

Ithaca, Michigan
January 20, 2021

The regular meeting of the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (RES D) was held via ZOOM on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. 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.

Also present was Jessica Truax, Intervener Coordinator, GIRESD.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2020 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Don Schurr 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 Tom Steere that the Financial Statements and Claims in the amount of \$3,455,426.69 be approved as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Tom Steere and approved by Dr. Booth to approve the \$1,000 anonymous donation to the Child Relief Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Letters of Agreement were presented for the Professional staff and Paraprofessional staff regarding the extension of paid leave time under Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Don Schurr to approve the extension of paid leave benefits under the FFCRA until March 31, 2021. The extension included paid leave benefits under both the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA) and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA). Motion carried unanimously.

Added to the Agenda was the proposed IRS Closing Agreement on 3% Retiree Healthcare Contributions per correspondence from Thrun Law Firm. After discussion a motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson to authorize Kevin Kolb as Power of Attorney and request attorneys to execute the closing agreement for GIRESD. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Amsterburg gave his report/updates on the following:

- Board appreciation month – celebration on hold until restaurants open up
- Board Members Schurr and Showalter terms expire this year
- Child Care program update
- March County Board dinner on hold until fall
- Vaccine updates

Matt Kurta provided the Legislative update on the following topics: school budget; State of the State on January 27; Substitute Teacher bill; Teacher/Administrator evaluations; Dyslexia challenges; Third Grade Reading bill; income tax rate in 2023; Genesee ISD special education funding plan; fall pupil count.

Marty Combs will provide the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan update during his director's report.

Directors Reports were as follows. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction, provided information on Jim Harris, speaker on trauma working with principals; guided school improvement; early literacy collaborative fund raising and calendar for kindergarten students.

Kim Onstott, Employment Programs Administrator, reported on unemployment rates, funding available for welding training at Merrill Technologies starting in February; Great Lakes Bay is looking at alternative solutions for filling open positions; all offices are hoping to open February 1; additional funding for alternative education and CTE classes.

Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE, reported local districts have completed the follow-up survey (8 of 9 districts have CTE), enrollment updates, apprenticeship expansion grant and career navigators network.

Matt McMahon, Associate Superintendent for Technology provided an update on the RFP for new content filter for 2021-22, the MiConnect connectivity reimbursement application was successfully submitted for \$230,579; and cyber security.

Marty Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services, provided an update via his monthly newsletter on GIRESD programs and COVID-19 (all programs in-person option); reconfirmation of COVID-19 Learning Plan (nothing has changed since October); parent advisory committee; Great Lakes Bay Regional Great Start Collaborative event; child care update; state complaint; GSG mid-year report.

Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance, provided a COVID update in regards to employee's and the Revenue Consensus Sharing conference.

Being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mathew Showalter and supported by Tom Steere. President Thorsen adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Tom Steere, Secretary

Dr. Timm Thorsen, President