

Shepherd, Michigan
March 18, 2020

The regular meeting of the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (RESA) was held at Winding Brook Conference Centre in Shepherd, Michigan on Wednesday, March 18, 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 was Dr. Jan Amsterburg, Superintendent and Wendy Giles, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

There were no visitors present.

Due to the Coronavirus, the Superintendent's Evaluation was tabled until the April Regular Board Meeting.

Minutes of the Regular and Executive Meeting of February 19, 2020 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Bill Henderson to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried 7-0.

Financial statements for the month of February were presented and reviewed. Claims for the month of February were presented in the amount of \$3,432,633.16. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson to approve the financial statements and claims as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Employment contracts were presented for Stephanie Catterfeld, School Psychologist, for the 2020-21 Academic School Year (contract is subject to the terms and conditions determined in the Master Agreement) and Stormie Jacobs-Wakemup, Success Coach, with the annual salary of \$40,413. A motion was made by Don Schurr and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the employee contracts as presented above. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Dr. Booth and supported by Matthew Showalter to approve the purchase of Boardworks, Instructional Software, at the cost of \$119,010. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Tom Steere to award the bid from Thinkmate, for the purchase of a back-up server, at the cost of \$16,532.77. Motion carried 7-0

Out of State Conference Requests were presented for the following:

- Kristin Hermes, Teacher, Kindergarten Transition, to attend the Summer Institute (CD1) 2020, Conscious Discipline Training, July 19-26, 2020 in Indianapolis, IN, estimated cost is \$3,486
- Michele Monroe, Great Start Parent Liaison, to attend the Be Strong Families Confab 2020, April 24-25, 2020 in Chicago, IL, estimated cost of \$658
- Dana Winright, Interpreter, to attend the EIPA Testing, April 24, 2020 at Park Forest, IL, at no cost to the district
- Brad Thornburgh, Math Consultant, to attend the US Math Recovery Council 2020 National Conference, October 25-29, 2020 in Oak Brook, IL, estimated cost is \$1,976

A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Cathy Hungerford to approve the conference requests as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Don Schurr to approve the Ithaca Rotary Club donation of \$1,000 to the Dolly Pardon Imagination Library. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Dr. Booth to approve Amy Grundas, Breckenridge Schools; Christina Parrish, Shepherd Schools; Teresa Loynes, GIRESD to the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Dr. Booth to appoint Roslund Prestage as our official 2019-2020 auditors for GIRESD and MMNET. The cost for the GIRESD audit is \$22,200 and MMNET's audit is \$4,300. Motion carried 7-0.

Added to the Agenda was the student (LINKS) trip to Germany in June, 2020. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson to cancel the student trip to Germany and reschedule it for June 2021. The board thanked Tom Steere for all of his efforts on this program. Motion carried 7-0.

Added to the Agenda was an employee resignation of Melissa Hovey, Job Club Instructor, effective March 20, 2020. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Tom Steere to approve the resignation of Melissa Hovey as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Also added to the Agenda was Dean Transportation Letter of Understanding. Superintendent Amsterburg is working closely with Thrun Law Firm on a Memo of Understanding intended to set forth certain operating and business practices between Dean Transportation and GIRESD in regards to the Governor's Executive Order 2020 -11 directing the closure of all elementary and secondary school buildings. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Don Schurr authorizing Superintendent Amsterburg to sign a Memo of Understanding with Dean Transportation on behalf of the Board under the direction of Thrun Law Firm's legal team. Motion carried 7-0.

Dr. Amsterburg gave his Superintendent's Report on the following items:

- Effect of the Coronavirus and Michigan Schools
- Childcare services in conjunction with Midland ESA
- Successful Headlee Override Election

Added to Discussion Items was a Lobbyist Report from Matt Kurta where discussion was held on forgiveness of school days, Open Meetings Act, school testing waivers, and school revenue.

Discussion was held on the feasibility of a new structure at Forest Hill Nature Area. Erika Kemler, FHNA Director will provide a presentation at the April Board Meeting.

An RESD Strategic Plan/SWOT Analysis was discussed. Possible presenters will be discussed at the April Board Meeting.

Board Policy considerations were presented for discussion and will be recommended for approval at the April Board Meeting. The policies in review are administrator/professional staff evaluations, Prohibition of Referral or Assistance, Reproductive Health and Family Planning, Sex Education and Student Abuse and Neglect.

Directors were not in attendance at this meeting, their reports were provided in hard copy form this month.

Being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Tom Steere. President Thorsen adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Thomas Steere, Secretary

Dr. Timm Thorsen, President