

## **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**

Little Auditorium at the East Grand Rapids High School  
2211 Lake Drive SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**Monday, January 27, 2014**

### **MINUTES**

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, January 27, 2014, in the Little Auditorium of the East Grand Rapids High School, 2211 Lake Drive SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Present: Michelle Rabideau, Steve Edison, Beth Milanowski, Susan Levine, Elizabeth Welch Lykins, Bob Wolford, Natalie Bernecker

Absent: Beth Milanowski

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

#### Meeting Called to Order

President Rabideau called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. She announced that school has been canceled for tomorrow, January 28, due to the extreme temperatures.

#### Acknowledgment of Guests – None

Member Milanowski arrived at 6:06 p.m.

#### Public Comments

Win Irwin – 1860 Lake Drive, announced that Opera Grand Rapids will be performing at the East Grand Rapids High School Performing Arts Center on March 7&8, 2014. He offered discounted tickets to the audience.

Anna Seibold, Mayor, City of East Grand Rapids – 2809 Woodcliff Circle, commented on her support of the upcoming bond proposal.

#### Board Secretary's Report: Communications to and from the Board – Beth Milanowski

Board correspondence will be shared at the February 24, 2014, board meeting.

#### High School Student Council President's Report

Sally Marsh, Senior Class President, reported on the upcoming events being planned for Kabookie Week where staff and students commemorate Jimmy Gerken and his legacy. Students are also planning for the annual Blood Drive and Winter Whirl dance.

#### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

##### Recognition of East Grand Rapids Board of Education Members for *School Board Recognition Month* January 2014

Dr. Shubel recognized and thanked the board members for their dedication and all of the work they do on behalf of our community, students, and staff. An Amazon gift card for the purchase of an educational book and an East t-shirt were presented to the board members as a gift of appreciation.

##### International Baccalaureate (Enclosure #7)

Jeanne Glowicki, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, introduced tonight's presenters and provided an overview of the process the district has gone through in researching the International Baccalaureate (IB) program thus far.

Craig Weigel, High School Assistant Principal, shared his background as having formerly taught at an IB school in Florida. He presented an overview of the IB Diploma Programme which provides a challenging, internationally focused, broad, and balanced experience for students. The Diploma Programme curriculum requirements were described including Theory of Knowledge; Creativity, Action, Service; Extended Essay; and Subject Area Exams.

Jenny Fee, High School Principal, presented on the Professional Development component of teaching in an IB program. Many of the learning opportunities our staff has already experienced have been brought back to the current classrooms at EGRHS. Collaboration is key and goes beyond the teachers to enhance instruction throughout the district. Fee presented the rationale on why we are interested in moving forward with the IB program. Fee shared that the learner outcomes in our Strategic Plan closely align with the IB program. Emphasis is on the whole child development. Curriculum is broad and deep and gives teachers parameters, is research based, and provides students with a strong foundation. IB establishes a mechanism for benchmarking EGRPS locally, nationally, and internationally, and provides a competitive advantage for college admissions.

Lori Johnston, High School Director of Guidance, presented on the competitive advantages for students in an IB Diploma Programme. Fee reported on the roles of the IB Implementation Team.

Jeanne Glowicki reported on the financial considerations of implementing an IB program and continual training. Glowicki summarized the IB program as one based on developing the whole child. It is a complete education program for juniors and seniors that involves inquiry-based learning and understanding. The board will be asked to approve continued support of the IB application process at the February 24 board meeting.

A general discussion was held among the board. Dr. Shubel thanked the Implementation Team and commented on how the professional growth and learning has impacted our current students through this process. Everyone was encouraged to attend the upcoming February and March informational sessions to be held at the high school where parents will have the opportunity to learn more and ask questions.

### **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 item in the Consent Agenda, Numbers 8-11.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 12/2/2013 (Enclosure #8)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 1/13/2014 (Enclosure #9)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 1/13/2014 (Enclosure #10)

Approval of Payment of Bills for November and December 2013 (Enclosure #11)

Member Edison moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 8-11. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### **OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of Schools of Choice Resolutions for 2014-2015 (Enclosure #12a-c)

East Grand Rapids Public Schools has participated in the Kent Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program since its inception in the 1996-97 school year.

a. Approval of a Resolution to Opt Out of Section 105

East Grand Rapids Public Schools has opted out of the State Choice Plan since the inception of the KISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Plan in the 1996-97 school year.

Member Levine moved to pass a resolution to exercise the option permitted by Section 105 of the State School Aid Act of 1979, as amended by Public Act 300 of 1996, to not accept Section 105 applications of non-resident students from outside our district, for purposes of operating an intermediate school district-wide schools of choice program in accordance with Section 105 for the 2014-2015 school year. Member Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

b. Approval of a Resolution to Opt In of Section 105c

In accordance with Section 105c as permitted in the State School Aid Act, Public Act 119 of 1999, as amended by Public Act 297 of 2000, it is recommended that East Grand Rapids Public Schools accept applications for enrollment from residents of contiguous intermediate school districts for the 2014-2015 school year.

