



# Grand Haven Area Public Schools

## Draft Board Finance & Operations Committee Minutes September 16, 2025 - 4:30 p.m.

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

**Absent:** none

**Also present:** Michael MacDonald

**Audience:** none

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

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Business Services:**

**1. Contracted Services Approval**

To ensure compliance with board policies and sustainability of services, the committee agreed to pause on this approval request.

**2. Berrien RESA – Payroll Services Discussion**

This proposal would outsource payroll to Berrien RESA, with projected savings of about \$70K annually. Benefits include reduced costs, efficiency, and ability to reallocate staff toward higher-value services. Things to consider include possible communication gaps, though peer districts report positive experiences. The committee supported the proposal and it will be brought to the full Board in the spring for approval.

**3. Financial Services – EDM Discussion & Approval**

The proposal would provide financial services to an out-of-state district through GHAPS. Services include payroll process improvement, grant reconciliation, and budget development. Engagement would be billed hourly, with potential to expand if the initial project is successful. The committee supported bringing this to the full Board for approval.

**4. Annual Financial Overview**

This presentation will educate the Board and members of the community on:

- State, local, and federal funding sources.
- Proposal A's impact on school funding.
- Categorical grants and fund accounting.
- The importance of bonds and sinking funds for capital projects.

In fiscal year 2025, cash and investment balances remained strong, enrollment continues to decline resulting in less state aid, and facilities and deferred maintenance remains a pressing issue with over \$133M in deferred maintenance needs. 60% of expenditures were spent for instruction and 40% for support services. Costs rose across all areas of operation. The District has no outstanding general obligation bonds.

Savings were realized from liability insurance changes, custodial vendor updates, credit card rebates, and food service adjustments. Invoice automation produced significant efficiency gains with about 3,900 hours saved, which resulted in a savings of about \$250K annually.

#### **5. Quarterly Operations Update**

Michael MacDonald provided the committee with an update on projects. Completed projects include some playgrounds, kitchen upgrades, chiller, generator. Upcoming projects include elevator updates, air handlers, and PA system improvements. There is a high volume of maintenance requests being tracked, showing better operational oversight and response.

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

We will be voting on the Board's MASB delegates at the next full Board meeting. Listening Sessions are going well and thank you notes have been sent to our hosts. Student Voice is on track. The student representatives to the Board will be invited to attend the October retreat, but will not be expected to stay due to school.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM