March 18, 2019 KENT ISD SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

A regular meeting of the School Board of said district was held in the Administrative Offices on the above date. The meeting was called to order by President Haidle at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Bajema, Drake, Haidle, Joseph and Rettig
Member Absent:

Kent ISD Staff Present: Superintendent Caniff, Assistant Superintendents Hagerty, Koehler, Smith, Sullivan, and Recording Secretary Conners; Directors Baine, Campbell, Dymowski, Finkel, Kaufman, Lovelady-Mitchell, Myers, Peraino and Stamas; Principals Bush, Graham, Hendry and Kiley

Guests: Deb VanDyke, Ashley Karsten, Karen Lezan, Carol Ray, Rodney Ray, Madison Schaefer

President Haidle welcomed all visitors and provided an opportunity for public comment.

Upon motion of Member Joseph, supported by Member Rettig, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2019 regular meeting of the School Board.

Ayes: All present
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Bajema, supported by Member Drake, it was resolved that the bills from February 1, 2019 through February 28, 2019 be allowed and orders drawn on the Treasurer for the amount summarized in the accounts payable report:

a. General Education $ 6,420,899.36
b. Special Education 7,304,714.13
c. Community Service 671,671.87
d. Career Technical Education 314,517.64
e. Cooperative Education 65444.39
f. Capital Projects:
   1) General Education 5,391.49
   2) Special Education 135,545.83
   3) Career Technical Education 22,702.69
g. Skutt Scholarship Fund 0.00
h. Trust & Agency 6,832.97
i. Internal Service Fund 0.00

TOTAL $14,947,720.37

Ayes: Members Drake, Joseph, Rettig, Bajema and Haidle
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.
Assistant Superintendent Hagerty reviewed the 2019-20 capital outlay recommendations. The estimated amount for new and replacement equipment and building improvements is $2.1 million. This represents a 4.8% increase that mirrors the increase in taxable value and allows Kent ISD to fund 82% of the requests submitted. Safety, security, roads and infrastructure continue to be a priority. Director Finkel gave more information on the firewall updates requested. The list price for the recommended Fortigate firewalls is $420,000 and we were able to bid these out and acquire them for $270,000. Some of this cost may be reimbursed through E-rate. This firewall provides protection between our internal data and external threats. As districts are connected to the WAN fiber network they will also benefit from this firewall protection.

Director Peraino explained that the ring road section between the Leffingwell entrance and Knapp will be replaced this summer per the recommendation of the OAK assessment completed several years ago. The city buses travel this section daily and contribute to the deterioration of this part of the road. The recommendation for sidewalks connecting buildings and the bus stops on campus came from the security committee. President Haidle asked about the bid threshold. Any items over $24,459 need to be bid out and will be brought back to the board for formal approval. Member Rettig asked for clarification on security and lockdown procedures. Our procedures are based on the recommendations from the security consultant that conducted a thorough review and training last year.

Upon motion of Member Joseph, supported by Member Bajema, it was resolved to approve the personnel recommendations regarding resignations and terminations, appointments, new assignments and/or contract adjustments, leaves of absence, and temporary contract employees. A copy of the recommendations and the addendum is included with the legal minutes of this meeting.

Ayes: Members Joseph, Rettig, Bajema, Drake and Haidle
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Bajema, supported by Member Drake, it was resolved to approve the appointments of the Center Program Special Education staff. Assistant Superintendent Sullivan reported that offers of employment went out to just under 400 Center Program staff. We have received an answer back from all but five current GRPS staff. These five will be brought to the board in April if they choose to accept the offer of employment. Director Dymowski thanked the HR staff for their diligent work in processing these additional hires. An additional 50+ vacancies will be posted. Assistant Superintendent Sullivan also expressed her appreciation to the Education Association as they assimilate 400+ new members.

Ayes: Members Rettig, Bajema, Drake, Joseph and Haidle
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Drake, supported by Member Rettig, it was resolved to approve the creation of a Human Resources Clerk position. This position will support the HR department with the addition of the Center Program staff hires.