Member Milanowski moved to approve a Resolution to Opt In to Section 105c for the 2014-2015 school year. Member Bernecker seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

- c. Approval of a Resolution to Participate in the 2014-2015 Kent Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program  
This is the ninth year of the KISD Schools of Choice Program.

Member Edison moved to pass a resolution to participate in the Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for the 2014-2015 school year. Member Welch Lykins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Best Practices Incentive Grant Resolution – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #13)

Background: The State School Aid Act for the 2013-2014 fiscal year includes a one-time incentive grant of \$52 per pupil if a local district complies with at least seven of eight “Best Practices” that were defined by the Legislature. The District is in a position to certify that it has met seven of eight 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.

Kevin Philipps reported that the district has complied with 7 of the 8 Best Practices. A discussion was held among the Board.

Member Levine moved to approve the Best Practices Incentive Grant Resolution as recommended by the Finance Committee and Superintendent. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0

Approval of Preliminary Qualification for 2014 Bond Treasury Department Application - Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #14)

Background: The Board is required to approve the final application to qualify the bond proposed on the upcoming May ballot. A preliminary meeting has been held with the Treasury Department to finalize the application.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the final application as presented in Enclosure #14.

Kevin Philipps reviewed the bond proposal and outlined the plan and how the committee arrived at the items to be included, which are Safety and Security, Technology, and Facilities Efficiencies and Improvements. He outlined the proposals and their associated costs. He indicated that all of this can be accomplished with an increased district tax levy by 2.5 mills (7.95 to 10.45). A discussion was held among the board regarding this application and ballot language.

Member Edison moved to approve the Preliminary Qualification for the 2014 Bond Treasury Department Application. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval for Board Member Attendance at NSBA Conference (Enclosure #15)

Background: The National School Boards Association (NSBA) Advocacy Institute will be held in Washington, D.C. on February 2-4, 2014. Member Welch Lykins has indicated a willingness to attend the conference on behalf of EGRPS.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the payment of the NSBA Conference registration cost and the travel expenses for Member Welch Lykins to attend the conference on behalf of EGRPS.

President Rabideau and Dr. Shubel provided background information on the NSBA Advocacy Institute and the benefits of having a board member from our district attend to learn about the policies being proposed and implemented at the national level that will have an impact on public schools in Michigan.

Member Bernecker moved to approve Member Welch Lykins' conference registration and travel expenses for the NSBA Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C. as described in Enclosure #15. Member Wolford seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### Superintendent

Dr. Shubel shared that we eagerly await the return of our staff and students to school following the unusual severe weather closings we are experiencing this week.

### Assistant Superintendent of Business

Kevin Philipps reported that the Governor's Budget Proposal is expected to be published in the next couple weeks. Philipps will also have information to share following the Governor's Revenue Conference.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Jeanne Glowicki invited all board members to attend any of the February PD sessions.

Board Member Reports

*Communications Committee* – President Rabideau reported that the committee will be communicating further information on IB and the upcoming bond proposal in the near future.

*Facilities Committee* – Member Edison reported that the Facilities Committee will meet soon to discuss the bond proposal.

*Finance Committee* – No reports.

*Joint Facilities Committee* – No reports.

*Legislative Liaison Committee* – Member Edison reported that the committee did not meet in January due to the Snow Day. Member Welch Lykins reported that the Third Grade Retention bill will be brought forward again, and information on the Governor's budget will be forthcoming.

*Personnel Committee* – No reports.

*Policy Review Committee* – No reports.

Liaisons

*EGR Schools Foundation* – Member Bernecker reported that the Foundation has discussed a presentation on finances and committee members were encouraged to remind teachers to submit their grant requests.

*Community Action Council* – Member Levine reported that the committee has not met yet this school year. An annual survey on thoughts and opinions on alcohol and drug usage was sent to CAC community members.

*PTO Council* – No reports.

*Parks & Recreation* – No reports.

*Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC)* – Member Wolford reported that SAC representatives received a presentation from Kevin Philipps on the bond issue. Wolford commended staff on the inspiring and relevant MLK activities that took place in our schools and thanked everyone who coordinated the events on that day.

*Leadership & Youth Development (LYD)* – Member Milanowski reported that LYD has changes locations for Senior Retreat which will now be held at Camp Henry. LYD supports Freshman Connection which is often described as a mini Senior Retreat. Healthy High will see changes with a shortened day. The LYD board is looking at Strategic Planning to determine ways to continue supporting leadership areas. STEP and TATU groups have been in the elementary buildings and are planning visits to the middle school.

*Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE)* – Member Welch Lykins reported that recent topics of discussion included transitions for students with special needs between elementary, middle, and high school, as well resources for families to help students achieve success while transitioning beyond school age years.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, February 24, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Milanowski, 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.