

GRAND HAVEN AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes – Board Retreat
October 13, 2023

The Grand Haven Area Public Schools Board of Education held its annual Fall Retreat on Friday, October 13, 2023 at Mary A. White Elementary..

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Board President Christine Baker. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Treutler, Eickholt, Baker, Stack, Boyd and Streng. Holt arrived at 8:02am Absent:

Also present: Scott Grimes, Jason Reinecke, Michael MacDonald, Mary Jane Evink, Dawn Kelley, Mike Shelton, Tiffany Zappa, Rachel Poel, Chris Working, and 2 audience members.

The following announcements were shared by Superintendent Grimes:

- Thanks to Rachel Poel and the staff of Mary A. White for hosting the board retreat especially after hosting September's board meeting.
- Robinson Elementary has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School and GHAPS representatives will travel to Washington DC in November to receive the award.
- We are nearing the end of the fall sports season and have had many successful teams.
- Performing arts is beginning to gear up with a concert this week, the Halloween Orchestra concert will be at the end of the month and the Veterans concert will be on November 7 at Lakeshore Middle School.
- Update on the upcoming bond proposals. We have had one coffee with the superintendent and one community open house at Lakeshore thus far.
- Count day projections currently stand at 42 more students, however, there are a number of students we have to track yet, so this number may change.

The meeting agenda was approved as presented.

17-580 Trustee Streng moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Minutes of the September 18, 2023 Regular Meeting.
- Payment of Bills for September

Accounts Payable -	\$ 2,113,620.30
Expenditures Previously	
Approved by Board Treasurer	
Payroll	\$ 3,577,317.53
2020 Building & Site Bond	\$ 770,309.50
Ref Pay September 2023	\$ 20,994.50
Edustaff, contracted staff and subs	\$ 80,597.67
PNC credit card (credit on account)	\$ 34,502.63

Trustee Eickholt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Public Comment: None

Business Services

17-581 Trustee Stack moved to approve the purchase and installation of 11 AngelTrax VULCAN V862HC Mobile Digital Video Recorder Systems from AngelTrax through the Sourcewell Contract in the amount of \$49,407.20. This purchase would be made with money from safety funds.

Trustee Streng seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Inclusion Activity

Mary Jane Evink, Executive Director of Instructional Services led the board through an activity where you turned to the person next to you and shared two items: "What is something that brings you joy in fall? What is something you are looking forward to working on or learning about during the retreat?"

One Page Strategic Plan Update

Mary Jane Evink reviewed our One Page Strategic plan noting that this document is our roadmap for foundational needs, social/emotional wellness and student growth/success.

Mary Jane Evink also reviewed iReady Benchmark Data:

- Fall 2022 and Fall 2023 are similar with small variations.
- Cohort comparisons shows variability in growth.
- Reading Focus: Phonics, Vocabulary, Informational Text
- Math Focus: Number Sense and Algebraic Thinking with creative ways to address Geometry and Measurement
- This data is giving staff additional clarity to inform instruction and intervention.

Mike Shelton, Principal at White Pines Intermediate School gave a presentation on Professional Learning Communities (PLC). He described the work that has been happening at White Pines over the past 10-12 years surrounding PLCs.. Some of the prior work on PLCs by White Pines staff include:

- Conversion of curriculum to "By student by standard"
- Creation of Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum
- Balanced Assessments Created - questions are directly connected to standards
- Bi-Weekly Meetings (5 years)
- Meetings every 6 weeks with full departments to review program effectiveness and interventions
- Focus on formative assessment to inform timely instructional decision making (2 Years)
- Development of an Intervention and Enrichment Bank - prescribed by student need (2 years)

White Pines has been able to fully utilize the PD work that is happening with Solution Tree's Jennifer Deinhart due to their long-standing commitment to the PLC process. In the 22/23 school year, White Pines made the decision to implement the tracking system. They decided to develop the first 3

sections of the dialogue sheet, and then move students at least once before Jennifer returned in February. Their hope was that they could utilize Jennifer to make adjustments to existing documents, instead of using a model.

For the 23/24 school year, they are placing their focus on Progress Monitoring which will allow them to formalize systems to track student progress. Items for their PLC time will include:

- Developing Intervention and enrichment bank
- Better define what is needed to reach next level (Learning Progressions)
- Assess the effectiveness of each intervention, help identify new researched based resources to develop our intervention bank
- Focus attention on our “non-movers”. What is happening and how can we adjust?

White Pines is the only school in the nation that is currently concentrating on Progress Monitoring and could easily be a model PLC school.

Science of Reading

Rachel Poel, Principal at Mary A. White Elementary, and Chris Working, Instructional Coach at Mary A. White, provided an overview on the Science of Reading and how it informs the use of decodable books in the district. This approach serves as a foundation for the updated elementary reading and writing curriculum, and is a current focus for staff learning across the district. They presented this overview:

- The Science of Reading is grounded in the Active View of Reading, emphasizing word recognition, language comprehension, bridging processes, and active self-regulation. It also is informed by Ehri’s phases of reading development, which helps match books and decoding strategies to readers.
- New decodable books provide ample practice for early readers to “glue to print” by applying decoding strategies and phonics knowledge in a book that is also engaging and provides an authentic storyline to support the construction of comprehension.
- The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation awarded GHAPS with \$42,000 to purchase additional decodable books to support early readers throughout the district.

Based on current research in early literacy instruction, staff are realigning instruction and using updated curriculum and decodable books to provide our early readers with a strong literacy foundation.

Social/Emotional Wellness

Tiffany Zappa, Instructional Coach at White Pines Intermediate gave an update on the district’s Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). This is a systemic, continuous-improvement framework in which data-based problem-solving and decision-making is practiced across all levels of the educational system for supporting students. She presented this overview:

- It is a “way of doing business,” which utilizes high-quality evidence based instruction, intervention, and assessment practices to ensure that every student receives the appropriate level of support to be successful (Universal, Targeted, Intensive)
- Helps schools and districts to organize resources through alignment of academic standards and behavioral expectations (PBIS-Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports), implemented with fidelity and sustained over time, in order to enable

every child to successfully reach his/her fullest potential.

It's imperative to build strong systems that are sustainable no matter the staff implementing the program. Building a positive culture with our students and staff supports positive behaviors.

Responsive Classroom

Rachel Poel, MAW Principal and Chris Working, MAW Instructional Coach gave a presentation on Responsive Classroom. Chris Working provided training this past summer to over 200 staff. The goal is to have more time to be proactive and less time being reactive to classroom behaviors. The four domains of a responsive classroom are:

- Effective Management - creating a calm, orderly environment that promotes autonomy and allows students to focus on learning.
- Engaging Academics - designing and delivering high-quality, rigorous and engaging instruction.
- Positive Community - creating a safe, predictable, joyful, inclusive classroom where all students have a sense of belonging and significance.
- Developmentally Responsive Teaching - responding to students' individual, cultural and developmental learning needs and strengths.

By continuing to learn and provide professional learning for staff and using data-driven decisions, Mary A. White can continue to help students succeed.

The board walked through classrooms and asked questions to students and staff related to Responsive Classrooms.

Superintendent Evaluation Process

Jay Bennett from the Michigan Association of School Boards led a training on the evaluation process for a superintendent. The key targets of his workshop were:

- Describe indicators of superintendent job performance
- Identify possible artifacts to evidence superintendent job performance
- Establish and plan for a rational cycle and check points for superintendent evaluation
- Collectively rate performance of the superintendent using MASB's revised Fall 2018 Superintendent Evaluation Instrument

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nichol Stack, Secretary
GRAND HAVEN AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
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