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Partners in building full potential

COLLABORATION INTEGRITY INNOVATION SERVICE ACCOUNTABILITY DATA-DRIVEN

Board Report — June 11, 2026

- **Special Education Millage Renewal & Restoration:** Presentations have been made at all five local district board of education meetings over the past five weeks. Each district has received informational posters for display in all district buildings. Postcards are being finalized for intended home delivery across Ionia County at the end of June. Official ballots have all been proofed and approved. Our millage website is live with information and will continue to expand. Our social media campaign is scheduled to begin the week of June 8. Our video is expected at any time. Finally, I will continue to speak to groups across the county over the summer as opportunities arise. Again, all materials are informational in nature only and not designed to be campaign-style material.
- **Employee Bargaining Group Contract Recommendation:** It is my recommendation that the board of education approve the agreements as found in your board packets for new three year contracts with our Ionia Intermediate Education Association (professional staff) and Ionia Intermediate Support Personnel Association (support staff). Both employee groups held ratification votes the week of June 1 and approved these new contracts. I wish to offer appreciation and gratitude to the leadership teams of both associations for their collaborative and professional approach to reach new agreements.
- **Facilities Update:** I have two significant updates in regards to upcoming projects with our facilities. First, we are proceeding with the remodeling and revitalizing of the final spaces at the Administration Building that had not yet been addressed in previous work during the past five years. This will include a more functional multi-use conference meeting space for groups of 20-25 people where the current business office is located. Locating this space here also increases building security by having the space near the main entryway of the building and our other conference spaces. The business office will relocate to the center part of the north wing and the current offices in the center will move to the far north end of the building. We expect to have bids out in July and are planning board review and approval of these bids in September. The timing for the work would be October-December 2026. This will displace much of the staff on the north side of the building during the work period and temporary work spaces will be set up in the main conference rooms for those months.

The second facility of note is in regards to our Independent Living Center Transitions program. The recent broken water pipe and corresponding significant water damage caused us to assess if restoring and/or renovating the home for continued use made the most sense for the staff and students that utilize the space. There have always been

challenges with the home for our students in regards to adequate bathroom size for the changing needs of students, mobility for walkers and wheelchairs and narrow, steep staircases making use of the upstairs and basement difficult for the mobility needs of our population. After exploration, we would like to proceed with the restoration of the home through insurance as it was prior to the water damage, list the home for sale, and once sold; take the profits from the sale and reinvest in constructing a more modern, ADA accessible ranch-style home here at the 2191 Harwood campus. The difference in cost after sale would be covered by our capital projects fund.

The benefits of this plan include designing a structure to meet current student training, mobility and healthcare needs in addition to allow ease for additional adult supports from ISD staff on campus, lower costs of maintenance, more employee parking, easier bus drop off zones and lower costs for lawn care and snow removal and lower utilities with greatly increased energy efficiency.

- **Legislative Update:** Per reporting from Karoub and Associates, Michigan's fiscal picture came into a slightly clearer focus on May 15 when the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC) finalized the state's official revenue projections for the current and upcoming fiscal years. In summary, revenues are tracking somewhat better than anticipated in January, but not by enough to close the significant budget gap standing between lawmakers and a signed budget by July 1.

The panel, which includes the State Treasurer and House and Senate fiscal experts, approved official revenue numbers at this second meeting of the year. State Budget Director Jen Flood acknowledged that while the numbers were a little better than earlier this year, they were not sufficient to plug a budget hole in excess of \$1 billion.

The official consensus figures confirm this synopsis. General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP) revenue for FY 2026 was revised upward to \$14.36 billion, a \$227.9 million improvement over the January consensus estimate. For FY 2027, the May estimate came in at \$14.17 billion — a \$94.2 million increase from January. School Aid Fund (SAF) projections also ticked up modestly, with combined GF/GP and SAF revenues across the forecast window revised upward by roughly \$307 million for the current fiscal year.

The larger economic picture, however, remains unsettled. Economists noted that while the national economy posted an estimated 2.1% real GDP growth in calendar year 2025, progress toward the Federal Reserve's 2% inflation target has stalled, in part due to upward pressure on global energy prices from the ongoing Iran conflict. Labor market conditions are described as stable but tight, with job gains concentrated in health care. Consumer sentiment has hit historic lows even as higher-income consumers continue to spend.

Property tax relief will be the defining policy debate of Michigan's 2026 legislative session, with both House Republicans and House Democrats introducing competing proposals that differ significantly in scope, cost, and who would benefit. The debate over the two proposals cuts to a core disagreement about fiscal risk. Education policy advocates caution that broad-based cuts to property tax collections will put significant pressure on school funding, police, libraries, and local infrastructure, especially given Michigan's existing budget gap exceeding \$1 billion and the ongoing uncertainty around federal Medicaid funding.