

Our Mission

*Educating and inspiring each student
to navigate successfully
in a global community*

EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kent County, Michigan

REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education

Community Board Room at the James E. Morse Administration Center at Woodcliff
2915 Hall Street SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Monday, October 24, 2011

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, October 24, 2011, in the Community Board Room of the James E. Morse Administration Center at Woodcliff, 2915 Hall Street, SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Present: Brian Ellis, Steve Edison, Michelle Rabideau, Julie Ridenour, Beth Milanowski, Bob Minnema, Peter Ruppert

Absent: Julie Ridenour

Administration: Dr. Sara Magaña Shubel, Jeanne Glowicki, Kevin Philipps, Kathy Wisniewski, Doug Jenkins, Jenny Fee, Lori Johnston, Peter Stuursma, Caroline Breault-Cannon, Linda Kehm, Anthony Morey

Meeting Called to Order

President Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Acknowledgment of Guests – None.

Public Comments – None

Board Secretary's Report: Communications to and from the Board – Steve Edison

- The Board received communication from HR Imaging Partners requesting to be placed on East Grand Rapids Public Schools' photography and yearbook Bid/RFP lists.
- The Board received communication from Galen De Young on Schools of Choice.
- The Board received a Thank You from Scott Titus for the Schuler Gift Card on the birth of his son, Luke.
- The Board received a Thank You from Becky Hamm-Martin for the Schuler Gift Card on the birth of her son, Blake.
- The Board received a Thank You from Jason Albaugh for the Schuler Gift Card on the birth of his daughter, Katie.

High School Student Council President's Report – Ian Kelley

Ian Kelley, Senior Class President, reported that the Student Council has concluded Homecoming activities, and committees are assessing what was done and how to make improvements for next year. A donut sale was held to raise money for Casa de Familia, a Brazilian charity, which provides medical supplies and housing needs to orphans in Brazil. Everyone is looking forward to the annual Arts and Craft Show on November 18-19, which is a large fundraiser. Student Council helps set up area vendors for this event.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

Student Semifinalist in the 2011 Merit Scholarship Competition – Lori Johnston

Lori Johnston, Director of Guidance, introduced Natalie Gadbois, a semifinalist in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Out of 1.5 million students in the country, less than 1% continue on to become a semifinalist. Natalie's next step is to complete an application, endorsed by the school, and to confirm ACT results by taking the SAT. Typically, less than 15,000 students become finalists. One-half go on to become scholarship recipients. The Board and Administration congratulated Natalie on her accomplishments.

Special Tribute to Janice Yates – James Saalfeld

Brian Ellis introduced James Saalfeld, Kent County Board of Commissioner, who presented a tribute to Janice Yates for her coaching and record of accomplishments in state and national competitions with the *We the People* team. The Board and Administration congratulated Janice on her accomplishments.

Flip Classroom – Jenny Fee and Janice Yates

Jenny Fee introduced the Flip Classroom and provided an overview of the “flipping” that some of our high school teachers have used in classrooms. Jenny described the Flipped Classroom which inverts traditional teaching methods, delivering instruction online. Janice Yates has used the flip classroom, as well as Jan Huff. Jenny presented a sampling of the vodcasts and how the students use them and respond to the vodcasts.

Janice Yates presented an example of her AP Microeconomics class in flip form, displaying her website and how the students utilize the videos to prepare for the next day. A quick review lecture is given at the beginning of her class to hold the students accountable, often giving quizzes for what is covered in the videos. The students can go back to the videos to re-watch and review for tests, etc. The flip is another tool in the teacher’s toolbox as one option for teaching students with different learning styles.

Jenny discussed the challenges to the flip classroom and shared positive feedback from several high school teachers.

A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board.

First Reading of Revised Policy #9250 and #9250-R – Use of District Facilities Dr. Shubel (Enclosure #9)

First Reading of Revised Policy #3340-R – Fees, Payments, and Rentals Dr. Shubel (Enclosure #10)

Dr. Shubel presented background information on the revisions of these policies.

A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board.

ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT AGENDA

Background: In order to save time during the meeting, we are using a Consent Agenda. Items in the Consent Agenda include those that are routine or have been previously discussed by the Board of Education. Any Board Member may request to have any item removed for a separate discussion and vote.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the items in the Consent Agenda, Numbers 11-12.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 08/19/2011 (Enclosure #11)

Approval of Payment of Bills for September, 2011 (Enclosure #12)

Member Edison moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 11-12. Member Minnema seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Resolution to Refinance Bonds, Approval of Underwriter, and Approval of Financial Advisors – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #13)

Background: Last year, approximately \$22 million in bonds sold in 2001 became eligible for potential refunding. The District refunded \$8.75 million of the \$22 million in February due to market conditions at that time. In January 2012, the District will have the opportunity to potentially refund the remaining \$13.8 million. Currently, market conditions look favorable, so Administration is presenting a resolution to provide authorization to refund those bonds. The Finance Committee and Superintendent have reviewed the resolution and recommend approval of the resolution.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the resolution as recommended by the Finance Committee and Superintendent.

Member Rabideau moved to approve the Resolution as presented in Enclosure #13. Member Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Best Practices Incentive Grant Resolution – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #14)

Background: The State School Aid Act for the 2011-2012 fiscal year includes a one-time incentive grant of \$100 per pupil if a local district complies with at least four of five “Best Practices” that were defined by the Legislature. The District is in a position to certify that it has met four of the five best practices, therefore, qualifying for the grant. To apply for the grant, the Board of Education must pass the Best Practices resolution being presented by administration. The Finance Committee and Superintendent have reviewed the resolution and recommend approval of the resolution.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the Best Practices Incentive Grant Resolution as recommended by the Finance Committee and Superintendent.

Member Minnema moved to approve the Resolution as presented in Enclosure #14. Member Edison seconded the motion. A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board. Motion passed 6 -0.

2010-2011 Audit Report – Kevin Philipps

Background: The audit was completed by Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter, P.C. this fall. The Board Finance Committee reviewed the report and recommends that the Board of Education receive the 2010-2011 Audit Report.

Recommendation: Motion to receive the 2010-2011 Audit Report as presented and recommended by the Board Finance Committee and Superintendent.

Kevin Philipps presented the findings of the 2010-2011 audit report.

Member Rabideau moved to approve the 2010-2011 Audit Report as reviewed by the Board Finance Committee. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board. Board members commended the Business Office staff for their continued efforts in achieving another successful audit report. Motion passed 6-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Shubel provided an overview of the proposed Budget Survey which will be presented to all staff members and community members this week.

Assistant Superintendent of Business

Kevin Philipps presented background information on the input being sought in a Budget Survey which will be presented to staff, parents, and the EGR community on Wednesday, October 26, with a two-week span of time to complete the survey. Focus groups will be established to help with our work as we implement a budget for 2012-2013. A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board.

Kevin Philipps provided details of the Health Benefit Legislation, Public Act 152, the proposed implementation beginning January 1, 2012. Non-Union Support Staff and Administration Caps vs. 20% Contributions were explained, and the Cap is recommended for long-term cost savings to the Board and making the movement of funds equitable for all employees.

A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board. The Board agrees with the Cap approach to the Health Benefit Legislation.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Jeanne Glowicki provided a World Language Hybrid Update, reporting on the successes of the program, as well as the consideration of additional offerings for the future.

Board of Education Members' Report

Michelle Rabideau presented an update on the EGR Leadership and Youth Development, with a successful Healthy High. Teachers and students stepped up to lead the efforts in the strengths and successes of the program. A positive cash flow remains intact with the program. Michelle and Bob Minnema thanked everyone who has made this program a continued success.

Michelle provided an update on the Foundation fundraising options and anticipates great things coming from this group with the wonderful leadership in place.

Bob Minnema provided an update on the Parks and Recreation endeavors. They are currently working on a 5-year plan. The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2011, 6:30 p.m., and the general public is invited. A final presentation will be on December 12, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. with recommended enhancements to the facilities, walkways, and Manhattan Park improvements.

Steve Edison announced that the Facilities Committee will be meeting this week and asked for items that anyone would like addressed on the meeting agenda. Steve also briefly discussed current legislative changes.

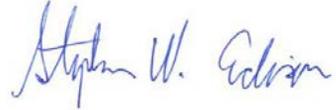
Brian Ellis offered the option of changing the time of future board meetings to 6:00 p.m., asking board members to consider all of the people affected as reactions and suggestions are brought forward. Brian will present this option as an agenda item at the next board meeting in December.

President Ellis announced the next board meeting will be held December 5, 2011, 7:00 p.m., in the Community Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

President Ellis adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen W. Edison, Secretary
East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education

- * Minutes for this meeting will be available in the Superintendent's Office at 2915 Hall St. SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506. The phone number is 235-3535.
- ** If you plan to attend and have a special need and require accommodation to attend this meeting, please contact Dr. Sara M. Shubel, Superintendent, at 235-3535.