

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.

EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Kent County, Michigan

REGULAR Meeting of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education

Woodcliff Center, 2915 Hall Street, SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.
Phone 616-235-3535.

Tuesday, February 17, 2004

MINUTES

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2004 in the Community Board Room, Woodcliff Center, 2915 Hall St., SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Board of Education:

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

Absent: Mrs. Rosalie Stein

Administration: Dr. James Morse, Mrs. Christine Vettese, Mr. Doug Derks, Dr. Ty Wessell, Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Linda Kehm, Mr. Doug Jenkins, Mrs. Jann VanAirsdale

Meeting Called to Order

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Mrs. Stein was not able to attend the meeting so Mrs. Lent appointed Mrs. Kuras as Secretary Pro Tem. Mrs. Lent announced that she would run for re-election in June. Mr. Camp also announced that he would seek re-election. The school board election will be held on Monday, June 14, 2004.

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments - None

Communications to and from the Board

Mrs. Kuras reported that thank you cards were received from Mary Hillyard for the gift basket and recognition by the Board as Orchestra Teacher of the Year; Dan and Susan Stearns for the gift basket following the birth of their son; Shelly Schram for the gift basket following her recent

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surgery; and Jerry Fouch, Pat Cwayna, Mark Tompkins, Jeanne Glowicki, Jann Van Airdale and Kathy Wisniewski for the gift baskets for Principals Week.

Mrs. Lent announced that the Board meeting in March has been changed from March 22nd to March 29th and the May 10th Board meeting has been changed to May 24th.

Recognition of Principal's Week – February 8-14, 2004 – Dr. James Morse

Mrs. Lent stated the Board appreciates the work and dedication displayed by the Principals and Directors day after day. Dr. Morse said gift baskets were sent to all principals and directors and he thanked all of them for their caring and work with our students.

Recognition of School Liaison Officer, Brian Davis– Dr. James Morse

Officer Brian Davis was recognized for his eight years of service as School Liaison Officer. Dr. Morse expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board and himself for Brian's work. This was a brand new venture eight years ago and we were fortunate to have the support of both Chief Gallagher and the City. Brian has always worked well with students, staff and administrators. Mr. Ellis expressed thanks on behalf of elementary children and said Brian has always been a good role model for the younger kids. Mrs. Trierweiler thanked him for his great work with our children. Officer Davis introduced Officer Ryan Holmes. Officer Holmes has replaced Brian. Ryan said he is excited for his new position and is enjoying what he is doing.

High School Student Council President's Report – Ms. Steffie Kabat

Ms. Kabat said that Student Council is taking a break for next couple of months. Each class will be doing it's own community service project and this will start following Spring Break. It has just been announced that Prom will be held at the new Convention Center in downtown Grand Rapids.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Cynthia Bischoff

No report this month.

Information Items:

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 items in the Consent Agenda Numbers 9 through 11.

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Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 1/26/04 (Enclosure #9)

Mr. Denton moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of December 15, 2003 and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Payment of Bills for January 2004 (Enclosure #10)

Mr. Denton moved to approve the payment of bills for December 2003 and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of a Medical Leave of Absence for Mrs. Sharon L. Pollice

Mr. Denton moved to approve the recommendation to grant a medical leave of absence beginning March 4, 2004 as requested by Mrs. Sharon Pollice and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Other Action Items:

Approval of Numbers for the 2004-2005 Schools of Choice Program

The 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. The Finance Committee and Superintendent are recommending that we accept 33 students, plus siblings if space is available, through the 2004-05 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program. (Enclosure #12)

Mr. Camp moved and Mr. Ellis seconded the motion to accept 33 students, plus siblings if space is available, through the 2004-05 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program. The motion passed 6-0.

Approval of the Resolution for the Annual School Election

The administration requests approval by the Board of Education of a resolution authorizing the Calling of the School Election on Monday, June 14, 2004. (Enclosure #13)

Mrs. Kuras moved and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to approve the resolution in Enclosure #15 authorizing the Calling of the Annual School Election on June 14, 2004. The motion passed 6-0.

