

Ithaca, Michigan  
January 15, 2020

The regular meeting of the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (RES D) was held at Michigan Works, 327 E. Center Street, Alma, Michigan, on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. 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, Matthew Showalter, Tom Steere, Dr. Timm Thorsen. Also present were Dr. Jan Amsterburg, Superintendent; Wendy Giles, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Dr. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction; Matt McMahon, Associate Superintendent for Technology; Kim Onstott, Employment Programs Administrator; Martin Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services; Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE; Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance.

There were no visitors present. At this time Superintendent Amsterburg recognized Board Members in honor of Board Recognition Month and thanked them for their service. Refreshments were provided by Erin Ulrich, School Psychologist/Professional Education Association.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 18, 2019 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried 7-0.

Financial Statements and Claims for the month of December were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson that the Financial Statements and Claims in the amount of \$4,311,098.42 be approved as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

A retirement request was presented for Kathleen Sandow, School Psychologist, effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year. A motion was made by Don Schurr and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the retirement request of Kathleen Sandow as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on adding a paraprofessional position in the SCI classroom at Mt. Pleasant High School. A motion was made by Dr. Booth and supported by Tom Steere to approve the additional paraprofessional position as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Matthew Showalter to approve Katrina Harrington as Mt. Pleasant Public Schools PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) representative. Motion carried 7-0.

Out of State Conference requests were presented for Shane Brooks, Lisa Reynolds, Martha Stellow and Natalie Anderson to attend the Power School Users Group Conference, March 15-18, in Michigan City, Indiana. Also, requests were presented for Dr. Jan Amsterburg and Doug Bush to attend the 2020 Region 1 Leadership Conference in New York, New York, March 11 – 13, 2020. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the above out of state conference requests as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

NEOLA policy considerations were presented for approval: 6321 New School Construction, Renovation; 6325 Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds; 8400 School Safety Information; 8402 Emergency Operations Plan; 8640 Transportation for Field and Other District-sponsored trips. A

motion was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Don Schurr to approve the policy revisions as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

An addition to the agenda was an FMLA request from Meghan Barrett, Speech and Language Pathologist, to extend her current leave through February 29, 2020. A motion as made by Tom Steere and supported by Matthew Showalter to approve the leave request as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Amsterburg gave his report/updates on the following:

- MAISA Legislative Priorities document
- Gratiot Chamber Legislative Group, organizing a meet the candidate forum
- Thrun Law Firm, Board Policy Services
- County Board Dinner with topic on Trauma Informed, date TBD
- Forest Hill Nature Area honey took 1<sup>st</sup> place at American Honey Show in Chicago
- Junior Achievement update on students' creation of the Marilyn Smith drink

The upcoming Headlee Override Millage Restoration issue was discussed. Board Members discussed the need for a sheet/brochure explaining why the RESD is going for a Headlee Override. Hopefully this will clear up any misunderstanding on where the money goes, how it is distributed and the average tax increase to homeowners.

Superintendent Amsterburg will prepare his evaluation for distribution to board members prior to the February Board Meeting. The final evaluation process will continue at the February 19, 2020 Board Meeting.

NEOLA updates were presented for the first reading on 100% Tobacco-Free Schools Model Policy.

Directors Reports were as follows. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction, provided information on Trauma Informed Instruction, Early Literacy Network, Munetrix Academic Module, and 31n(6) Mental Health Grant.

Kim Onstott, Employment Programs Administrator, reported on unemployment rates, foot traffic in both Gratiot and Isabella County, new welding training with Merrill Technologies, and received funding for adult education CNA training in Isabella County.

Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE, reported that all core performance indicators were met in our region so a regional improvement plan will not have to be developed; Avalon & Tahoe received the ACTE Region 1, Business/Education Partnership award; MI ACTE offering an all day, state-wide Career Navigation/Michigan Career Development Model Implementation Workshop on March 17, 2020 with our Career Navigators presenting.

Matt McMahon, Associate Superintendent for Technology provided an update on coordination of Microsoft licensing for our entire region.

Marty Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services, provided an update via his monthly newsletter on Mt. Pleasant/GIRESD Inclusion Preschool Classroom and educating incarcerated students between the ages of 3 through 21 that have an Individualized Education Plan. Also discussed were changes recommended to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program due to the low enrollment of qualifying students. Included in the discussion was recommended changes to the program for the 2020-2021 school year. Final action on those changes will be recommended at the regular Board Meeting on February 19, 2020.

Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance, highlighted the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference on January 10, 2020.

Under "Other", Bill Henderson mentioned that Pro-Comm in Mt. Pleasant met with Isabella County Michigan Works! and was very complimentary of their services.

Matthew Showalter thanked the board for nominating him to the MASB Board for another three years. Dr. Thorsen thanked the board, administration and staff stating much is appreciated on both sides of the table.

Being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mathew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson. President Thorsen adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

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Tom Steere, Secretary

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Dr. Timm Thorsen, President