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


Guests Present:  Lisa Minelli

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Grifhorst, it was resolved to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2015 Regular School Board Meeting and from the December 14, 2015 Closed Board Session.

Ayes: All present
Nays: None

Motion declared to have carried.

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

a. General Education $ 6,627,470.56
b. Special Education 7,296,931.04
c. Career Technical Education 557,270.61
d. Cooperative Education 40,326.09
e. Capital Projects:
   1) General Education 4,114.93
   2) Special Education 271,575.12
   3) Career Technical Education 48.87
f. Skutt Scholarship Fund 0.00
g. Trust and Agency 15,063.26
h. Internal Service Fund  0.00

TOTAL $ 14,812,800.48

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. Openings due to turnover in the GSRP program as staff transition to other positions have been filled quickly.

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

Motion declared to have carried.

Upon motion of Member Haidle, supported by Member Joseph, it was resolved to approve the following new or revised policies, which were reviewed at the December 14, 2015 regular board meeting:

- Bylaw 0144.3 – Conflict of Interest (Revised)
- Bylaw 0175.1 – Board Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops (Revised)
- Policy 1130 – Conflict of Interest (Revised)
- Policy 1217 – Weapons (New)
- Policy 1420 – School Administrator Evaluation (Revised)
- Policy 1630.01 – Family & Medical Leaves of Absence (FMLA) (Revised)
- Policy 3110 – Conflict of Interest (Revised)
- Policy 3217 – Weapons (Revised)
- Policy 3430.01 – Family & Medical Leaves of Absence (FMLA) (Revised)
- Policy 4110 – Conflict of Interest (Revised)
- Policy 4217 – Weapons (Revised)
- Policy 4430.01 – Family & Medical Leaves of Absence (FMLA) (Revised)
- Policy 5517.02 – Sexual Violence (New)
- Policy 5772 – Weapons (Revised)
- Policy 6110 – Grant Funds (Revised)
- Policy 6111 – Internal Controls (New)
- Policy 6146 – Post-Issuance Compliance for Tax-Exempt and Tax-Advantaged Obligations (Revised)
- Policy 6320 – Purchasing (Revised)
- Policy 6550 – Travel Payment & Reimbursement (New)
- Policy 6850 – Public Disclosure and Reporting (Revised)
- Policy 7217 – Weapons (Revised)
- Policy 8321 – Criminal Justice Information Security (Revised)
- Policy 8400 – School Safety Information (Revised)

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

Motion declared to have carried.

Assistant Superintendent Hagerty reviewed the budget assumptions for 2016-17. All the Kent ISD budgets are structurally balanced. The budget is based on taxable value increasing 3.5%. This number will be finalized in May. Kent ISD’s largest expenditures – staff compensation, medical insurance and retirement, have been established. Investment income remains low. The facilities budget did not change, electrical costs will increase but should be
offset by the lower gas costs. We will schedule a board work session to review next year’s budget as it is finalized. We share the Kent ISD budget with local districts by May 1st.

Superintendent Caniff shared information from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference held last week. The General Fund and School Aid fund revenue has grown, however the increase was less than estimated last May. There is a $575 million one-time surplus, Lansing has not decided how these funds will be spent. He stated that the lower gas prices have equated to a 26% reduction of gas sales tax collected.

Superintendent Caniff stated that there is a $90 million growth in MPSERS retirement costs. After all increased expenditures, the State has approximately $69 million surplus in the School Aid fund. If this all went to schools it would equate to a $47 increase per student. Currently $461 million is used from the School Aid fund for higher education/community colleges. This formerly came out of the General Fund. Superintendent Caniff reviewed the Governor’s plan for Detroit Public Schools (DPS). DPS currently has $700 million in debt and reportedly will run out of money by April. The Governor will submit his budget and his DPS funding plan on February 10.

Assistant Superintendent Hagerty and Director of Facilities Peraino presented an update on the Pine Grove Learning Center expansion. He explained the history and rationalization behind the decision to add eight classrooms to Pine Grove. This addition will almost double the student population that we can serve. The Autism program (ASD) numbers are trending up and require additional rooms because of the low student/teacher ratio required. We currently serve students ages 5 to 26 in these programs.

The funds for this addition have been set aside previously in the Special Education Capital Projects budget. Peraino reviewed the timeline and presented pictures of the current work. We are on track to complete the project in June/July 2016, with students occupying in September 2016. There will also be additional parking and a walking path around the building and grounds. Staff are currently reviewing trends and future needs to adjust geographic boundaries if necessary for students served by Lincoln and Pine Grove schools.

Superintendent Caniff, on behalf of the entire Kent ISD team, expressed his appreciation to the board members for their service and dedication to Kent County students. He presented them with a token gift as a thank you for their leadership and governance at Kent ISD throughout the past year.

President Bajema recognized today’s Martin Luther King holiday and the importance of his work for Civil Rights throughout the country. She thanked Member Haidle and Assistant Superintendent Koehler for traveling to Washington D.C. this week to represent Kent County at the NSBA Advocacy Institute Conference.

Member Haidle reviewed the new ESSA bill and how it shifts power to the state level. There are still many unknowns regarding the implication of these changes.
Superintendent Caniff reviewed upcoming events which include the February 2 job shadow day, February 5 Counselor Breakfast, ongoing College Acceleration Network meetings as students prepare for the SAT test and the May 10 Career Quest event. The HR department is providing a series about the new teacher and administrator evaluation requirements via a Lunch and Learn training webcast format through Thrun Law Firm. Caniff also noted that the next KIASB dinner is scheduled for March 3.

The meeting was adjourned by President Bajema at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes Approved: February 22, 2016

Andrea Haidle, Secretary

Claudia Bajema, President