

Ithaca, Michigan  
April 21, 2021

The regular meeting of the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (RES D) was held at the Mahoney Center, 1131 E. Center Street, Ithaca, Michigan on Wednesday, April 21, 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 was Dr. Jan C. Amsterburg, Superintendent; Wendy Giles, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Marty Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services; Dr. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction; Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance; Kim Onstott, Employment Programs Supervisor; Matt McMahon, Associate Superintendent for Technology; Douglas Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE.

Erika Kemler, Director, was also in attendance presenting on Forest Hill Nature Area.

The Forest Hill Nature Area (FHNA) update was moved to the beginning of the agenda. Director Erika Kemler presented on activities and groups at FHNA and the need for a new facility.

Regular Meeting minutes of March 17, 2021, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Dr. Cheri Booth to approve the regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Financial Statements and Claims for the month of March were presented and reviewed. Claims for the month of March were presented in the amount of \$3,251,719.69. A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Bill Henderson to approve the Financial Statements and Claims as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Tom Steere to approve the \$10,000 grant award from the Consumers Energy Foundation for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Bill Henderson and supported by Cathy Hungerford to approve the purchase of a Cube Van (\$45,909) and Mini Cargo Van (\$26,389) as presented by Kevin Kolb. Motion carried 7-0.

Added to the agenda was a retirement request for Debbie Rogers, paraprofessional, effective June 30, 2021. A motion was made by Tom Steere and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the retirement request as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Also added to the agenda was a request to add a new paraprofessional position in the SEI Elementary Program at Kinney School. A motion was made by Don Schurr and supported by Cathy Hungerford to approve the new paraprofessional position as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

The Superintendent Search Committee consisting of Dr. Timm Thorsen, Dr. Cheri Booth and Bill Henderson spoke on the superintendent search, timelines, and interim superintendent with the entire board for their input. After discussion, a motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Don Schurr to seek quotes from MASB and MLI to conduct the superintendent

search and hold a special meeting on April 28, 3:00 p.m. via ZOOM to review and select a search firm. Motion carried 7-0.

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

- Mahoney Center Vaccination Clinics
- Antigen Testing Kits for our local school districts, charters, and parochial schools
- Working with Shiawassee Regional Education Service District on their CTE Millage
- Meeting with Midland ESA and Coleman Schools on property disputes

Abby Cypher presented the monthly lobbyist report mainly on fiscal year 2022 budgets.

Kevin Kolb reviewed the 2021-2022 proposed General Fund Budget.

Under Director's Reports, Dr. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction, discussed the handout/poster from Jamie Vollmer, *120 years of Mandates: The Ever-Increasing Burden on America's Public Schools* at everyone's place setting and his video library the RESD has recently purchased.

Kim Onstott, Employment Programs Supervisor, reported the Michigan Works offices are still closed and all services are offered virtually (two employees per office). Kim also discussed the Clean Slate program and the upcoming job fair on May 13, 2021 for career technical education students.

Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE, via a power point presentation, presented the Core Performance Indicators Report and noted in our region the state performance targets were met or exceeded and a regional improvement plan is not required. SME Prime, CTE enrollments and open positions were also discussed.

Marty Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services, distributed a handout updating the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan; classrooms in quarantine, field day, parent advisory committee, special education staffing positions and Special Services Supervisor Leanne Barton receiving the Live United award.

Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance, announced Tenergy found \$3,500 worth of savings for the RESD.

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 7:45 p.m.

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Dr. Timm Thorsen, President

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Tom Steere, Secretary