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Partners in building full potential

COLLABORATION INTEGRITY INNOVATION SERVICE ACCOUNTABILITY DATA-DRIVEN

Board Report — September 11, 2025

- **Student Information System:** Our local superintendents and their selected representatives met this week to further discuss a transition to a new student information system (SIS). There has been a universal interest among districts in moving away from our current SIS, Skyward, to a different product - PowerSchool. We hosted a meeting September 3 here at the ISD so that local districts could ask questions directly to the PowerSchool team, examine costs and make some decisions. The considerations to make a change were multi-faceted ranging from enhanced features, ease of use, compatibility with other software and platforms for data collection, report submission and individual district flexibility. The timing for this discussion was based on Skyward's parent company phasing out that product and moving to a new SIS product named Qmlativ. Since either new SIS would require substantial data transfer, training, and behind-the-scenes work, it made sense to all that now was an appropriate time to analyze options.

The decision was made that each of five local districts is going to take to their boards of education a recommendation to make the switch. Our role is to support the majority of local districts on whichever management platform the majority uses. Each district plans to make a presentation to its board in September and has a goal of garnering support by the end of the month or at the latest, mid-October.

Once we have official confirmation from a majority of districts that they are proceeding with PowerSchool adoption, the ISD will move forward in leading and supporting the transition. It is approximately a nine-month process for preparation with a goal of going "live" July 1, 2026.

- **Construction Update:** Construction bids are due September 23 for site, asphalt and concrete work for the planned parking lot project at the Transitions Center at 601 E Washington here in Ionia. This would be the previously referenced and budgeted parking lot replacement and repaving work needed at the facility.

Due to time factors of the type of work needed and the annual Fall shutdown of asphalt production in Michigan, I am asking for board approval for the superintendent to be able to approve the bids in these three areas (site, asphalt, and concrete). The Action Sheet for this recommendation

contains “up to” dollar amounts for each of the three bid areas. The amounts were generated with Triangle Construction based on industry analysis and trends and actual bids should be beneath each total.

In order to get this project underway on or around October 1 to get ahead of potential weather concerns and product production issues, my request is that I be granted authority to award construction bids in these specified categories after the bid vetting process up to the dollar amounts indicated. If construction bids come in above these identified amounts, I would not approve and we would stop the process and examine the “why”. At the October 9 Board of Education meeting, if not before, I will provide you the actual dollar amounts from the approved bids. If all goes well, the actual project may be completed by October 9.

- **Title IX Grievance Procedures:** When the board adopted its current district policy in 2020 with the assistance of Clark Hill PLC, ISD administration also adopted and began using the provided Administrative Guidelines that corresponded to new district policy. Included in these Guidelines was a Title IX Grievance Procedure. We implemented this procedure and in future years between 2020-2023, updated our procedures as was required under the current law. Currently, to maintain federal compliance; the district has two Title IX Grievance Procedures that would be implemented dependent upon the date of applicable behavior being alleged.

Although we typically do not have board approval for most Administrative Guidelines to allow for administrative adaptability and flexibility to address situations that may arise, it is being recommended that the board formally adopt the two Title IX grievance procedures in use. This would be to show support for the procedures and commit the district to following them. It will support the district as well in preparation of an upcoming Office of Civil Rights audit and if a situation ever arose from a challenge stemming from an actual investigation. After board adoption, the district will be posting the two procedures to its website as well for the purpose of transparency and ease of finding the process.

- **MASB Delegates:** MASB’s 2025 Delegate Assembly will be Thursday, October 23 at 7 p.m. at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme. Delegates selected by boards of education across the state will decide MASB’s positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education. All delegates and alternates must be school board members. Only delegates and alternates named by your board may offer motions and vote on issues. All delegates must be certified and submitted by Thursday, October 2. A link to certify the official voting delegates and alternates who will represent your board of education has been sent to your superintendent’s secretary.
- **State Superintendent Chosen:** The State Board of Education has selected Dr. Glenn M. Maleyko, current superintendent of Dearborn Public Schools, to be Michigan’s next state superintendent. Dr. Maleyko has 30 years of experience in Dearborn Public Schools as a teacher, administrator and now superintendent, a role he’s held since 2015.

He was president of the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators for the 2023-24 school year, represents Michigan on the National School Superintendents Association Governing Board, and chairs a statewide English learner committee that he created in 2023.

Dr. Rice is retiring from the state superintendency on Oct. 3. The board hopes to have the new superintendent in place on Oct. 4.

- **Legislative Update:** On August 26, the House of Representatives brought up and passed its General Fund budget. House Bill 4706 appropriates funds for the remaining departments that were not passed with the School Aid budget in June. It was passed after little debate and no committee hearings by a mostly party-line vote. Rep. Karen Whitsett (D-Detroit) was the only Democrat to join with the Republicans to pass the bill.

The bill includes approximately \$3 billion in new funding for roads in the Department of Transportation. However, it includes broad cuts to hospitals, Medicaid, State Police and local government revenue sharing. The overall House budget proposal also diverts an additional \$1.5 billion from the General Fund to the School Aid Fund for universities. This \$1.5 billion accounts for half of the roads funding proposal. This would result in \$1.5 billion less available for K-12 schools.

Despite having all three proposals public and ready to be debated, the Legislature adjourned until after Labor Day. Our state education advocacy organizations have all pushed back on school funds being used to backfill roads funding programs. A Conference Committee will need to meet to find a compromise in order to pass a state budget. The current budget expires September 30 and without a successor, the state will enter a “shutdown”. Advocacy groups feel when (if) a compromise is reached, it is likely to be very close to, or after, the September 30 deadline.