Ayes: Members Bajema, Drake, Joseph, Rettig and Haidle
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.
Upon motion of Member Joseph, supported by Member Bajema, it was resolved to approve the Summer Calendar Recommendations. Per past practice, Kent ISD will be closed five Fridays from June 28 – July 26, allowing for building maintenance and repairs.

Ayes: Members Drake, Joseph, Rettig, Bajema and Haidle
Nays: None
*Motion declared to have carried.*

Upon motion of Member Drake, supported by Member Rettig, it was resolved to approve the striking of personal property taxes from previous tax rolls.

Ayes: Members Joseph, Rettig, Bajema, Drake and Haidle
Nays: None
*Motion declared to have carried.*

Upon motion of Member Joseph, supported by Member Rettig, it was resolved to approve the low bid from Vector Technology Group of $271,199 for a pair of Fortigate 3400e firewalls and one Fortigate Analyzer. Director Finkel clarified that the Fortigate Analyzer is a data analytics device that analyzes outside threats.

Ayes: Members Rettig, Bajema, Drake, Joseph and Haidle
Nays: None
*Motion declared to have carried.*

Upon motion of Member Drake, supported by Member Bajema, it was resolved to approve the request for 33 Kent Career Tech Center students and 8 advisors to participate in the SkillsUSA state competition April 5-7, 2019 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Principal Graham shared that winners at this state competition will be invited to compete at Nationals in Kansas City later in the year. He thanked the class advisors for the extra time given to prepare the students for this competition.

Ayes: Members Bajema, Drake, Joseph, Rettig and Haidle
Nays: None
*Motion declared to have carried.*

President Haidle congratulated Member Rettig for earning the President’s Award, the highest honor given by MASB. This award requires 1,000 hours of continuing education credits and involves a lot of time and commitment. She thanked expanded cabinet members for the thorough reports provided at this morning’s board work session.

Superintendent Caniff also thanked the Kent ISD team for their work and dedication. He asked Assistant Superintendent Smith to provide an update on the new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) and the initial results.

Assistant Superintendent Smith stated that the KRA was administered last fall to at least 1/3 of all new kindergarteners in each district. He showed a chart comparing the Kent ISD results to data from Ohio and Maryland. 75% of Kent County students scored as demonstrating or approaching readiness. The Kent ISD early childhood education programs demonstrated a clear benefit for Kent County low-income students of color. 62% of the low-income, Hispanic students who participated in Bright Beginnings or GRPS programs were demonstrating or approaching readiness as compared to only
44% of their counterparts with no early childhood experience. 60% of the low-income, African American students who participated in Bright Beginnings or GRPS programs were demonstrating or approaching readiness as compared to only 45% of their counterparts with no early childhood experience.

Supervisor Ashley Karsten stated that the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment provides a common assessment tool for all students. All staff in the 92 GSRP classrooms have been trained this year on the “Power Standards”. They have identified 6 of the current 36 standards as power standards critical to kindergarten readiness and these are assessed every day. All GSRP programs are licensed and are star rated through the Great Start to Quality program. She reviewed the rating process completed for every GSRP site.

Karen Lezan gave an overview of the Bright Beginnings program. She reviewed how referrals are received for students from prenatal-age 5 to participate in the Bright Beginnings program. The Parents as Teachers program is universal in Kent County and provides home visits 1-2 times monthly to referred families. Parent Educators work to build the capacity of parents as teachers and strive to give a book to every child at every visit. The program is grant-subsidized and receives funds from the local districts. There are some language barrier issues; two of the Parent Educators are fluent in Spanish and serve students in the Godfrey-Lee, Godwin Heights and Grand Rapids districts. Barbara Corbin with the Early On program and Terese Smith with the Great Start to Quality program also provide beneficial services to Kent County early childhood families.

The meeting was adjourned by President Haidle at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes Approved: April 15, 2019

Andrea Haidle, President

Claudia Bajema, Secretary