

Shepherd, Michigan
March 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (RES D) was held at Winding Brook Conference Centre in Shepherd, Michigan on Wednesday, March 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 (virtual attendance), Don Schurr, Matthew Showalter, Tom Steere, Dr. Timm Thorsen. Also present was Dr. Jan Amsterburg, Superintendent and 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.

Visitors attending virtually were: Jessica Truax, RESD Intervener Coordinator and Abby Cypher, Lobbyist.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 17, 2021 were presented for approval with the correction of Scott Mertz spelling of his last name – Scott Mertes. A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Don Schurr to approve the minutes as corrected. 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 \$2,328,905.77. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Don Schurr to approve the financial statements and claims as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Employment retirements were presented as follows:

- Donna Best, paraprofessional, effective June 2021
- Laura MacGregor, paraprofessional, effective August 2021
- Margaret Anne Steere, teacher consultant D/HH, effective June 2021
- Tricia Timmer, paraprofessional, effective June 2021
- Jan Amsterburg, superintendent, June 2021

After discussion, a motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Tom Steere to accept the retirement request above with regrets. Motion carried 7-0.

A resignation request was presented for Alia Aglan, school psychologist, effective April 16, 2021. A motion was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Dr. Booth to accept the resignation request for Alia Aglan as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Due to moving the elementary moderate cognitive impairments (MoCI) program from Alma to St. Louis Schools, there is a need for the addition of an MoCI teacher. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson to approve the additional teacher. Motion carried 7-0.

An out of state conference request was presented for Interpreter Dana Winright to take her EIPA testing for interpreter certification and Michigan has closed testing indefinitely due to COVID. Dana is able to secure a testing date on March 31, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Buckeye, Arizona. A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Don Schurr to approve the conference request of Dana Winright as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the official posting of the RESD Biennial Election on June 7, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson to approve Roslund Prestage & Co., for the RESD and MMNET financial auditors for 2020-21. Motion carried unanimously.

The following NEOLA policies were presented for approval: Policy 4362.01 Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members; 5610 Emergency Removal, Suspension, and Expulsion of Students; 5611 Due Process Rights; and 7440 Facility Security. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson to approve the policies as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Bids were presented for the parking lot expansion at the Mahoney Center from Brian Knox, Project Engineer (Engineering Applications). The Isabella Corporation presented a base bid of \$51,000 and Robin Harsh Excavating, Inc. presented a bid of \$44,950. After discussion a motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Matthew Showalter to accept the bid from Robin Harsh Excavation of \$44,950 with a \$5,000 contingency for unforeseen issues during construction. Motion carried 7-0.

Added to the agenda was a leave extension request from Amanda Cashen, paraprofessional, through May 31, 2021. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson to approve the request as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Also added to the Agenda was approval to establish the position of Title IX Coordinator. This person will also serve as the Title IX Coordinator for our local school districts on an as needed basis. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Don Schurr to approve the new position of Title IX Coordinator. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the hiring of Jeff Rowley as the Title IX Coordinator on an as needed basis at the rate of \$500.00 for a 7.5-hour day. Motion carried 7-0.

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

- Math in the Mail
- COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics to be held at the Mahoney Center
- Visit to Hartley Nature Center
- Moving forward with a new facility at FHNA
- Board Recognition Dinner

The monthly legislative update was provided by Anny Cypher.

The Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan update will be provide in Martin Comb's Director's report.

Under Director's Reports, Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction provided information on the following: supplemental spending bill; 31n Mental Health dollars; early literacy coaches; summer school initiatives/legislation; virtual learning in the region.

Kim Onstott, Employment Programs Administrator, provided information on the following: young professionals; unfilled jobs; job fairs; MMR training; unemployment; federal unemployment; Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works extended RESD contract of one year.

Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE, provided an update on student enrollment numbers for fall; Core Performance Indicators; CMMA/CME Prime; March is Reading Month.

Matt McMahon, Associate Superintendent for Technology, provided an update on MiConnect reimbursement grant project and cybersecurity.

Marty Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services, provided an update on GIRESD Programs and COVID-19; Parent Advisory Committee; current special services staff vaccination numbers; childcare and Mi Power.

Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance, provided an update on the 3% healthcare contributions.

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 7:20 p.m.

Thomas Steere, Secretary

Dr. Timm Thorsen, President