

A regular meeting of the Kent ISD School Board was held at the administrative offices on Monday, January 15, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Haidle at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Rettig, Featherston, Drake, Hamming, Haidle

Member Absent:

Kent ISD Staff Present: Superintendent Koehler, Assistant Superintendents Finkel, Gorman, Philipps, Rodgers; Directors Behm, Dymowski, Houtman, McClintic; Administrators Behrendt, Hutchins, Hordyk, Jones, Sneider, Zashak, Czechowskyj; Recording Secretary Lovell

Guests: Robin Tevlin

President Haidle welcomed visitors and turned the meeting over to Center Programs Director, Mr. Paul Dymowski, who shared a Center Programs Impact Report. Board members were given the opportunity for questions.

Upon motion of Member Featherston, supported by Member Drake, it was resolved to combine and approve action items D.1-D.7.

Ayes: Hamming, Featherston, Rettig, Drake, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Drake, supported by Member Hamming, it was resolved to approve the bid from Fisher Idema Excavating LLC to provide site improvements to Empower U Central in the amount of 656,305.00

Ayes: Featherston, Rettig, Hamming, Drake, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Featherston, supported by Member Rettig, it was resolved to approve the resolutions to adopt the Policy Manual Updates as outlined in the board packet. Members were given the opportunity for questions.

Ayes: Rettig, Hamming, Drake, Featherston, Haidle

Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

President Haidle provided the opportunity for public comment. Ms. Robin Tevlin shared her family's concerns regarding her son's experience attending the Kent ISD Oral Deaf program.

Superintendent Koehler recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day and advised board members that Kent ISD's leadership team will discuss additional ways to recognize this important holiday.

Our new Executive Director for the Education Advocates of West Michigan, Mr. Dan Behm, has begun his new position providing educational advocacy for Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa County. Mr. Behm has a vast amount of experience serving as superintendent of Forest Hills Public Schools for 17 years and chaired the MASA Legislative Committee for 10 years.

Kent ISD has received an additional \$2 million dollars from MDE to support our local Grow Your Own Program, totaling \$21 million to date. These funds will be used to recruit and retain teachers that are enrolled in the West Michigan Teacher Collaborative.

Superintendent Koehler thanked the leadership team for their support during his medical leave of absence.

A board work session was scheduled to conduct a mid-year superintendent evaluation on February 12, 2024 at 4:30p.m.

President Haidle adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Minutes Approved: February 12, 2024

Andrea Haidle, President

Laura Featherston, Secretary

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