

June 2, 2016

Dear East Grand Rapids Public Schools Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education and administration we would like to thank you for your continued support of East Grand Rapids Public Schools. As the school year quickly comes to an end and we work to finalize next year's budget, we continue to be overwhelmed with the level of support our schools receive on a daily basis from our school community. We are fortunate to have this level of support that enriches our teaching and learning environments.

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to the EGR Schools Foundation, the EGRNow! committee, and all the community members who supported the EGRNow! campaign. As a result of this year's successful EGRNow! campaign, we will be able to approve a 2016-2017 budget in June that not only preserves the proposed program cuts to the PAC, but also allows us to begin to restore some of the programs and services that were subject to prior cuts. This was **ONLY** possible because EGRNow! raised over \$400,000 this year.

We encourage you to continue to be engaged in ongoing budget conversations for future school years and continue supporting EGRNow!. We have worked hard to find solutions for the financial challenges we have faced over the past several years and have strived to keep the cuts as far removed from the classrooms when at all possible; however, that has become more challenging with each budget year due to the level of funding received from the state. A complete list of the \$4.4 million in budget reductions that have been made over the past several years can be found [here](#).

While we are much closer to achieving a structurally balanced budget, we continue to rely heavily upon EGRNow! since we can no longer use reserve funds, that have been tapped for over \$3 million, to save critical programs. We need you to stay involved, advocate with our representatives for adequate public school funding, and continue your tremendous support of EGRNow!

The Board of Education and superintendent are dedicated to preserving our *Tradition of Excellence* as a district that offers an exceptional educational experience for all students. Thank you so much for your continued support of East Grand Rapids Public Schools and we wish you a memorable summer with your families.

With sincere gratitude,



Robert D. Wolford, President
East Grand Rapids Board of Education



Sara Magaña Shubel, Ph.D., Superintendent
East Grand Rapids Public Schools



Elizabeth Welch Lykins, Vice President
East Grand Rapids Board of Education



Natalie Bernecker, Treasurer
East Grand Rapids Board of Education



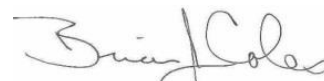
Beth Milanowski, Secretary
East Grand Rapids Board of Education



Michelle Rabideau, Trustee
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Mark Hessler, Trustee
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Brian Coles, Trustee
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