Approval of March as "Reading Incentive Month"

The Board is asked to designate March as "Reading Incentive Month" in East Grand Rapids Public Schools. (Enclosure #14)

Mr. Denton moved and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to designate March as "Reading Incentive Month" in the East Grand Rapids Public Schools and to encourage all students, staff members, and community members to support this program. 6-0

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Administrative Reports:

Superintendent

State Report Card - All East Grand Rapids Public Schools received "A's". Dr. Morse indicated that we are very proud of the work of the students, principals, teachers and parents.

Literacy and Reading - Kent County Superintendents and other individuals throughout the County were invited by Byron Center Public Schools to read to students. The half hour sessions were taped at Byron Center and are being shown on cable Channel 24 from 4-4:30 p.m. every day. This was done to promote literacy and reading throughout our county. Look for Dr. Morse and other area school administrators and community personalities reading on Channel 24.

Mast painting - The High School has a mural painted by Gerald Mast on the second floor of the High School which was finished in 1965. This mural was given as a gift from the senior class of 1965. This past weekend the Grand Rapids Press featured an article about a mural painted by Mr. Mast in the Clare Public School District, which has been appraised at \$20 million. We are taking a second look at our mural and would like to have it appraised. Our mural was restored in 1993. Also, Wealthy Elementary has a painting that hangs in the Media Center that was done by Mathias Alten. This painting was taken to Detroit a couple of years ago to be restored. We will keep you informed if we receive any additional information on either of these items.

Special Education Millage Vote - This will be held on Tuesday, February 24th. All money from the millage will come directly back to local school districts. This would help one part of our budget deficit. We would receive approximately \$400,000 from this millage. Dr. Morse urges everyone to get out and vote and make this a successful campaign for the children in our schools.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Middle School Scheduling Committee Update - Mrs. Vettese reported that this committee has had one all-day meeting. The group is open and willing to work together. Following the meeting teams were sent back to the Middle School with information. Asking for responses of going to a 6-period day and what that would mean to grade levels and electives. The next meeting will be this week. The main concern of everyone on the committee is the students.

March 1st Diversity Dialogue - Just a reminder that the continuing dialogue on Diversity will take place on March 1st at 7:30 p.m.

Board Representative Report

City Community Center - Mr. Ellis and Mr. Camp for the Board of Education are on this committee. The Committee last week presented to the public a concept, not a final plan. Following the presentation the committee is looking for feedback from people in the community. Mr. Ellis gave a scaled down version of the presentation to the Board. This detailed the concept, scope, proposals for upper and lower levels, parking analysis (walkway across school property and parking in Senior lot), cost estimates (\$7.7. million), and a breakdown of what this millage would cost to East Grand Rapids citizens. This concept will be reviewed at the next Joint Facilities meeting scheduled for March 17th.

Assistant Superintendent for Business

Budget Update - Mr. Derks said that the Governor came out with an initial budget plan, which is a critical piece of information for working on our budget. Following the Governor's speech we now know that the Foundation grant will be \$7,301 and it will be a 50/50 blended count not the 80/20 count. We also have been informed that for expenses the retirement rate will be at 14.87%, an increase of 15%. We will continue to update the PTA's staff and our community. As of today we see an improvement over what we looked at in January. Most likely we will have to approve a budget in June with a number of variables still unknown.

Dr. Morse stated that we may have another State championship. The High School One-act play going to the state competition. There are 37 students involved in the competition. That is the good news. The bad news is the cost of \$4,000 to send them to the State competition. We have funded a portion for our sports teams in state competitions and we will fund a portion for this group. We are excited about their accomplishments and wish them well. Dr. Morse reminded everyone that on March 24th and 25th Lakeside elementary students will put on the play "Annie". Ticket information will be given in the near future.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Kuras, Secretary Pro Tem
East Grand Rapids Board of Education

* Minutes for this meeting will be available in the Superintendent's Office at 2915 Hall Street SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

** 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.

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