



# Grand Haven Area Public Schools

## Draft Board Finance & Operations Committee Minutes June 10, 2025 - 4:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Nichol Stack, Marc Eickholt, Seth Holt

**Absent:** none

**Also present:** Kristin Perkowski, Michael MacDonald, Sara VanderZee, Cecil Hammond, Matthew Leigh

**Audience:** none

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm

**Public Comment:** none

### **Business Services:**

We have an opportunity to use E-Rate, a federal program, to help with funding computer network and Internet upgrades. Cecil Hammond and Matthew Leigh explained the overdue need to upgrade our system, some of which must be done prior to the planned PA System upgrade. The Committee approved presenting to the full Board a request for \$267k, 20% of the actual cost, to update switches, UPS units, and wireless access points. Various funds could be used including the Sinking Fund. Through the E-Rate, the company doing the work would submit the balance of the actual cost for reimbursement.

2025 Tax Levy form L4029 is an annual request for Board approval and will be a June 16th Board agenda item. This form is provided to local municipalities and the county.

With the 2024-25 Final Budget Amendment, the District's fund balance as of June 30 is projected to be 10.1%, down from 11%. The Special Education Dept has done a great job billing medicaid when applicable. School activity fund balance is over \$1.1M. This is not tax payer general fund dollars, but funds that do belong to the District. Michael will be working with these groups to use the funds, otherwise alternate protocols might be considered in the future.

2025-26 Proposed Budget - Sinking Fund revenues \$2.3M and expenditures of \$2.13M with planned projects being the first phase of a PA system upgrade, first phase of elevator updates to meet 2028 code changes, White Pines Air Handler, and chromebooks for 5th & 9th graders. The proposed General Fund budget shows a projected budget deficit of \$1,883,100 and a projected fund balance of 8.7%.

Projected economic impacts show we need to focus on controlling costs and budgeting conservatively. Over 70% of the state's school aid fund comes from sales and use tax, which is projected to decrease,

resulting in less funding for school districts. A larger portion of the Michigan School Aid Fund is also now going to post-secondary education resulting in less funding to K-12 education.

Bank Depositories & Credit Card Holders is an annual request for Board approval and will be a June 16th Board agenda item. PNC Bank has been removed as a depository and the Director of Early Childhood has been added as a credit card holder.

We have received two Requests for Proposal for teacher assistant services as a part of a transition to a third-party service provider for new hires only. WMJ Staffing provided a more complete proposal including benefit details, and it is the Business Office's recommendation that we select WMJ Staffing. Current TAs would remain GHAPS employees, but can choose to switch for an increase of \$1/hour. Job postings would include that this is through a third party, interviews would be conducted by us, while onboarding and background checks would be done by WMJ Staffing.

IT Cooperative Agreement Renewals are an annual request for Board approval and will be a June 16th Board agenda item. As in previous years, there is an increase of 2.5%.

The WMAAA Food Service Renewal contract has been updated to not reflect an increase in vended meal costs, as stated in the agreement during the first year.

Discussion of expanding contracted offerings to include ESC staff. To provide information for further discussion on this idea, the cabinet team will research how this was done before. Suggestion to consider and possibly research shared services as well.

#### **Board President Update:**

Nate & Dennis presented Board meeting recording options to the Personnel Committee. That committee's preferred option was to live stream meetings, but not edit them as a permanent link to the public on our website.

#### **Superintendent Update:**

- We will be doing a 1st Reading of Thrun policies at Monday's Board meeting.
- Central's graduation went very well. Kristin was moved by the number of angel pins students were wearing to honor a lost loved one.
- The Strategic Plan will be presented at Monday's Board meeting.
- Thank you, Nichol and Marc, for joining the weekly Master Plan meetings with GMB.
- A reunification exercise with the Leadership Team will be held on June 19th.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.