

A regular meeting of the Kent ISD School Board was held at the administrative offices on Monday, November 13, 2023. The meeting was called to order by President Haidle at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Rettig, Featherston, Haidle

Member Absent: Drake, Hamming

Kent ISD Staff Present: Assistant Superintendents Philipps, Gorman, Finkel, Myers; Directors Baine, Burns, Castle, Dymowski, Graham, Hissong, Hendry, Hofstee, Houtman, Karsten, Lillis, Maynard, McClintic, Peraino, Preuss, Stamas, Store; Principal Lienesch and Verwey; recording Secretary Lovell; Kent ISD Staff: Amy Kerkstra, Nicole Burman, Julie Guenther, Kathryn O'Hara Wallis, Melissa Buurstra, Karen Lezan

Guests: Sherrie Blankenship, Dan Kerkstra, Deandre Jones, Angela Gorsh

President Haidle welcomed Sherrie Blankenship, lead auditor at Maner Costerisan, to share the Kent ISD 2022-2023 financial audit. An unmodified opinion for the financial statements was awarded, which is the highest level given. It was also reported there were no internal weaknesses, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses found within the district's internal controls.

Ms. Blankenship provided the board with highlights of the audit noting \$13.2 million in capital assets have been placed into service and also reported significant changes to pension and OPEB liabilities. Ms. Blankenship reviewed the results on a governmental fund basis and budget comparisons with board members. Maner Costerisan completed a single audit on a Special Education cluster and COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and found no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. This single audit was also issued as an unmodified opinion and a low-risk audit. President Haidle thanked Assistant Superintendent Philipps and Director Baine for their hard work with this year's audit.

Assistant Superintendent Philipps thanked Director Baine and the business office for their work and noted it is rare to receive a clean audit with no recommendations. Director Baine shared his appreciation to this team.

The Leading Learning awards were presented to Amy Kerkstra and Nicole Burman. Supervisors were given the opportunity to share words of appreciation on behalf of the recipients.

President Haidle welcomed Director of Grants and Strategic Partnerships, James Hissong, who shared a presentation highlighting the major grant initiatives and what goes into the grant process. Board members were given the opportunity for questions.

Upon motion of Member Featherston, supported by Member Rettig, it was resolved to combine and approve action items E.1-E.6.

Ayes: Featherston, Rettig, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Rettig, supported by Member Featherston, it was resolved to approve the initial construction phase of the Applied Construction Storage Barn project in the total amount of \$134,915.

Ayes: Rettig, Featherston, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Featherston, supported by Member Rettig, it was resolved to approve the bid from VSC Inc. for \$2,327,670.00 to purchase Public Address systems across all Kent ISD secondary programs, center programs, and administrative buildings.

Ayes: Featherston, Rettig, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Rettig, supported by Member Featherston, it was resolved to approve the resolution regarding the collection and notification to local units of government for summer taxes and authorize the board secretary to sign the notice.

Ayes: Rettig, Featherston, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Featherston, supported by Member Rettig, it was resolved to approve the recommendation to deny the Property Transfer request of parcel 8376 Revado Hills Ct SE.

Ayes: Featherston, Rettig, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Members reviewed the statewide Talent Together initiative that will provide a no-cost pathway for those seeking a teaching certificate and further endorsements. This will be offered in addition to the West Michigan Teacher Collaborative. Members were provided the opportunity for questions and discussion.

President Haidle provided the opportunity for public comment. Mr. Deandre Jones provided a statement regarding e-sports. President Haidle thanked him for attending and providing feedback.

Member Featherston shared an update on the Annual Leadership Conference and Michigan Council of School Attorneys Fall Conference she attended this past week. President Haidle thanked Member Featherston for representing Kent ISD and sharing her experience.

Assistant Superintendent Gorman recognized custodial supervisor, Jeff Miller, on his retirement after working for Kent ISD the past 19 years. He also acknowledged Assistant Superintendent, Kevin

Philipps and Finance Director, Dennis Baine, for a phenomenal financial audit and for providing staff the opportunity input to the budget throughout the year.

Assistant Superintendent Gorman thanked Director Burns for his work coordinating a reunification exercise this week. This provides staff and our security team the training needed in the event of a security threat.

President Haidle adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes Approved: December 18, 2023

Andrea Haidle, President

Laura Featherston, Secretary

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