

Ithaca, Michigan  
August 18, 2021

The regular meeting of the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (RES D) was held at Gratiot-Isabella RES D, Mahoney Center in Ithaca on Wednesday, August 18, 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, Cathy Hungerford, Julie Pierce, Matthew Showalter, Tom Steere, Dr. Timm Thorsen. Member absent: Bill Henderson. Also present was Robert Cosan, Interim Superintendent; Wendy Giles, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance; Martin Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services; Dr. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction; Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE.

Also in attendance was Paul Hungerford, incoming Superintendent September 1, 2021.

Minutes of the July Organizational Meeting of July 21, 2021 and Special Meeting minutes of July 14, 19, 20, 28 and August 4, 2021 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Julie Pierce and supported by Dr. Booth to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Financial Statements and Claims in the amount of \$2,165,355.59 for the month of July 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 6-0.

An invoice was received from the County of Gratiot for the RESDs share of legal support for the wind turbine MTT cases for the first half of the 2021 calendar year totaling \$18,528.81. After discussion, a motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Julie Pierce to approve the payment of the invoice as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

A resignation request was presented for Kelli Sigafoose, Grants Project Manager effective August 19, 2021. A motion was made by Dr. Booth and supported by Tom Steere to approve the resignation request for Kelli Sigafoose as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Board Member Resignation Requests were presented for Cathy Hungerford, effective August 19, 2021 and Tom Steere, effective September 8, 2021. No action was taken.

The additional agenda item, Appointment of New Board Members was moved to the September Regular Board Meeting.

Employment contracts were presented for Lori Ann Bissell, Speech-Language Pathologist and Michelle Howes, Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works Career Coach (annual salary for 2021-22 is \$40,476). A motion was made by Julie Pierce and supported by Cathy Hungerford to approve the employment contracts as presented above. Motion carried 6-0

An out of state travel request was presented for Dana Winwright, Interpreter, to take her EIPA Written Test in Indiana when test dates are announced, with the cost of the test of \$250.00. A

motion was made Matthew Showalter and supported by Tom Steere to approve the conference request as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Tom Steere to accept the reimbursement grant from the Gratiot County Community Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 to support the Imagination Library for students in Gratiot County. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Matthew Showalter and supported by Tom Steere to reschedule the September 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting to September 14, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Dr. Booth and supported by Julie Pierce to approve the NEOLA policy updates that were presented at the July Regular Board Meeting on Cost Principles; Spending Federal Funds; Procurement; Federal Grants/Fund; Property Inventory; Accounting System for Capital Assets. Motion carried 6-0.

Added to the agenda was adding an additional paraprofessional position and an employee leave extension request for Amanda Cashen through December 15, 2021. A motion was made by Julie Pierce and supported by Tom Steere to approve the additional paraprofessional position and leave extension request for Amanda Cashen as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Under the Superintendent's Report, Bob Cosan, reported on the following:

- COVID-19 protocol update for 2021-22
- Opening Day/Special Education Professional Development
- Thanked the Board for the opportunity this summer to fill the position of Interim Superintendent

Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance, explained the breakdown by employee of expenses using purchasing cards.

Under Director's Reports, Dr. Kathy Peasley, Associate Superintendent for Instruction, updated board members on the grant from the Gratiot County Community Foundation for the Imagination Library; Citizens for Health; collaborations with the instruction department and special education department so all students are served.

Doug Bush, Associate Superintendent for CTE updated board members on staffing; suspension of electronics program; State Apprenticeship Expansion grant; employability credentialing program.

Marty Combs, Associate Superintendent for Special Services, discussed the special education hybrid opening week professional development activities; Tri-Share grant; GIRESD programs and COVID-19; childcare update; staffing.

Kevin Kolb, Associate Superintendent for Finance, apprised board members that the parking lot project at Mahoney is almost complete and the brick project is expected to start soon; still

waiting for the 2 vehicles that were ordered; Beal City will not be contracting with us for their business services.

Under “Other”, a motion was made by Dr. Booth and supported by Julie Pierce to approve the cost of Tom Steere’s airfare traveling to Germany to represent GIRESD. Motion carried 5-0 with abstention from Tom Steere.

Being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Julie Pierce and supported by Cathy Hungerford. President Dr. Timm Thorsen adjourned the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

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Dr. Timm Thorsen, President

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Matthew Showalter, Secretary