

**MECOSTA-OSCEOLA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
15760 190TH AVENUE, BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307**

**JANUARY 13, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District Board of Education was held on Monday, January 13, 2020, in the Resource Center of the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District, 15800 190th Avenue, Big Rapids, Michigan.

President Wilkerson officially called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Roll call was taken as follows:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cathy Browers, Mike Wyman, Sheri Thompson  
Marie Wilkerson, Larry Sredersas, Mark Sochocki

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Heidi Speese

Under regular order of business, President Wilkerson asked if there were any “**Additions or Changes to the Agenda.**” There were none.

President Wilkerson then asked if there were any “**Communications.**” There were none.

**Consent Agenda Items:**

- Minutes from the December 9, 2020, Regular Monthly Meeting
- Payment of December Bills (\$1,795,922.97) and approval of December Financial Reports
- Personnel Resignation and Appointments
  - There were no new hires at this time.
  - There were no resignations at this time.
- Superintendent and Board member(s) Conference/Travel Request: there were none.

There was a motion by Member Thompson and supported by Member Browers to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Under “Superintendent’s Report”**

**Board Showcase:**

- Superintendent Locke announced that Special Projects, Director Karen Roy, had the Board Showcase. Ms. Roy stated that her department would be presenting on the Mom Power program and introduced Jessica Wimmer, Great Start Coordinator. Ms. Wimmer indicated she believes that this is a first-time collaboration between Mom Power and an ISD. She

also expressed thanks to CMCH, FSU, and the First Baptist Church in Reed City for their collaboration. She explained that Mom Power is a program that supports families who are facing adversity and stress through the challenges of caring for young children. The program provides a safe, trusting, and nurturing environment that allows families to learn and practice new skills. The program helps by removing barriers, providing tools and resources to create powerful moms, helps to empower moms, helps with transportation to group meetings and child care, connects mothers to other mothers, connects mothers to local resources, supports mothers in using self-care skills, and helps support relationships between mothers and their young children. The program is a ten-week program that consists of three hours per week for a total of a 30 hour program. The last mom power group consisted of four moms and six children.

Jessie introduced a special guest, Tabby, who was part of the last Mom Power program. Tabby expressed her thankfulness for being able to participate in this program. She explained the value of mom networking for advice and guidance. She stated that the group increased her confidence level, helped her to learn how to regulate her feelings, increased her feelings of competence in parenting, increased her ability to identify and respond to her child's emotional needs, and taught her the importance of routine and self-care. Ms. Wimmer indicated that they are looking at the next class and may have as many as 20 moms already interested. They need a social worker that can bill. There were questions and comments to Ms. Wimmer and Tabby from the Board.

- Superintendent Locke asked Karen Roy to talk about the Talking is Teaching program. She explained that this a National Program that is grant-funded; she indicated that Michigan is the first Talking is Teaching state. The program is focused on literacy, and the goal is to talk-read-sing every day. Ms. Roy discussed the process of getting information to families that are not already connected to any services. They are by getting referral bags and "blanket" messages to individuals through trusted messengers in the community. There was discussion among the Board.

### **Department Reports:**

- Due to the holiday break, there were no Department Update Reports this month.
- Superintendent Locke announced that January was Board Appreciation Month and thanked the Board for all they do for our students and staff.
- Superintendent Locke informed the Board that we received a good offer today on the completed Construction Trades home on Ryan's Creek Way. He will keep them informed.
- The new Construction Trades home located in Indian Village: progress is good as the basement, and the exterior walls are up.

### **MOISD Updates/News:**

Superintendent Locke updated the Board on the following:

- MidMichigan: canceled most of their classes scheduled for the Winter Semester. They are still trying to achieve liftoff in Big Rapids.
- The Ready for Life Program: Superintendent Locke has had several meetings with this organization, Community Mental Health, MRS, DHHS, and Ferris. He explained that this program would be in addition to the MOISD Education Center program and the

Downtown Education Center program. They are exploring opportunities and options for students who achieve a Certificate of Completion. Ready for Life is hoping to have the program up and running by the Fall of 2020.

Under Board Business “**Action Items,**” the following was discussed:

- **ACTION ITEM: No. 17... Consideration of the Purchase of a School Bus**  
Superintendent Locke reviewed the new bus information; this will be the first MOISD gas bus.

There was a motion by Member Sochocki, supported by Member Sredersas, to approve the purchase of the new bus from Midwest Transit at the cost of \$96,262.00, including delivery  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

- **ACTION ITEM: No. 18... Consideration of Approval of the Mecosta-Osceola ISD Emergency Operations Plan and Reunification Plan**

Superintendent Locke indicated these plans are required as the result of semi-recent legislation. This plan will be revised as needed and is required if the MOISD were to apply for the Michigan State Police Safety Grant for equipment or funds.

There was a motion by Member Thompson, supported by Member Wyman, to approve the Mecosta-Osceola ISD Emergency Operations Plan and Reunification Plan. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Under **Board Business “Discussion/Informational Items”**:

Superintendent Locke reported on:

- Legislation Update:
  - School Aide Fund Challenges
  - Revenue Estimating Conference
  - Budget: Budgets were higher than expected in May with a projected increase for next year
  - Launch Michigan – Superintendent Locke will have more information at the next Board meeting. Representative O’Malley -handout
  - SB 600 & 601 Senate Bills – Modify the MI Merit Standards and amend the State School Aid Act to remove reference to Section 1278b of the Revised School Code.
- Lusk Alberton Administrative Regulations: All Directors, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent Locke attended. It should be finished up next month.
- MOP Co-Op: Superintendent Locke has been talking with the MOP Council and LEA Superintendents about the future of MOP. The MOISD has continued to subsidize this program, the ISD is not opposed to this but would like to see more equalization of services. An updated list of MOP positions was reviewed. There was a discussion among the Board regarding utilizing shared services.
- Board Communication: Member Thompson and Superintendent Locke will work on this communication.

Under **Board Business “Future Items”** the following were discussed:

- MASB CBA Class 214- Open Meetings Act: Will be hosted at the MOISD on February 1, 2020. The MOISD will pay for LEA participation; let Patience Nemeth know she can register interested parties.
- MASB Winter Institute, Feb 21-23, 2020 – Lansing: let Patience Nemeth know if you are interested.
- Literacy Task Force: will discuss at the next Board Meeting
- Joyful Art Exhibit/Reception: January 16, 2020, at Artworks from 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**Upcoming Events:**

- January 14th & 15th – CPI Training
- January 16th - Joyful Art Exhibit, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. hosted at ArtWorks
- MOEC MOCI High School
- February 19th – Career Expo., 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – MOCC
- February 20th – Business After Hours, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – MOCC

**Public Items** – Deb Todd addressed the Board regarding busses and Orange Frog.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by President Wilkerson at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marie Wilkerson, President

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Mike Wyman, Secretary