,000 for the school, GLMS is celebrating good behavior nominations, and the GLMS Student Senate and GLMS Student Cabinet are up and running.

Ariela Spartz – Parent: Addressed the Board regarding the safety and security of their children and the possibility of utilizing additional funds to provide fencing around Ryan Intermediate.

**B. Superintendent Comments**

October is National Principals Month; thank you all, you go above and beyond and we're lucky to have you in our District. The success of school districts is largely due to the length of leadership in place and a lot of you have been here for a long time.

**C. Deputy Superintendent Comments**

Deputy Superintendent Anderson thanked all the principals for their hard work and expressed her appreciation for all they do for the District, students, and administration.

**D. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instructional Technology Comments**

Assistant Superintendent Bordner stated the District will continue work with engagement strategies. The GLHS is hosting instructional rounds, and the School Improvement Team is partnering with principals this year. Happy Principals Month!

**E. Board President Comments**

President Mendez not present. Vice President LaDuke echoed the sentiments for National Principals Month. She has had the opportunity to visit some of the buildings; hoping to get out to the other buildings soon.

The Board and Committee Goals will be reviewed in December.

**6. Consent Agenda**

**A. Board Minutes:** September 16, 2024 Regular and Closed Minutes

**B. Accounts Payable:** September 2024 Accounts Payable Report

It was moved by Treasurer Zervic and supported by Trustee Scott-Rhodes to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Presentations & Reports**

**A. Michigan Elementary & Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA) – 2023 Principal of the Year**

Paul Liabenow, Executive Director of MEMSPA, was present to honor Dr. Carmen Maring, the 2023 MEMSPA Principal of the Year recipient. He shared the nomination letter with the Board. Congratulations, Dr. Maring!

**B. Bond Update**

Trustee McCann provided an update on the projects that are happening throughout the District, much of the work is punch list items. There are two (2) bid packages being put together for additional improvements; One is for work at the middle school, Ryan Intermediate, and Bedford. One is for cold storage at the GLCFA and Maintenance. The Kellogg Outdoor Classroom is moving forward with an inspection and completion by the end of the month.

**C. Board of Education Community Relations Committee**

The Committee met in September and discussed ways to connect with the community. Vice President LaDuke encouraged Board Members to submit their photo to Danelle Wheeler so that they may get an ID Badge.

**D. Board of Education Curriculum Committee**

The Committee met and discussed the GLMS 6th Grade ELA Novel Curriculum Proposal that will be presented to the Board for consideration under New Business.

The Committee reviewed the District Improvement Plans & Vision.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Update**

Trustee Scott-Rhodes reported that the Subcommittee did not meet this month. The meetings will resume in the second trimester and will continue once per trimester with Administration and Board Members to ensure that the District continues its DEI efforts.

**E. Board of Education Facilities Committee**

The Committee met and discussed Ryan/District Grounds, District Improvement Plan - Athletic Department, and Bond Updates.

**F. Board of Education Finance Committee**

The Committee met and discussed the Plante Moran Financial Audit Presentation. The other items discussed were the Superintendent Wage Recommendation, Paraprofessional Wage Recommendation, and the Professional Staff Probation & Tenure that will be presented to the Board for consideration under New Business.

**G. Board of Education Negotiations/Personnel Committee**

The Committee met and discussed 1) Paraprofessional Wage Recommendation; 2) Wage Recommendations; 3) Professional Staff Probation & Tenure; 4) Insulin Litigation – Thrun Law; 5) Social Media Litigation – Thrun Law; 5) Transportation Update; 6) Open Positions

**H. Board of Education Policy Committee**

The Committee did not meet.

**8. Old Business – none**

**9. New Business**

**A. Policy 5301 – Compulsory Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy**

Vice President LaDuke presented Policy 5301 – Compulsory Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy to the Board. Since the establishment of the Policy in 2020, the number of days a student is absent for the school year (12) versus absentees in any term (8) were transposed.

It was moved by Treasurer Zervic and supported by Trustee Scott-Rhodes to approve Policy 5301 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Wage Recommendations**

Deputy Superintendent Anderson presented the wage recommendation for the non-represented group to the Committee in the amount of 2%. This includes Administrators, Central Office Staff, AACC – Child Care Staff, Maintenance, Mechanics, Dispatch Staff, Home School, Transportation, and Custodians.

It was moved by Treasurer Zervic, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, to adopt the Wage Recommendation in the amount of 2% as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**C. Superintendent Wage Recommendation**

Treasurer Zervic presented the Wage Recommendation of 2% for the Superintendent.

It was moved by Treasurer Zervic, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, to adopt the Wage Recommendation of 2% for the Superintendent. Motion passed unanimously.

**D. Paraprofessional Wage Recommendation**

Deputy Superintendent Anderson presented the Paraprofessional Wage Recommendation to the Board; a brief overview was given.

It was moved by Treasurer Zervic, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, to approve the Paraprofessional Wage Recommendation as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**E. Professional Staff Probation & Tenure**

Deputy Superintendent Anderson recommended the Professional Staff Probation & Tenure be approved as presented.

It was moved by Treasurer Zervic, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, to approve the Professional Staff Probation & Tenure as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**F. GLMS 6th Grade ELA Novel Curriculum Proposal**

Assistant Superintendent Bordner presented the GLMS 6th Grade ELA Novel Curriculum Proposal to the Board for their review.

It was moved by Vice President LaDuke, on behalf of the Curriculum Committee, to approve the GLMS 6th Grade ELA Novel Curriculum Proposal as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**G. Overnight Trip Request for Ryan Intermediate 5th Grade**

Principal Woodrow requested permission on behalf of Ryan Intermediate for the 5th Grade Trip to Sherman Lake YMCA, May 19-21, 2025, and May 21-23, 2025.

It was moved by Treasurer Zervic and supported by Trustee McCann to approve the Overnight Trip Request for 5th Grade as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business Vice President LaDuke adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

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Vice President Desiree LaDuke

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Acting Secretary Krystal Scott-Rhodes

Minutes approved: \_\_\_\_\_