

## 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

The James E. Morse Administration Center at Woodcliff  
2915 Hall Street SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**Monday, September 17, 2018**

### MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, September 17, 2018, in the Community Board Room at the James E. Morse Administration Center, 2915 Hall Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Present: Natalie Bernecker, Elizabeth Welch, Beth Milanowski, Brian Coles, Mark Hessler, Brad Laackman  
Absent: Robert Wolford  
Administration: Dr. Heidi Kattula, Kevin Philipps, Jenny Fee, Doug Jenkins, Anthony Morey, Shelly Schram, Carlye Allen, Caroline Breault-Cannon, Stephanie Thelen

#### Meeting Called to Order

President Bernecker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### Public Comments – None

President Bernecker expressed appreciation from the entire board for the district's handling of today's security alert. The administration and staff kept our students' safety as their top priority throughout the incident, and Bernecker thanked Dr. Kattula for her leadership. Communications were sent to EGRPS families throughout the day to keep them informed.

#### Board Secretary's Report: Communications to and from the Board – None

#### Student Council President's Report

Will Marsh, Student Council President, reported that preparations for Homecoming activities are underway and he shared some of the changes that will take place this year.

Member Wolford arrived at 6:10 p.m.

#### **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 5-8.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 8/14/2018 (Enclosure #5)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 8/30/2018 (Enclosure #6)

Approval of Payment of Bills – August 2018 (Enclosure #7)

Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy #8363 (Enclosure #8)

Member Laackman moved to approve Consent Agenda items 5-8. Member Hessler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

#### **OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of Design Development Drawings and Budget – 2019 Bond Construction Program – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #9)

Background: Administration has been collaborating with our architects (GMB) and construction manager (OAK), to complete the design development drawings and budget for improvements planned for the high school, middle school, and Woodcliff in spring and summer of 2019. GMB will present the scope of work, and OAK will present the budget for these projects. The Facilities Committee has reviewed the drawings and budget, recommending approval.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the design development drawings and budget for the middle and high school improvements from the 2019 construction program as recommended.

Kevin Philipps, Assistant Superintendent of Business, introduced Rob DenBesten from GMB who provided an overview of the design development drawings which includes roofing, plumbing, and hardware projects; and Kris Ford from OAK provided the budget for improvements planned for the high school, middle school, and Woodcliff under the 2019 Bond Construction Program. A discussion was held among the board.

Member Hessler moved to approve design development drawings and budget for the middle and high school improvements from the 2019 construction program as recommended. Member Laackman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Revised Grounds Maintenance Agreement with the City of East Grand Rapids – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #10)

Background: The City of East Grand Rapids and school district have a “grounds maintenance agreement,” which defines how the City Parks and Recreation Department will maintain city and school grounds. This agreement has been in place since 1995, but never updated. City and District administration worked together recently to modernize the agreement to reflect current city and school grounds and facilities as well as current needs within the school district. The Finance Committee has reviewed the agreement and recommends approval.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the revised Grounds Maintenance Agreement with the City of East Grand Rapids as recommended.

Kevin Philipps presented an overview of the revised Grounds Maintenance Agreement with the City of East Grand Rapids. A discussion was held among the board.

Member Milanowski moved to approve the revised Grounds Maintenance Agreement with the City of East Grand Rapids as recommended. Member Welch seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Appoint Delegate Representatives to MASB Fall Conference Delegate Assembly – President Bernecker

Background: The Michigan Association of School Boards 2018 Delegate Assembly is meeting for the annual 2018 Fall Conference at the Amway Grand Hotel on Thursday, November 1 at 7:30pm. Three delegates may be appointed to represent the East Grand Rapids Board of Education.

Recommendation: Motion to appoint Delegate Representatives to MASB Fall Conference Delegate Assembly.

Member Bernecker moved to appoint Mark Hessler to represent the East Grand Rapids Board of Education at the MASB Fall Conference Delegate Assembly. Member Coles seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Superintendent Goals for 2018-2019 – Dr. Kattula (Enclosure #12)

Background: The Superintendent Goals for 2018-2019 are presented.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the finalized Superintendent’s Goals for 2018-2019 as presented.

