

*Our Mission*

*East Grand Rapids Public Schools, in partnership with students, parents, and community, will ensure that each student acquires the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to reach his or her full potential, and become a productive citizen.*

**ORGANIZATION Meeting of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education**

Community Board Room, Woodcliff Center, 2915 Hall St., SE.

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Phone 616-235-3535

**Tuesday July 1, 2003**

**Minutes**

The ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Tuesday, July 1, 2003 in the Community Board Room, Woodcliff Center, 2915 Hall St., SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

**Board of Education:**

**Present:** Mr. Brian Ellis, Mr. Joe Camp, Mrs. Natalie Kuras, Mrs. Beth Lent, Mr. Charlie Denton, Mrs. Rosalie Stein, and Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler

**Administration:** Dr. James Morse, Mrs. Christine Vettese, Mr. Doug Derks

**Meeting Called to Order**

Mr. Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Administration of Oath and Welcome to Newly Re-Elected Board Members**

Mr. Ellis welcomed Mrs. Trierweiler and Mr. Denton as the newly elected members to the Board. The oath of office was administered to Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler and Mr. Charlie Denton by Ms. Shirley Hans, Secretary to the Board and Superintendent.

**Election of Officers - 2003-04**

***President***

Mr. Ellis asked for nominations from the floor for president. Mr. Joe Camp nominated Mrs. Beth Lent for president and Mr. Denton seconded the motion. There were no more nominations and Mr. Ellis called for a vote. Mrs. Lent was elected 7-0. Mr. Ellis then turned the meeting over to Mrs. Lent.

***Vice President***

Mrs. Lent asked for nominations for vice president. Mrs. Stein nominated Mrs. Natalie Kuras and Mr. Ellis supported the nomination. There were no more nominations and Mrs. Lent called for a vote. Mrs. Kuras was elected vice president 7-0.

***Secretary***

Mrs. Lent asked for nominations for secretary. Mrs. Kuras nominated Mrs. Stein and Mr. Ellis supported the nomination. There were no more nominations and Mrs. Lent called for a vote. Mrs. Stein was elected secretary 7-0.

***Treasurer***

Mrs. Lent asked for nominations for treasurer. Mr. Camp nominated Mr. Brian Ellis for treasurer and it was supported by Mr. Denton. There were no more nominations and Mrs. Lent called for a vote. Mr. Ellis was elected treasurer 7-0.

**Acknowledgment of Guests** - None

**Public Comments** - None

**Communications to and from the Board**

The new secretary, Mrs. Stein, shared that a note of appreciation was received from Mrs. Julie Ridenour for the recognition and gifts given to her for her years of service to the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation board.

**Discussion Items:**

**Michigan Law on Conflict of Interest (PA 317 of 1968 and PA 145 of 1997)**

Dr. Morse explained to the Board that if a board member has an issue that is a conflict of interest, the member must notify the board seven days prior to a vote on that issue or the vote must be postponed. Mr. Denton had previously written a Letter of Disclosure in keeping with that law because he is employed by Varnum, Riddering Law firm which is used by East Grand Rapids Public Schools for personnel issues and other matters. He will have to abstain from that vote.

**Action Items - Consent Agenda:**

A Motion was made by Mrs. Stein and seconded by Mrs. Kuras to approve all of the items in the Consent Agenda, numbering 8 through 26. The motion was approved 7-0.

**Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 6/09/03**

A motion was made by Mr. Stein and seconded by Mrs. Kuras to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 9, 2003. It was approved 7-0. (See Enclosure #08)

**Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 6/23/03**

(See Enclosure #09)

**Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent for Business to Transfer Budget Line Funds**

(See Enclosure #10)

**Designation of Depositories**

(See Enclosure #11)

**Authorize the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Business, and Board Treasurer to Sign Checks** (See Enclosure #12)

**Authorize the Superintendent of Schools or his Designee to Hire, Accept Resignations, and to Terminate Employment for Certificated Staff**

(See Enclosure #13)

**Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent for Business to Hire, Accept Resignations, and to Terminate, When Necessary, Support Personnel** (See Enclosure #14)

**Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent for Business to Invest Funds** (See Enclosure #15)

**Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent for Business to Transfer Funds** (See Enclosure #16)

**Authorize the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Head Bookkeeper, and Assistant Bookkeeper to Make Written or Oral Requests for Transfer of Funds** (See Enclosure #17)

**Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent for Business to Transfer Funds from the General Fund to the Food Service Fund, Athletic Fund or Student Activity Fund, and to Make Fund Modifications as Necessary** (See Enclosure #18)

**Authorizations for Signatures on Checking Accounts** (See Enclosure #19)

**Appointment of Auditors** (See Enclosure #20)

**Adoption of the Summer Tax Collection** (See Enclosure #21)

**Authorization to Approve Letters of Agreement With EGREA and EGRASE**  
Enclosure #22.

**Resolution for Membership in Michigan High School Athletic Association for 2003-04 school year**  
(See Enclosure #23)

**Approval of Board of Education Memberships and Dues**

(See Enclosure #24) A Motion to renew institutional memberships in the following organizations and pay the dues required as listed in Enclosure #24:

<u>Name</u>	<u>2003-04 Dues</u>
Michigan Association of School Boards, Inc.	\$4,203.00
MASB Legal Trust Fund	Waived for 03-04
Kent School Board Association	\$50.00

**Approval for Board of Education Members to attend any or all MASB, MASA, or KIASB conferences and activities**

**Motion to Approve a Resolution for East Grand Rapids Schools to Exercise the Option Permitted by Section 1284 of the Revised School Code to Establish a Calendar Permitting at Least 180 days and 1098 Hours of Student Instruction**

See Enclosure #26.

