

Ithaca, Michigan  
February 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (RES D) was held via ZOOM on Wednesday, February 17, 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, and Dr. Timm Thorsen. Also present were Dr. Jan Amsterburg, Superintendent; Wendy Giles, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Martin Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services; Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance; Dr. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction; Kim Onstott, Employment Programs Administrator; Matt McMahon, Associate Superintendent for Technology; Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE.

Also, in attendance was Dr. Scott Mertes, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Community Outreach for Mid Michigan College (MMC), and Lobbyist Abby Cypher.

The Mid Michigan College Annexation Proposal presented by Dr. Scott Mertz was moved up on the Agenda. Dr. Mertz announced the MMC Annexation proposal will be on the May 4, 2021 ballot. This time, each school district will have control to pass or deny the proposal and not all nine districts as a whole. The requested mill increase is 1.2202. For all updates on the proposal visit their website at [www.midmich.edu/annexation](http://www.midmich.edu/annexation).

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2021 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried 7-0.

Financial Statements and Claims for the month of January were presented and reviewed. Claims for the month of January were presented in the amount of \$2,463,517.81. A motion was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Matthew Showalter to approve the claims as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

A salary adjustment was presented for Bryan Morrison, Technical Assistant, from \$33,813 to \$40,800 effective February 1, 2021. Also, title changes were requested for employee's that are currently Technical Assistant to update titles to Field Technicians. A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the salary adjustment and title changes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Don Schurr and supported by Cathy Hungerford to approve the payment to Gratiot County on the RESDs cost-sharing percentage on legal fees for wind turbine MTT cases, second half of 2020. The amount of the invoice is \$11,222.14. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Dr. Booth and supported by Matt Showalter to approve the following 2021-2022 Work Schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

## 2021-2022 Schedule

Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District shall be open Monday through Friday (261 work days) from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (½ hour lunch) with the following exceptions.

LEGAL HOLIDAYS	
July 5	Independence Day observed
September 6	Labor Day
November 25	Thanksgiving Day
December 24	Christmas Day observed
December 31	New Year's Day observed
May 30	Memorial Day
OTHER DAYS	
July 2	Friday before Independence Day
November 26	Friday after Thanksgiving
December 23, 27, 28, 29, 30	Christmas Vacation
April 15	Good Friday

A retirement request was presented for Joyce Stevenson, Office Specialist in the Instruction Department, effective June 30, 2021. Joyce has been employed at GIRESD for 25 years. Kathy Peasley spoke briefly on restructuring this position when it is posted. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the retirement request of Joyce Stevenson as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

The following Resolution was added to the Agenda to Permit School Boards to Meet in Person. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

### **RESOLUTION TO PERMIT SCHOOL BOARDS TO MEET IN PERSON**

**WHEREAS**, school districts have been strongly encouraged to begin offering in-person instruction by March 1, 2021 and each local school board has the responsibility to make that ultimate decision for their school district, and

**WHEREAS**, Gratiot-Isabella RESD has worked diligently to prepare for and implement the return to in-person learning for all students in grades PreK, K-12 and post-secondary; and

**WHEREAS**, all students and staff are permitted by the state of Michigan, including the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, to attend school in person; and

**WHEREAS**, members of school boards are the only individuals within their school districts who are not permitted to meet in person; and

**WHEREAS**, requiring school boards to meet virtually while encouraging students to attend school in person and for staff to work in person sends a mixed message to our community and staff, and

**WHEREAS**, Gratiot-Isabella RESD would like the ability to meet in person with strong health and safety mitigation measures in place that are consistent with measures taken for all other school classes and activities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, Gratiot-Isabella RESD requests that MDHHS and the Governor of Michigan allow school boards to have the option to meet either virtually, in-person or a combination of the two beginning immediately.

### **Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Timm Thorsen, President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Steere, Secretary

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

- RESD Biennial Election, June 7
- RESD Employee COVID 19 Vaccination update (97% of all employees that wanted the vaccine have received it)
- Mahoney Center will become a vaccination center every Wednesday starting March 17, 2021
- Cabinet Member evaluations are underway
- Math in the Mail initiative with Saginaw, Bay-Arenac, Clare-Gladwin, Midland and GIRESD to begin in March
- Hartley Nature Center visit
- SET Team visited our tech department to learn more about cybersecurity
- Board dinner still on hold

The legislative update was provided by Abby Cypher on topics relating to policies and budget: educator evaluations; read by grade 3; dyslexia, mental health; 31n allocation, and Care supplemental.

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

The following NEOLA policies were presented for the first reading: Threatening Behavior Toward Support Staff Members, Emergency Removal, Suspension and Expulsion of Students, Due Process Rights and Facility Security.

Dr. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction, apprised board members on her 31n mental health grant; regional summer school initiatives; ready 4 kindergarten calendars with United Way; guided school improvement; math recovery, 31a at-risk reports.

Kim Onstott, Employment Programs Administrator, reported unemployment rates (State 6.9%, Gratiot 4.6%, Isabella 4.5%); GI TEC media class developed ZOOM backgrounds for the RESD; her staff was back in the office February 1; upcoming training includes manufacturing, warehouse and logistics, welding, mobile medical response and certified nurse aide; spring job fair for 18-24-year olds; summer young professionals program.

Matt McMahon, Associate Superintendent for Technology, updated board members on cyber security and how important it is to use strong passwords; met with SET SEG today so they could get a better understanding on how schools adapt to security challenges and to ultimately cut down on cyber security claims. Matt also announced a free app to all Michigan citizens, Michigan Secure. It sits on your phone and watches for you to go to bad sites, apps, etc. and alerts you.

Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for Career Technical Education, reported he hopes to hold Educator to Industry tours in August; concerns about 2021-22 CTE enrollment due to a larger number of student failures and presentations to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students at schools are all via video no in-person. Also, updates were given on the Career Navigators, Central Michigan Career Connections and Workplace Citizenship which is sharing best practices with other colleagues.

Martin Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services, reported all special education programs have the in-person option and confirmed the Covid-19 Learning Plan and attendance

update. Also reported on was the Parent Advisory Committee, Mandatory Special Education Plan, Severely Emotionally Impaired Program, Elementary MoCI move from Alma to St. Louis Schools and the childcare update.

Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance, provided an update on the 3% health care contribution refunds; Tenergy reviewing utility bills, requested more information from Meesic on solar program; finishing the Mahoney Center parking lot (connecting the two lots and adding an additional 10 spots); working on reporting excess costs to prove we are paying more for special education vs general ed students so we will be compliant to continue to receive IDEA funds.

Being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Matthew Showalter. President Thorsen adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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Thomas Steere, Secretary

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Dr. Timm Thorsen, President