

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

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 stated ID Badges for Board Members are available.

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 has not met this year. Working with Administration to discuss the future of the group. Meetings will pivot from meeting monthly to once every trimester and will resume in the 2nd trimester.

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; there were some numbers transposed since the inception of the Policy in 2020.

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.

Vice President Desiree LaDuke

Acting Secretary Krystal Scott-Rhodes

Minutes approved: _____