**Other Action Items:**

**Appointment of Legal Counsel**

A motion was made by Mr. Camp, supported by Mrs. Kuras, to appoint legal counsel as submitted in Enclosure 27. It was supported 6-0. Mr. Denton abstained because of possible conflict of interest. (See Enclosure #27.)

**Official Meeting Dates for the 2003-04 School Year**

A motion to authorize official Board Meeting dates as listed in Enclosure #28 was made by Mrs. Kuras and supported by Mrs. Trierweiler. The motion carried 7-0.

**Nominations for the MASB Board of Directors**

The Board received a letter from the Michigan Association of School Boards inviting nominations for the MASB Board of Directors. There were no nominations. (See Enclosure #29)

**Periodicals for the Board of Education**

Board members were offered subscriptions to *Phi Delta Kappan*, *American School Board Journal*, and *Education Week*. Board members gave their forms with their requests to Ms. Hans to do the subscribing.

**Approval of a School Bond Loan Resolution**

A motion was made by Mr. Denton and supported by Mr. Camp to approve the attached resolution authorizing the district to borrow funds from the Michigan School Bond Loan Program as presented. The motion passed 7-0. (Enclosure #31)

**Administrative Reports**

**Superintendent**

**Superintendent's Goals for 2003-04**

Dr. Morse talked about Superintendent's Goals for 2003-04 (Enclosure # 32A) and mentioned there had been some discussion about adding diversity to these goals. He said it could be a part of the Strategic Plan for this year. Mr. Denton thought it a good idea that it be included in Dr. Morse's goals. Mrs. Stein encouraged it to a part of the Strategic Plan and said it is a hard goal to measure. Mrs. Kuras asked to see

the Diversity Committee's goals. Mrs. Vettese outlined what has been done in the Diversity Committee and what is being planned at this time. She said they are working toward a partnership with the community on this goal. After the discussion, Dr. Morse proposed bringing back a proposed goal for the board to consider at the August 25 Regular Meeting.

### **August Board/Administrator Retreat**

Wednesday, August 20, at 5:30-8:30 p.m. was set as the Board/Administrator Retreat.

Dr. Morse called attention to the copy of the letter sent to East Grand Rapids student, Stephen Schlatter, for his excellent performance on the ACT test this year. He was one of only four Michigan students, out of a total of 33,000 who took the ACT in April, to achieve a 36, the highest composite score. He also was one out of 51 out of 435,000 nation-wide who tested that month.

Dr. Morse told the Board that Mrs. King had called to his attention that two of the Merit Scholars students are schools of choice students. He also informed them that radio station WTKG AM 1230 will be broadcasting EGR High School football games this fall.

Dr. Morse gave a demonstration on how to go onto the EGRPS web site and view the district calendar and see building, athletic, district, etc. calendars and check out the dates, meetings, and activities of the district and clubs and groups.

He told the Board that he had a positive meeting on July 1 with John Combs and Elizabeth Lykins to try to help the Manhattan citizens find a positive solution to their transportation problems. Mr. Derks will introduce them to Dean Transportation. Mrs. Kuras suggested that the process be monitored throughout the year.

### **Assistant Superintendent for Business**

Mr. Derks told the Board that after their vote to use funding from the Sinking Fund, all contracts had been let out, that work on track may be complete by end of week and that the color of the track will be red. He said that red tracks hold up better than any other color. The bathrooms work has been started, and will be beginning work on MS gym which is a 3-week project. Doors have been ordered and roof work is in progress and on schedule.

He was asked to make sure that there are signs big enough for kids to know not to use skate boards and bikes on the track. He said that is a part of the signage, but he will check for certain.

### **Assistant Superintendent for Instruction**

Mrs. Vettese said she and 7 other staff attended a conference on differentiation in Chicago. She said it was a very good conference.

She invited the Board members to attend a cookout for new staff on August 19. It will be on the Woodcliff Deck.

### **Board of Education Members' Report**

***Appointments of Representatives to Committees and Organizations***

Each Board member was given a copy of last year's committees to help them determine what their preferences will be for this year. They are to email Mrs. Lent and she will assign committee placements at the August 25 Regular Meeting.

Brian Ellis said that the Class of 1978 had their 25<sup>th</sup> high school reunion last month and there was much satisfaction expressed about the improvements to the buildings and the high school outside areas and the new pool and Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Camp thanked Mr. Ellis for his past three years as president and all his work and time that he put into making these years successful.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kuras and seconded by Mrs. Trierweiler to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie R. Stein, 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. James Morse, Superintendent, at 235-3535.