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 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:  Bajema, Grifhorst, Haidle, Joseph, and Thorne
Members Absent:

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

Guests Present: Sharon Townsend (4:30 p.m.)

Assistant Superintendent Sullivan reviewed the new and revised board policies recommended by NEOLA. These board policy updates and revisions will be presented to the board for approval at the January board meeting.

Upon motion of Member Thorne, supported by Member Haidle, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2015 regular meeting of the School Board.

Ayes: all present  
Motion carried by consensus.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Joseph, it was resolved that the bills from November 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015 be allowed and orders drawn on the Treasurer for the amount summarized in the accounts payable report:

a. General Education  $ 4,867,700.49
b. Special Education  2,816,404.09
c. Career Technical Education  383,471.96
d. Cooperative Education  50,364.61
e. Capital Projects:
   1) General Education  1,441.48
   2) Special Education  281,671.01
   3) Career Technical Education  0.00
f. Skutt Scholarship Fund  0.00
g. Trust and Agency  16,742.65
h. Internal Service Fund  0.00

TOTAL  $ 8,417,796.29

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 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 reported that key vacancies at KIH and in the aviation program have been filled this month. She thanked Principal Lovelady-Mitchell and Director Grandy for their efforts to fill these two openings with outstanding candidates.

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 combine and approve action items G2.a-g; all amendments to the 2015-16 General Education, Special Education, Career Technical Education, Cooperative Education, General Education Capital Projects, Special Education Capital Projects and CTE Capital Projects budgets. Assistant Superintendent Hagerty stated that the ISD built solid budgets last April and he reviewed the budget amendments. In the general fund, the state aid budget eliminated best practice funding for ISDs, and $65,000 was transferred this summer from the general fund budget to the general fund capital projects budget for the purchase of the Knapp property. The general fund projected balance at year end is 9.7 percent. The special education budget had no significant changes. Property tax receipts are tracking higher than originally forecast and may increase by 3 percent. He stated that the Governor has increased CTE program spending and that we have received an additional $645,000 in funding. The projected year end CTE fund balance, once pre-paids and inventory are factored, is around 7 percent. The cooperative education budget includes data warehouse funds and regional collaborative programs. The year end cooperative education fund projected balance is 13.5 percent. Assistant Superintendent Hagerty reviewed the capital project fund budgets. The Pine Grove expansion budget was increased from $5.5 million to $7.0 million.

Hagerty thanked the new finance director Dennis Baine for helping refine and improve the budget amendment process. Superintendent Caniff stated that the auditor was impressed with our processes and that there was little variance in the set budgets.

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

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Joseph, it was resolved to approve, at prices quoted, the three (3) year KEC Beltline Cleaning Service bid from United Commercial Services along with the option of extending the agreement by two (2), one-year renewals.

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

Motion declared to have carried.
Upon motion of Member Thorne, supported by Member Joseph, it was resolved to approve travel for one (1) board member to attend the NSBA Advocacy Institute Conference January 24-26, 2016 in Washington, D.C. with customary and allowable expenses covered. President Bajema thanked member Haidle and Assistant Superintendent Koehler for their advocacy at this event and for the reports they bring back to the board.

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

Motion declared to have carried.

Superintendent Caniff reported on another opportunity to celebrate Kent ISD’s AdvancED accreditation when we were presented with a plaque and banner at the AdvancED Michigan fall conference last month. Assistant Superintendent Koehler attended and accepted these on behalf of Kent ISD. Director Earnest stated that we will report back to AdvancED in two years on the continuous improvement work in progress, and they will visit our organization again in five years. Caniff and Koehler thanked Sarah Earnest and Ben Boerkel for their leadership throughout the accreditation process.

Caniff asked KCTC Principal John Kraus to provide an update on the results of a recent coin drive fundraiser. Kraus shared that the KCTC principal leadership team worked with KSSN to identify 40 needy families and the students raised $6,500 for these families through their coin drive this year. Two individual KCTC classrooms raised $1,000 each. Caniff and the Board thanked Principal Kraus and the principal leadership team for their generosity and giving this holiday season. Caniff then asked KTC Principal Duane Kiley to share similar news. Kiley reported students at KTC also raised over $1,000, which is remarkable given the smaller size of their study body. The students will be donating the funds to several programs including Toys for Tots. The Board thanked Principal Kiley and the KTC students for their generosity and giving this holiday season. Caniff then presented board members with beautiful evergreen wreaths, noting that the wreaths were crafted by KTC students. Board members expressed their gratitude.

Superintendent Caniff requested that the board meet in closed session for the purpose of conducting his mid-year performance evaluation, pursuant to Open Meetings Act 8(a). Upon motion of Member Grifhorst, supported by Member Joseph, the board moved to closed session.

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

Motion declared to have carried.

The board moved to closed session at 4:33 p.m. The board returned to open session at 6:10 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by President Bajema at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes Approved: January 18, 2016

Andrea Haidle, Secretary

Claudia Bajema, President

/cc