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*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

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

Monday, February 22, 2016

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, February 22, 2016, 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: Robert Wolford, Elizabeth Welch, Beth Milanowski, Natalie Bernecker, Michelle Rabideau, Mark Hessler, Brian Coles

Absent: None

Administration: Dr. Shubel, Jeanne Glowicki, Kevin Philipps, Doug Jenkins, Bill Behrendt, Jenny Fee, Steve Wojciechowski, Lori Johnston, Anthony Morey, Craig Weigel

Meeting Called to Order

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

Acknowledgment of Guests – None

Public Comments – None

Board Secretary's Report: Communications to and from the Board

The board received a Thank You from Mike Curle, hardware technician, for the Schuler gift card on the birth of his son, Freddie.

The board received communication from Sue Keil on the Pre-Labor Day Start Waiver.

High School Student Council President's Report – Matthew Levitt, Student Council President, reported on a successful Kabookie Week with a kick-off assembly highlighting student speakers and keynote speaker, Mr. Peter Secchia. Various awareness activities were held throughout the week. Levitt shared that a successful Blood Drive was also held. Currently, service projects and prom activities are being planned.

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 considered 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 items in the Consent Agenda Numbers 6-10.

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 1/21/2016 (Enclosure #6)

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 1/25/2016 (Enclosure #7)

Approval of Payment of Bills – January 2016 (Enclosure #8)

Second Reading and Approval of New and Revised Policies (Enclosure #9)

Approval of IB Curriculum (Enclosure #10)

Member Rabideau moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 6-10. Member Hessler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Amendment to Early Resignation Incentive (Enclosure #11)

Dr. Shubel and Kevin Philipps, Assistant Superintendent of Business, provided a recommendation to the Finance Committee to seek board approval of an amended Early Resignation Incentive (ERI) to allow for five eligible participants to apply for the ERI incentive, as we fell short one participant of the six required in the initial ERI Plan. If board approved, the amended plan would be presented to the initial five participants with a 7-day revocation window. It was clarified that this recommendation would not be precedent setting, as the recommendation is intended to help with the current budget situation. The effect of five EGREA retirements would result in approximately \$100,000 in savings to the current budget. Options to find \$100,000 savings in other ways will be extremely difficult. A discussion was held among the board.

Member Coles moved to approve the resolution to amend the Early Resignation Incentive to reduce the required members electing the incentive from six to five as recommended by the Finance Committee and Superintendent. Member Rabideau seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Shubel provided an update on a previous discussion held with the Policy Review Committee regarding the reporting of student discipline violations to post-secondary institutions. In past practice, the guidance counselors were required to report to colleges any *serious or repeated disciplinary actions* based on board policy and rules. The rules regarding reporting student discipline to post-secondary institutions will be changed to reflect that guidance counselors will only report criminal offenses or serious infractions going forward; examples include: infractions involving weapons, violence, or delivery of a controlled substance.

Assistant Supt. of Business

Kevin Philipps shared an overview of the Governor's preliminary budget as provided at the January Revenue Conference with a projected increase in the foundation allowance of \$109 per pupil for EGRPS. This is the first step in the lengthy budget process, as the House and Senate still need to present their budget proposals. A major issue presented is a change to the pupil accounting laws, changing from funding of a blended count of 90 fall/10 spring to 50 fall/50 spring. Another change is a decrease in the district's retirement contribution to 24.94%. With the proposed per pupil increase and a retirement contribution decrease, both factors could affect the negotiated salary formula allowing the district to be able to pay a step increase in the 2016-2017 school year. Thus, the district's projected deficit based on the Governor's budget is approximately \$365,000. We will know more following the May Revenue Conference.

Philipps reported that the City of EGR is preparing for a construction project they have planned for this summer which will repave Lake Drive between Bagley Avenue and Conlon Drive. This City of EGR road project directly impacts the EGRPS Middle School as it includes the widening of the intersection of Lake Drive/Breton Road/Lakeside Drive. In preparation for the project, the City of EGR recently informed the district that five mature trees on school district property will need to be removed by Consumers Energy for the relocation of electric utility lines. The complete removal of any tree is the last option considered during construction projects; however, in this case, the amount of trimming required would leave these five trees unsightly, severely traumatized, and most likely not able to survive. The tree removal is scheduled to begin in April during our district Spring Break so as to minimally impact school related traffic or activities. The City of EGR will work with the district to plant new trees which will be power line friendly to avoid future issues with utility service providers. The new trees will be planted in the fall of 2016 once the construction project is completed. We look forward to the new safety features that will be provided by the City of EGR construction project at an intersection near our middle school which at times can be very congested. Specific questions regarding the road construction project will be directed to the City of East Grand Rapids. Community members may also check the City's website for construction updates. This information will be shared with the community in our building newsletters.

Philipps provided details of the upcoming election on March 8 where the district has three proposals on the ballot for the Non-Homestead and Sinking Fund renewals. Communications regarding the election have been shared with the community through various methods.

Assistant Supt. of Instruction

Jeanne Glowicki shared that enrollment for kindergarten is underway and encouraged everyone to share the information with their friends and neighbors. The enrollment information is detailed on our district website and will be posted on the EGRPS Facebook page.

Glowicki reported that available funds from federal grants received by the district have allowed for 11 staff members to attend a national conference this summer, *Teachers College, Teaching of Reading and Writing Project*.

Board Member Reports

Communications Committee – Member Milanowski reported that a social media consultant was retained to launch the EGRPS Facebook page which will report on what is going on in the district and share district news and information.

Facilities Committee – No reports.

Finance Committee – No additional reports.

Joint Facilities Committee – No reports.

Legislative Liaison Committee – Member Welch announced the Legislative Town Hall meeting which will be held on March 23, 7:30 p.m. at the High School Little Auditorium with several representatives planning to attend.

Personnel Committee – No reports.

Policy Review Committee – No additional reports.

Liaisons

EGR Schools Foundation – Member Milanowski announced the annual Hurrah! fundraiser which will be held on Saturday, March 12 with a Vegas theme. EGRNow! is underway with payment plan options for donations, with a long-term goal of bringing back programs and services that have been reduced over the past several years. The next Community Service and Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner will take place in the fall of 2016.

Community Action Council – No reports.

PTO Council – President Wolford reported that Wealthy's renovation updates were provided by Anthony Morey at the last meeting.

Parks & Recreation – Member Hessler reported on the Lake Drive Construction Project. The high school track will be worked on this summer.

Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC) – Member Coles reported that budget and technology updates were presented at the February SAC meeting.

Leadership & Youth Development (LYD) – Member Milanowski reported that LYD is looking for leadership ideas to continue the current programs.

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

Member Coles announced that EGRPS is sponsoring the swimming conference meet this weekend and invited everyone to attend. He requested an update on the middle school administrative changes. Dr. Shubel shared that the goal is to post the principal position after Spring Break and have the position filled by the end of the school year. Dr. Shubel acknowledged the middle school staff for helping to make a smooth transition during the interim.

Jenny Fee, High School Principal, shared that the Varsity Football Coaching position has been posted and we hope to have a decision on the new coach after Spring Break.

Member Milanowski recognized Member Welch for her efforts in securing foundations to help with funding for Kentwood Public Schools' We The People team for the national competition in Washington, D.C.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, March 14, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Wolford adjourned the meeting at 6:48 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.