

Ithaca, Michigan
November 18, 2020

The regular meeting of the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (RES D) was held at Winding Brook Conference Centre, Shepherd, Michigan and via ZOOM on Wednesday, November 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 (virtual), Don Schurr, Matthew Showalter, Tom Steere (virtual), Dr. Timm Thorsen. Also present were Dr. Jan C. Amsterburg, Superintendent (virtual); Wendy Giles, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Martin Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services (virtual); Matt McMahon, Associate Superintendent for Technology (virtual); Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance (virtual); Dr. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction (virtual); Kim Onstott, Employment Programs Administrator (virtual); Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE (virtual).

Cathy Rayburn, GIRES D Comprehensive School Health Program Coordinator was also in attendance (virtually). Cathy thanked the board for adequate PPE and options to work remotely.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2020 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the minutes of October 21, 2020 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Financial Statements and Claims in the amount of \$2,006,253.86 for the month of October 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 7-0.

NEOLA policy revisions were presented for approval on the following: 5200 Attendance; 6220 Budget Preparation; 2210 Curriculum Development; 2412 Homebound Instruction Program; 8210 School Calendar. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the policy revisions as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Added to the Agenda was the spring/summer LINKS Trip 2021. After discussion, a motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson to postpone the spring/summer LINKS 2021 visit due to COVID-19. Motion carried 7-0.

Also added was a leave extension for Carolyn Parker, Speech and Language Pathologist, through January 4, 2021. A motion was made by Don Schurr and supported by Dr. Booth to approve Carolyn Parker's leave extension as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Amsterburg discussed the current impact COVID-19 is having on our local school districts and RES D programs.

The Legislative Update was deleted from the agenda.

NEOLA Policy updates were presented for review on Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members; Controlled Substance and Alcohol Policy; Authorization to Accept and Distribute Electronic Records and Use Electronic Signatures; Student Abuse and Neglect; Transportation.

Martin Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services provided an update on our Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan. The reconfirmation COVID-19 Learning Plan was uploaded in GEMS.

Under Director's Report, Dr. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction, provided an overview on mental health support for students; Boardworks software; regional Professional Development Day in November and Just in Time topics via the newly created RESD YouTube channel.

Kim Onstott, Employment Programs Administrator, apprised board members her staff is working 100% remotely; update on Going Pro applications and unemployment rates.

Matt McMahon, Associate Superintendent for Technology, discussed challenges with remote learning; National Governor's Association, securing Michigan Schools project; MI-Connect and MERIT Membership conference.

Marty Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services, distributed his Special Education Board report highlighting RESD Programs and COVID-19; Parent Advisory Committee; Reconfirmation COVID-Learning Plan, Classroom Teachers Letter of Agreement; MEA Meetings; Alma Administration SE Systems Meeting; Special Education Matters.

Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE, provided an update on CTE programs and the virtual component; Career Navigation; University of Michigan Millage study, CTE renewal on 2022 ballot, Marshall Plan update.

Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance reported that Verizon Jet Packs are being ordered for staff working remotely with poor internet connections and hazard pay.

President Thorsen wished everyone a warm, safe, sane and healthy Thanksgiving holiday.

Being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Dr. Booth. President Thorsen adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Tom Steere, Secretary

Dr. Timm Thorsen, President