Grand Haven Area Public Schools

DRAFT Minutes of the Board Finance & Operations Committee Meeting

November 11, 2025 – 4:30 PM

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Stack at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Herrygers (sub), Stack, Treutler (sub)
Members Absent: Eickholt, Holt
Also Present: Michael MacDonald, Kristin Perkowski, Sara VanderZee, Cecil Hammond, and 1 member of the audience.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Business Services

A. State Budget & Enrollment Update

Fall enrollment is below our projections, especially with Y5 and Kindergarten. Michael will be looking at why our projections were off. The state budget does have an enrollment stabilization piece. 31a revenue increased by 25%, but we are losing $500k more to cover retirement costs, bringing the total loss in retirement offset to $3M.

B. 31aa Opt in/out

The State School Aid 31aa Funding would provide $800K for the district; however, the state is requiring districts that opt-in to waive attorney-client privilege if there's a mass casualty event. The definition of a mass casualty event is not clearly defined, but it involves three or more students. Our attorney is hoping the Attorney General will provide a recommendation. This would not impact our insurance. Michael recommends that we opt in.

C. Technology Update

Cecil Hammond provided a technology update and projected project needs.

Spending - Technology asked for a significant purchase approval in June to update our network infrastructure. From that approval, switches were installed over Fall Break at three of our buildings. Switches have a lifespan of about seven years. Other buildings will be done over the holiday break. The approved hardware purchase at the October meeting will provide a unified intercom system at seven of our eleven buildings. Labor for that project will be on the Board's agenda in December. We can expect installation of the full intercom system to be completed around spring break for the seven buildings. GHHS, Griffin, Lakeshore Middle School, and the ESC will be brought to the Board next year. The high school's intercom system is aging, but it's working.

Security - We have partnered with the OAISD for network monitoring, which is provided by them at no charge. Our technology department has taken some preventative measures, like requiring all staff to use 2-factor authentication with their email account. On the infrastructure side, CrowdStrike monitors for vulnerabilities and is provided by our ISD for a minimal cost.

Student Information System - We currently use Synergy and have looked at other student information systems, but determined it was too expensive to change. A small group of staff recently attended a conference on Synergy to determine how we might use it to its full potential. A team will be meeting bi-monthly to focus on using Synergy to its fullest potential, and to make sure training is being provided when needed. More storage will likely be needed within the next twenty years.

IV. **Board President's Update**

President Stack shared an idea to occasionally post a Trustee Spotlight on social media, like a "get to know us." We have onboarded our student representatives, and now we need to determine how we want them involved. A few suggestions were shared. Trustee Tours went well, and some Board members have heard we should continue these, but maybe not as often.

Board members were reminded to turn in any reimbursements from the annual conference and to be prepared to report on their attendance at the next Board meeting. Board members were reminded to bring their Strengths in Leadership book to the November Board meeting

The next OASBA general session will feature the author of Natural Playgrounds - The Science & Irony Behind an Obvious Social and Climate Solution on December 10th. Trustees will need to register or let Sara know they would like to attend.

V. **Superintendent's Update**

No update.

VI. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.