

Ithaca, Michigan
December 18, 2019

The regular meeting of the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (RESD) was held at Winding Brook Conference Centre, Shepherd, Michigan, on Wednesday, December 18, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board of Education President Dr. Timm Thorsen. Members present were: Dr. Cheri Booth, Bill Henderson, Cathy Hungerford, Don Schurr (arrival 6:25 p.m.), Tom Steere, and Dr. Timm Thorsen. Member absent: Matthew Showalter. Also present were Dr. Jan Amsterburg, Superintendent; Wendy Giles, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance; Martin Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services; Dr. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction; Matt McMahon, Associate Superintendent for Technology; Kim Onstott, Employment Programs Administrator; Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE.

No visitors were present at the meeting.

Minutes of the regular meeting of November 20, 2019 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the meeting minutes of November 20, 2019 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Financial statements for the month of November were presented and reviewed. Claims for the month of November were presented in the amount of \$1,308,546.99. A motion was made by Dr. Booth and supported by Tom Steere to approve the financial statements and claims as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Employment contracts were presented for Jeri Hurst (\$43,613) and Jonathon Free (\$38,904), both Career Managers. A motion was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Cathy Hungerford to approve the employment contracts of Jeri Hurst and Jonathon Free as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Several grants and a donation were received this month.

- The RESD received \$38,475.00 from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. The breakdown is - Forest Hill received \$30,000 for operating expenses, \$2,325.00 for Erika Kemler to begin taking classes in Native American Studies at the tribal college and \$1,800 for authentic snow show making. The RESD Math Recovery Project also received funding of \$4,350.
- The Gratiot County Community Foundation awarded Erika Kemler (Forest Hill Nature Area) with a grant of \$4,236.94 for Ornithology Science and Adaptations and Brad Thornburgh \$1,305 for the Math Recovery Project.
- Dean Transportation issued a check to the RESD for \$500.00 to be used for students and families in need.

A motion was made by Dr. Booth and supported by Tom Steere to accept the grants and donation as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Bill Henderson to approve the purchase of the academic module from Munetrix for our 9 districts and the RESD costing \$13,945. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the following NEOLA Policy considerations: Bylaw 0100 – Open Meetings Act; Bylaw 0167.2 - Closed Session; Policy 1422.01 - Drug-Free Workplace; Policy 2210 - Curriculum Development; Policy 2414 - Reproductive Health and Family Planning; Policy 5200 - Attendance. Motion carried 5-0.

Added to the Agenda was a request from Betsy Wiles, Occupational Therapist to extend her current FMLA to May 29, 2020. A motion was made by Dr. Booth and supported by Cathy Hungerford to approve the request of Betsy Wiles as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Also added to the agenda was the RESD Emergency Operations Plan. After review of the Emergency Operations Plan, a motion was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the Emergency Operations Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were discussed by Jan Amsterburg under the Superintendent's Report:

1. AESA update – several sessions on trauma informed and CTE students with disabilities
2. Special Education paraprofessionals and student classroom injuries
4. Title IX training
5. Attendance at Ziibiwing Center Appreciation Dinner
6. Special Education Programs Christmas concerts
7. District visit with Scott Koenigschnecht, MDE
8. Headlee update
9. Dr. Thorsen's retirement from Alma College

The Lobbyist update was provided by Matt Kurta covering information on restoration of crucial cuts; literacy coach funding, summer lit camps, 3rd grade retention.

AESA Conference Reports were provided by the Superintendent and Board Members Tom Steere, Cathy Hungerford and Cheri Booth, again, giving the conference great reviews and thanked the board for their attendance.

NEOLA Policy Considerations were presented for the first reading on New School Construction, Renovation; Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds; School Safety Information; Emergency Operations Plan; Transportation for Field and Other District-sponsored trips.

Under Director's Reports the following information was discussed.

Dr. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction first thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the AESA conference and gave a brief overview of the sessions she attended and has reached out to one of the speakers to bring them to our area. Kathy also discussed the Early Literacy Coaches, 3rd Grade Retention; and gave a 31n update.

Matt McMahon, Associate Superintendent for Technology, reported he is on the state-wide Cyber Security Task Force which he will be an advocate for K-12 and he is also working on an incidence response plan.

Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for Career Technical Education, provided an update on the ACTE Vision Conference; ACTE Region 1 Business/Education Partnership Award, and Marshall Plan updates

Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance reported on the AESA conference highlights (Microsoft products such as hitting a button to talk in a different language and healthcare magazine/newsletter for employees), handout on RESD healthcare options and Scenario 6 payout.

Marty Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services, distributed his monthly newsletter highlighting the musical performances at Rosebush, Westgate and Kinney; Parent Advisory Committee representatives, Para-Educator training; MI Power.

Under "Other", Superintendent Amsterburg reminded Board Members that the January 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting is scheduled at the Michigan Works! building in Alma.

Being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Dr. Booth. President Thorsen adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Tom Steere, Secretary

Dr. Timm Thorsen, President