President Bernecker reported that the board received Dr. Kattula’s Goals for 2018-2019 and shared that the goals are closely aligned with the district Strategic Plan and does not represent all the work of the administrative team in the district; rather, it is an overview of major items to focus on this year. Dr. Kattula reported that her goals represent some items that are reviewed on an annual basis and provided an overview of her goals as presented. Kattula also restated the events that occurred earlier today that resulted in a partial lockdown in our school buildings and thanked the administration and staff for their communication and efforts in keeping our students safe. Bernecker thanked Dr. Kattula and shared that the board is pleased with how things are moving forward, and today was a perfect example of leadership and team efforts. A discussion was held among the board.

Member Laackman moved to approve the Superintendent’s Goals for 2018-2019 as presented. Member Hessler seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0. President Bernecker thanked Dr. Kattula for her work in establishing the goals.

Approval of New Teacher Contracts – Dr. Kattula (Enclosure #13)

Dr. Kattula announced the hiring of Shelly Gullett, middle school special education teacher.

Member Coles moved to approve the Teacher Contract as presented. Member Laackman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Superintendent

Dr. Kattula reported on the events that occurred today resulting in a partial lockdown of our school buildings. She thanked the administrative team, faculty, and staff for their support. Positive input was received from the community.

Dr. Kattula provided an overview of the upcoming Hearts of Gold activities/event, and communication will be sent to EGRPS families. She shared that she has also held discussions on ways to provide further district communications, including social media.

Dr. Kattula shared that she will attend the Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators (MASA) Fall Conference Wednesday-Friday this week. She is looking forward to attending the middle school Regatta on Friday. A board discussion followed Dr. Kattula’s reports.

Assistant Superintendent of Business

Kevin Philipps shared an update on student enrollment numbers, currently at 2,892 which is above the forecasted number by approximately 14 students. For an actual per-pupil count, we will need to consider the number of students that are not 1.0 FTE. The projected per-pupil blended FTE count is 2,889. This is a decrease compared to last year due to the larger high school classes trending out. Based on current enrollment numbers, eligible teachers would receive a salary increase as reflected in the salary formula included in the contract.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Jenny Fee reported on New Teacher Orientation that was held in August. All teachers participated in August professional development sessions focused on literacy and reading. Eighty staff members attended Implicit Bias training; middle school staff attended Restorative Practices training; and K-5 staff attended NexGeneration Science training. Technology integration sessions were also held.

Fee shared that the EGR Schools Foundation provided funding for books for classroom libraries.

Fee reported on school safety, Title IX, and the implementation of OK2SAY at the middle school and high school.

Board Member Reports

*Communications Committee* – Member Milanowski reported on discussions relating to social media and a potential survey to parents on communication preferences.

*Facilities Committee* – No reports.

*Finance Committee* – Member Coles reported that a district audit was recently completed and the results of the audit report will be presented at a future board meeting. Committee reviewed health care costs and the board's support of the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool as the most affordable option.

*Joint Facilities Committee* – No reports.

*Personnel Committee* – No reports.

*Policy Review Committee* – Member Welch reported on the policy revision as presented and approved this evening.

*Legislative Liaison Committee* – Member Welch reported that a Legislative Town Hall was held on September 11, and Dr. Kattula moderated the event and it went well. Community members were very happy with the event and it was well organized.

Liaisons

*EGR Schools Foundation* – Member Wolford reported that the first meeting will be held tomorrow.

*Community Action Council* – No reports.

*Leadership & Youth Development (LYD)* – Member Milanowski reported that Senior Retreat went well. Tommy Kawel is looking at ways to work with our younger students.

*Parks & Recreation* – No reports.

*PTO Council* – No reports.

*Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE)* – No reports.

*Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC)* – No reports.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Bernecker adjourned the meeting at 7:11 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. Heidi S. Kattula, Ed.D., Superintendent, at 235-3535.