

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, August 29, 2011

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, August 29, 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, Robert Minnema, Steve Edison, Michelle Rabideau, Julie Ridenour, Peter Ruppert, Beth Milanowski

Absent: None

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

Meeting Called to Order

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

President Ellis announced that we will deviate from the planned agenda to include the following information:

Dr. Shubel announced the newest members of the administrative team and their roles within the district:

Anthony Morey, Wealthy Principal (former EGR Middle School Assistant Principal)

Bill Behrendt, Middle School Assistant Principal (former EGR Special Education Teacher)

Nick Hopkins, Athletic Director (former EGR High School Teacher)

Lori Johnston, High School Director of Guidance (former Director of Guidance with Hastings Public Schools and previously with EGRPS)

President Ellis and Dr. Shubel wanted to provide an explanation of the Top to Bottom (TTB) ranking recently released in the media. A letter with information will be provided to our community on Tuesday, August 30, as our switchover of the EGRPS Internet provider will not allow all outside emails to be recognized and received this evening.

Jenny Fee, High School Principal, and Doug Jenkins, Director of Technology, provided an explanation of Top to Bottom ranking calculations and shared that our other assessment scores have not dropped significantly as the ranking would suggest. When compared to Like Districts, we compare equitably to those schools. Fee reported on a couple of issues that attributed to our scores with TTB. One problem is in Science from 2008-2011; we have a 4-year achievement trend downward. In 2009, our science curriculum was completely revamped, the largest in the district in many years. The students impacted by the new curriculum have yet to be tested by Michigan Merit Exam. The true testament will be in March when we receive this year's MME scores. The second problem is the largest impact on TTB. Social Studies proficiency scores have gone from 92 to 82, and in a single year, we dropped 10 percentage points. Our Z score is significantly impacted by our dropped scores in Social Studies. Such a drastic drop is not warranted in one year as there were no changes in staff, curriculum, etc. An Action Plan was presented. College Readiness Preparedness results were demonstrated. In summary, the Top To Bottom ranking was disconcerting and unacceptable to us and we will continue to address, investigate, and look at many measures.

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

Acknowledgment of Guests – None

Public Comments – None

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

The Board received a thank you note from the Morey family for the Board's support during their family's recent loss.

The Board received communication from Kathleen Gibson on elementary teaching positions with East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Redesigned EGR Website

Doug Jenkins presented on the district's redesigned website, displaying several new features throughout the site with building information, current news, Google calendar, parent information, quick links, and several other exciting new features.

A discussion was held with questions, comments, and accolades on the newly designed website.

Delegate Representatives to MASB Fall Conference Delegate Assembly (Enclosure #6)

The Michigan Association of School Boards' 2011 Delegate Assembly is meeting for the annual 2011 Fall Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort in October. Three delegates may be appointed to represent the East Grand Rapids Board of Education. Mr. Ellis stated that the Board will vote for any interested board members as delegates at the September 19 board meeting.

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 7-10.

Approval of Minutes of ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING of 07/01/2011 (Enclosure #7)

Approval of Payment of Bills for June and July 2011 (Enclosure #8)

Approval of Overnight Student Activities (Enclosure #9)

In accordance with Board of Education Policy #7490, the district has various trips and overnight athletic and student activities as outlined in Enclosure #9 for approval by the Board.

Approval of Superintendent Goals for 2011-2012 (Enclosure #10)

Member Edison moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7-10. Member Rabideau seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Member Ruppert suggested having a dialogue in the future around the Superintendent's Goals prior to finalizing.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Approval of a School Bond Loan Resolution (Enclosure #11)

Background: The district borrows annually from the School Bond Loan Program to assist in making our debt retirement payments. The application for the 2011-2012 borrowing needs to be approved by the full Board.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the attached resolution authorizing the district to borrow funds from the Michigan School Bond Loan Program as presented.

Kevin Philipps presented an explanation of the School Bond Loan Resolution.

Member Ridenour moved to approve the attached resolution authorizing the district to borrow funds from the Michigan School Bond Loan Program as presented. Member Minnema seconded the motion. A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Grant Easement of Cell Tower (Enclosure #12)

Background: The district was approached by TowerCo, Inc. with an offer to make a substantial upfront payment in exchange for a long term easement grant on the current property TowerCo leases from the district to house cell tower equipment. Administration feels the upfront payment offer was very attractive compared to similar offers that have been made by other vendors. Administration recommends accepting the offer that TowerCo has made.

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

Kevin Philipps reported on the grant easement offer from TowerCo, Inc. for a significant upfront payment in exchange for granting them an easement for a period of time: \$400,000 for a 50-year easement. This represents 15x the annual lease rate, which made this an attractive offer.

Member Edison moved to approve the grant easement as presented in Enclosure #12. Member Minnema seconded the motion. A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval to Restrict Funds Received from Grant of Easement to TowerCo, Inc.

Background: With the receipt of significant "one-time" funds from the easement transaction with TowerCo, administration recommends the Board consider formally placing the receipt of funds into a restricted fund balance, so that the funds can be used only for any potential one-time expenditures that are required to enhance future academic programs, and not for ongoing operational expenditures.

Recommendation: Motion to place the funds received from the grant of easement from TowerCo into a restricted fund balance as recommended by the Superintendent.

Kevin Philipps reported on the "one-time" receipt of funds from the easement transaction with TowerCo, and recommended the Board consider formally placing the receipt of funds into a restricted fund balance so that the funds could be used only for any potential one-time expenditures that are required to enhance future academic programs, and not for ongoing operational expenditures.

Member Ridenour moved to approve placing the receipt of funds from the easement transaction with TowerCo into a restricted fund balance. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

- Dr. Shubel reported on the Opening of School with classes beginning on Tuesday, September 6.
- Dr. Shubel announced our seven new certificated staff members hired over the summer.

Assistant Superintendent of Business

- Kevin Philipps reported on the Health Care Legislation and the effects of implementation on EGRPS.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

- Jeanne Glowicki announced Opening Day for staff taking place tomorrow, August 30, 8:00 a.m. at the PAC.

Board of Education Members' Report

President Ellis presented the list of the Board Committee assignments for the 2011-2012 school year. (Enclosure #17)

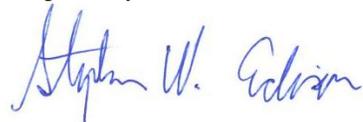
Member Rabideau provided an update on the modified name of the former Youth Development program to *East Grand Rapids Leadership & Youth Development*, with the program having revamped bylaws, a successful Senior Retreat held in August, and Healthy High coming up in September. Great strides have been made with this program and this is an example of success with the support of administration, staff, students, and the community.

President Ellis announced the next board meeting will be held September 19, 2011, 7:00 p.m., in the Community Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

President Ellis adjourned the meeting at 8:29 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.