The 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 Bajema at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:  Bajema, Grifhorst, Haidle, Joseph and Thorne (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)
Members Absent:  None

Kent ISD Staff Present: Superintendent Caniff, Assistant Superintendents Hagerty, Koehler, Smith, Sullivan, and Recording Secretary Conners; Directors Baine, Earnest, Finkel, Ghareeb, Grandy, Kaufman, Peraino and VanderJagt; Principals Kiley, Kraus, Lovelady-Mitchell and Stamas.

Guests Present: Katie McClintic – Kent ISD, Kristin Tank - MSPRA

President Bajema welcomed all visitors and provided an opportunity for comments. Superintendent Caniff welcomed Kristin Tank, Communications Director for the Muskegon Area ISD (MAISD) and president-elect of the Michigan School Public Relations Association (MSPRA).

On behalf of MSPRA, Kristin Tank presented the Golden Medallion award to the Kent ISD Communications Team (Assistant Superintendent Ron Koehler, Communications Director Allison Kaufman and Katie McClintic) for the Roots of Reading Success videos they created for the Reading Now Network. These 7 videos are available on the MASA website and highlight the five common elements of reading success through the voices of children. Superintendent Caniff also congratulated Katie McClintic who received a Distinguished Video/Audio award from MSPRA for the “We Are the Tech Center” promotional video and Assistant Superintendent Koehler, who received a Distinguished Writing award from MSPRA for his School News Network blog.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Thorne, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2015 regular meeting of the School Board and approve the minutes of the August 17, 2015 property transfer hearing.

Ayes:  All present
Nays:  None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Joseph, supported by Member Grifhorst, it was resolved that the bills from August 1, 2015 through August 31, 2015 be allowed and orders drawn on the Treasurer for the amount summarized in the accounts payable report:

a. General Education  $6,512,900.05
b. Special Education  $6,898,592.24
c. Career Technical Education  505,088.44
d. Cooperative Education  54,959.08
e. Capital Projects:
   1) General Education  63,798.49
   2) Special Education  134,235.80
   3) Career Technical Education  7.22
Assistant Superintendent Hagerty reported that these are typical expenses for this time of year.

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

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Thorne, 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 is included with the legal minutes of this meeting. Assistant Superintendent Sullivan thanked the supervisors for the many interviews they participated in and her staff for processing all the new hires we had this fall.

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

Upon motion of Member Joseph, supported by Member Grifhorst, it was resolved to approve the distribution of $20 million of Act 18 Special Education funds to the local districts based on the payout formula authorized by the Kent Intermediate Superintendents’ Association. Assistant Superintendent Hagerty stated that this payment is the first of three payments of funds generated from the Special Education property tax assessed. We had projected a 1.75% increase in revenue and have received a 3.5% revenue increase over last year. He indicated that local districts do not receive a September State Aid payment and that this initial payment helps local districts with their cash flow needs.

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

Upon motion of Member Thorne, supported by Member Haidle, it was resolved to approve the low bid from Gust Construction in the amount of $172,000 for the freezer addition and bakery renovation project at KCTC. Assistant Superintendent Hagerty stated that this was the lowest bid of the three bids received and that we have worked successfully with Gust Construction on previous projects. These renovations are part of a long term plan of the culinary department that will also help with the accreditation process in 2019 through the American Culinary Federation.

Ayes: Members Grifhorst, Haidle, Joseph, Thorne and Bajema
Nays: None
Motion declared to have carried.
Upon motion of Member Grifhorst, supported by Member Haidle, it was resolved to approve the bid from Presidio in the amount of $87,307.20 for 160 Cisco Access Points to upgrade connections to Wi-Fi on the Kent ISD campus and at the Downtown Market and Kent Aviation Center. Assistant Superintendent Hagerty reported that this is phase three of a three-year technology plan and will provide access points to improve wireless connectivity throughout the campus. This is especially relevant with the on-line learning programs housed on campus and as students bring more wireless devices on campus. As this bid came in under budget, we were able to provide additional access points and improve the wireless connectivity at satellite programs also.

Ayes: Members Haidle, Joseph, Thorne, Grifhorst and Bajema
Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Joseph, supported by Member Grifhorst, it was resolved to accept the bids from the contractors for the Pine Grove expansion project that are recommended in each bid category and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services to sign contracts, change orders, and other documents necessary to complete this project within the budget approved. Assistant Superintendent Hagerty stated that this initial budget was approved in July and bids were sent out. The bids received came in well under budget from the original estimates and he thanked Director Peraino and Owen-Ames-Kimball (OAK) for their work in the bid review process. Once approved, contracts will be signed and the work will start at the site soon. He stated that Director VanderPloeg is working with parents and students at Pine Grove to ensure that this project causes the least disruption possible to students and learning.

Ayes: Members Joseph, Thorne, Grifhorst, Haidle and Bajema
Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Thorne, it was resolved to approve the disposition of surplus equipment.

Ayes: Members Thorne, Grifhorst, Haidle, Joseph and Bajema
Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Joseph, supported by Member Haidle, it was resolved to approve the nominees for open Parent Advisory Special Education (P.A.S.E.) seats for the 2015-2018 term as approved by our local education agencies. Superintendent Caniff reported that these nominees are recommended by local boards and meet regularly to share concerns and information, which helps the flow of communication.

Ayes: Members Grifhorst, Haidle, Joseph, Thorne and Bajema
Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.
Member Haidle shared a letter she received from Senator Gary Peters regarding the reauthorization of ESEA and Title I funds. Legislation on this subject is still in conference committee. She shared an article entitled, “The Brain Drain” which studied how poverty affects brain development. This study reinforces how important our programs are, especially in Early Childhood. Member Haidle also shared information from the presentation presented by Pedro Noguera at the Diversity kick-off.

Member Grifhorst shared information that was published recently in the Grand Rapids Press regarding school funding.

Superintendent Caniff congratulated President Bajema on her upcoming retirement from GVSU and shared an invitation to a retirement celebration in her honor on September 29th. He reminded board members of the Annual Fall Leadership Conference and asked anyone interested in being a voting delegate at this assembly to let us know. Superintendent Caniff provided each board member a copy of the book Excellence Through Equity which was written by Pedro Noguera and Alan Blankstein and was given to attendees at the Diversity kick-off meeting last month.

Superintendent Caniff reminded board members of the KIASB dinner on October 8th to be held at Cornerstone University. Mayor George Heartwell will be receiving the Education Advocacy Award at this event. In addition, Assistant Superintendent Hagerty introduced the new Director of Finance, Dennis Baine.

Member Haidle spoke about the current legislation to allow concealed weapons in schools and the importance of speaking up and voicing concerns regarding this matter. She stated that there is also legislation recommended by Tim Kelley to provide vouchers for Detroit Public Schools. This voucher conversation is still happening throughout the state despite its resounding defeat on a state-wide ballot proposal.

The meeting was adjourned by President Bajema at 6:43 p.m.

Minutes Approved: October 19, 2015

Andrea Haidle, Secretary

Claudia Bajema, President