

GRAND HAVEN AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
AGENDA ITEM FOR BOARD MEETING

March 10, 2025

Agenda Topic: Boosters Update

Summary of Issue:

Board Policy 9211 – Relationship with Booster Organizations, states that, “All school associated organizations, such as booster groups, which are formed to promote and assist in the financing of a given activity for the improvement of student education, shall be approved, and recognized by the board.”

The following organizations have submitted the required financial information:

Griffin PTA  
Peach Plains PTO  
Mary A White PTO  
Robinson PTO  
White Pines PTO  
Grand Haven Wrestling Boosters  
Lake Hill PTO  
Grand Haven Band Boosters  
Grand Haven Orchestra Boosters  
Grand Haven Drama Boosters  
Ferry PTO  
Rosy Mound PTO  
Grand Haven Buccaneer Sports Boosters  
Grand Haven Choir Boosters

Administrative Recommendation:

No action required

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Agenda Topic: Lakeshore Middle School School Improvement Update

Presented by: Mary Jane Evink, Executive Director of Instructional Services  
Amanda Sorrelle, Principal  
Aaron Dean, Assistant Principal

Summary of Issue:

Principal Amanda Sorrelle and Assistant Principal Aaron Dean will provide information on their school improvement efforts. This will include sharing behavior data reflecting improved behavior trends, efforts to support their Positive Behavior Incentive System (PBIS), and how the school is using data chats with their students to improve targeted academic outcomes.

Administrative Recommendation:

No Action Required.

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DATE: March 10, 2025

Agenda Topic: Proposed Mary A. White Transition

Summary of Issue:

Our district's recent financial analysis, presented to the Finance and Operations Committee on March 4, 2025, paints a concerning financial picture for the years ahead should the district proceed without implementing significant changes. As outlined in the March 4 presentation, our current financial reality has been shaped primarily by enrollment numbers that have declined by approximately one thousand students over the past ten years and are expected to continue declining over the next five.

This proposed plan represents the primary piece of a diversified approach focused on ensuring our district can continue to operate efficiently moving forward to maintain high-quality educational opportunities for all students. If approved, the proposed plan would consolidate our seven elementary buildings into six while converting Mary A. White Elementary into a nature-based Early Childhood Center.

Administrative Recommendation:

Motion to approve the repurposing of Mary A. White Elementary School into an early childhood learning center for preschool and Young Fives classes, and by reassigning and absorbing Mary A. White Elementary kindergarten through fourth grades into the District's other elementary buildings.

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Agenda Topic: Outdoor Discovery Center Network (ODC) Memorandum of Understanding

Summary of Issue:

GHAPS and ODC Network are partnering to expand early childhood education at the Mary A. White site, integrating nature-based learning. ODC will develop outdoor spaces, while GHAPS provides staffing and maintenance. Both will collaborate on hiring, training, fundraising, and outreach, sharing costs for renovations and curriculum. The agreement runs from March 11, 2025, to June 30, 2030, with automatic renewal unless ended with 120 days' notice. Quarterly meetings will ensure progress and future opportunities.

Administrative Recommendation:

Motion to approve the memorandum of understanding between Grand Haven Area Public Schools and ODC Network as presented.

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Agenda Topic: School Safety Update

Presented by: Trent Carithers, Safety & Security Director

Summary of Issue:

Safety & Security Director Trent Carithers will share an update on district school safety.

Administrative Recommendation:

No Action Required.

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Agenda Topic: Policy Update

Summary of Issue:

Based on a number of factors, Grand Haven Area Public Schools recently elected to begin the process of changing Board policy providers from NEOLA to Thrun Law. The move would ensure that our Board Policy aligns with our legal counsel. Additionally, we will be able to streamline not just our Board Policy, but also our Administrative Guidelines. The GHAPS Administrative Guidelines are certainly in need of an update.

The transition to Thrun Policy officially launched on February 3, 2025, with the purchase of services. Because our district utilizes Thrun Law as our retainer counsel, we received discounted prices for all of the components such as: Policy Manual, Administrative Guidelines, Student/Employee Handbooks and Annual Updates.

Now, we are entering the action part of the transition. The GHAPS Policy Committee met on Wednesday, February 26 and reviewed the transition checklist, discussed a timeline of review and adoption along with briefly previewing potential software platforms for housing Board Policy. The Policy Committee is set to meet next on March 25, 2025, and the goal is to begin reviewing the initial Policy Series with potential first readings at the May Board Meeting.

Administrative Recommendation:

No action required.