

Ithaca, Michigan
September 16, 2020

The regular meeting of the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (RES D) was held at Forest Hill Nature Area, 11297 N. Rich Rd., Alma, Michigan and via ZOOM on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board of Education President Dr. Timm Thorsen. Members present were: Bill Henderson, Cathy Hungerford, Matthew Showalter, Tom Steere (via ZOOM), Timm Thorsen. Member absent: Dr. Cheri Booth and Don Schurr. Also present were Dr. Jan Amsterburg, Superintendent; Wendy Giles, Administrative and Assistant to the Superintendent; Matt McMahon, Associate Superintendent for Technology; and via ZOOM, Martin Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services; Dr. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction; Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance; Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE; Kim Onstott, Program Director.

Also present was Erika Kemler, Director of Forest Hill Nature Area and via ZOOM, Scott Mertes, Vice President of Community Outreach & Advancement for Mid Michigan College.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2020 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Financial Statements and Claims in the amount of \$2,933,851.08 for the month of August were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Matthew Showalter that the financial statements and claims be approved as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

From Discussion Items, Scott Mertes was present to discuss Mid Michigan's Ballot Proposal and Language Details on the November 2020 ballot. There are two proposals, Proposal I: Annexation, determines whether tax payers in Gratiot and Isabella Counties will become part of Mid Michigan College's district. Proposal II: Millage, any tax payer in Mid Michigan College's district contributes tax funds of 1.2232 mills toward College operations. This proposal asks taxpayers in Gratiot and Isabella Counties to accept or reject the 1.2232 taxable rate in order to become part of the College's district.

NEOLA Policy Recommendations were presented for approval – Policy 2266 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in District Programs or Activities (Title IX Regulations) and rescind Policy 5517.02. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson to approve the NEOLA Policy Recommendation as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Added to the Agenda was an employment contract addendum for Alia Agian, School Psychologist to move from BA+ to MA +30. A motion was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Cathy Hungerford to approve the employment contract addendum as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Added to the Agenda was a recommendation to approve the purchase of Illuminate, \$27,950.14 for year one and year two at the cost of \$31,177.06. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Cathy Hungerford to approve the purchase of Illuminate as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Under the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Amsterburg, reported on the following:

- AESA Annual Conference will be virtual
- Thanks to Kathy Peasley, Marty Combs, Martha Stellow and tech crew on opening day!

- County Board Dinner being moved from October 2020 to March 4, 2021
- Mid Michigan Health Department is reporting out COVID-19 cases (Alma Luce Road recently closed)
- Mid Michigan Development virtual meeting and presentation on Community Redevelopment: Impact on Downtowns
- GIRESD has received over 52,000 cloth and disposable facemasks for distribution to our local school districts

Superintendent Amsterburg and Associate Superintendent for Special Services Martin Combs discussed the GIRESD Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan. Our COVID plan was adopted in August, and the final Extended plan is due by October 1.

The following NEOLA Policy revisions were reviewed: Child Care Center Staff and Volunteers; Staff Ethics; Late Arrival and Early Dismissal; Opioid Antagonists; System of Accounting, Disposition of Real Property; Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems; Use of Drones on District Property and School Safety Information.

Matthew Showalter reminded board members that the MASB Annual Leadership Conference, November 6-7, 2020, is virtual and free to all member districts.

For continued discussion, the minimum fund equity was discussed again this month.

Director's reports were given. Dr. Peasley apprised board members on remote learning, extended learning plan process, virtual professional development.

Kim Onstott, Program Director, reported the RFP for leasing the facility for the Mt. Pleasant Michigan Works will be out on October 1. GLBMW will take over the lease month to month hoping to find a new facility on the main road. Also reported was unemployment rates in Gratiot and Isabella County; travel ban still in place going between offices; offices still closed by appointment only; outdoor job fair at the Alma Michigan Works on September 29, 2020; wrapping up funding for this year and all areas are underspent due to COVID; Futures for Frontliners.

Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for Career Technical Education provided an update on CTE programs suspended due to lack of instructors – running 32 programs instead of 35; Beal City eliminated their agriculture program; Marshall Plan work.

Marty Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services, gave a childcare update; special education staffing, Alma Luce Road closure; and the RESD learning plan.

Kevin Kolb Associate Superintendent for Finance, reported GIRESD has had 54 COVID tests administered with 0 positive results; Blue Cross Blue Shield added a weight loss rider with 39 individuals enrolled; Consensus Revenue Conference.

Matt McMahan, Associate Superintendent for Technology, apprised board members that tech staff are working closely with schools on streaming sports, events, etc.; they are bombarded with off-site filtering issues; MISEN has released the RFP on CTE; employee COVID QR form.

Erika Kemler, FHNA Director, gave a brief overview on new activities at FHNA and presented a proposal for a new facility.

Being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Cathy Hungerford. President Thorsen adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Dr. Timm Thorsen, President

Tom Steere, Secretary