

*Our Mission*  
*Educating and inspiring each student*  
*to navigate successfully in a global community.*

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

Woodcliff Community Board Room, Woodcliff Center,  
2915 Hall SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
Phone 616-235-3535

**Monday, May 24, 2004**

**7:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, May 24, 2004 in the Community Board Room, Woodcliff Center, 2915 Hall Street SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

**Board of Education:**

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

**Administration:** Dr. James Morse, Mrs. Christine Vettese, Mr. Doug Derks, Mr. Doug Jenkins, Dr. Ty Wessell, Mr. Mark Tompkins, Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, and Mr. Pat Cwayna

**Meeting Called to Order**

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

**Acknowledgment of Guests** - None

**Public Comments** - None

**Communications to and from the Board**

The Board meeting scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> has been changed to Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

**Information Items**

**Technology Update** - Mr. Doug Jenkins

Mr. Jenkins discussed our initiative of paperless Board information. The Board uses student laptops borrowed from the high school. He thanked the Board and staff for working with the district in trying to make this happen. The EGRPS website debuted in early winter. He reviewed a statistical outline of visit and hit trends. A survey will be sent from Mr. Jenkins to Board members, asking for feedback and suggestions. Next year high

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school grades will be on-line. Mrs. Kuras asked how do we compare with other districts? Mr. Jenkins stated that in looks and appeal, we feel we have one of the top two or three websites in the county. He added that as far as functionality, we are going forward. The Middle School needs to be complimented for their initiative and leadership in on-line efforts. Mr. Ellis stated the website looks great and asked if there is any way to capture who is visiting the site and the reason for the visit, i.e., to check out district to move here, go to school here, School of Choice, etc.? Mr. Denton added he is impressed by the responsiveness and feels teachers and parents who use e-mail appreciate it. Mr. Jenkins said that more information would come out to parents next year. Mr. Camp asked how the system is handling all the hits, is it overloaded? Mr. Jenkins responded so far so good. The server is handling the increased use so far and is currently operating below 50%. Next year it will be operating above 50%. Mrs. Lent thanked Mr. Jenkins and the technology department for their work.

### Schedule B Discussion - 2004-05 Budget

Mr. Derks presented Schedule B and discussed some of the activities and numbers of students participating in the activity. If a fee is charged next year, it may be a \$25-30 one-time fee. If the recreation millage is successful, the administration recommends that Schedule B be fully funded for 2004-2005. He also reviewed the athletic subsidy reduction and discussed the impact.

A memo was sent to Mr. Derks from the KISD regarding funding in the future. The State currently has a \$49 million deficit and now has a 30-day window to work out where the funds will be cut. The Governor may issue a pro-ration letter, which could amount to an approximate reduction of another \$34/pupil for this school year. The previous reduction this year was \$74/pupil. The recreation millage on June 14<sup>th</sup> will give us some local control. The millage would be used to maintain our programs. Board discussion followed the presentation.

### 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 7 through 10.

### Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 5/17/04 (Enclosure #7)

Mr. Camp moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of May 17, 2004 and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0

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Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 5/18/04 (Enclosure #8)

Mr. Camp moved to approve the minutes of the Special meeting of May 18, 2004 and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Unpaid Medical/Childcare Leave of Absence - Mrs. Amy Stuursma (Enclosure #9)

Mr. Camp moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the recommendation to grant Mrs. Amy Stuursma a medical/childcare leave of absence upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a Request for an Unpaid Leave of Absence for Mrs. Denise Smith (Enclosure #10)

Mr. Camp moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve an unpaid leave of absence for the 2004-05 school year for Mrs. Denise Smith as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 7-0.

**Other Action Items:**

Approval of Resignation for Mrs. Susan Jandernoa (Enclosure #11)

Mrs. Susan Jandernoa submitted her resignation effective at the end of the 2003-04 school year. She does not qualify for the early retirement incentive.

Mrs. Kuras moved and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to approve a resignation for Mrs. Susan Jandernoa and to thank her for her work with the students of East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of 50% Early Retirement Incentive

The Early Retirement Incentive indicated the district would pay a 50% incentive if 7 or more teachers retired. A minimum of 7 teachers have notified the district of early retirement. Dr. Morse recommends a 50% Early Retirement Incentive.

Mr. Ellis moved and Mrs. Stein seconded the motion to approve a 50% Early Retirement Incentive because of 7 teachers retiring according to our original agreement. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Resignation for Mrs. Jeannine Kemp (Enclosure #13)

Mrs. Kemp submitted her resignation on Thursday, May 20, 2004 for early retirement.

Mr. Denton moved and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to approve a resignation for early retirement purposes for Mrs. Jeannine Kemp and to thank her

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for her work with the students of East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Motion passed 7-0.

### Approval of Resignation for Mrs. Christine Vettese (Enclosure #14)

Mrs. Christine Vettese has submitted her request for early retirement effective January 21, 2005.

Mrs. Stein moved and Mr. Denton seconded the motion to approve a resignation for early retirement with the 50% incentive for Mrs. Christine Vettese, effective January 21, 2005 and to thank her for her service with the staff and students of East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Ellis stated that Mrs. Vettese has had a great impact on students and staff. He thinks of the word passion when he thinks of Mrs. Vettese. He thanked her for her years of work with the East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Dr. Morse said when he thinks of Mrs. Vettese he thinks of the following: passion, advocate, and cheerleader for the district. He said that the sign of a great leader, according to the book, Good to Great, is that great leaders build leadership. Mrs. Vettese has certainly done this. Mrs. Lent stated that Mrs. Vettese combined passion with spirit and vision and thanked her for a job well done.

### Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy #7648 (Enclosure #15)

The first reading of revised policy #7648 was on the May 17, 2004 agenda. Changes were noted and incorporated into the enclosed copy.

Mrs. Trierweiler moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the updated policy as recommended by the Policy Committee and the Superintendent. Motion passed 7-0.

### Administrative Reports

#### Superintendent

#### Superintendent's Goals for 2004-05 (Enclosure #16)

The Board reviewed a list of goals presented by Dr. Morse. They encouraged him in his vision and suggested that he only concentrate on a few goals and have other administrators be responsible for other goals. Following discussion and review, Dr. Morse was encouraged to list the following as goals for 2004-05: 1) Implementation of a diversity plan for the district; 2) Evaluation of the assessment program and recommendations for revision; 3) A balanced budget for 2005-06; and, 4) Review of the teacher evaluation program. Dr. Morse will bring an updated list of goals back to the Board on June 7<sup>th</sup> or June 14<sup>th</sup> for comments and revision. The Superintendent's goals will be approved at the Organizational Meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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Assistant Superintendent for Business

Mr. Derks said he couldn't forgo this chance to speak. He stated he is in denial about Mrs. Vettese submitting her resignation. He thanked her for the learning, passion, energy, desire she brings to the district and said he will miss her. He said he appreciates that she gets things done. She is a good leader and looks at solutions to problems.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Mrs. Vettese said she has been recruiting for this year's class on differentiation. She stated that currently there are 12 teachers signed up. She will have a class list no later than June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Budgets - Mrs. Vettese said that not only have building budgets been cut, but also department budgets. She said that the Instruction budget has taken a big hit. She stated that the Instruction office received a federal grant this year of \$57,000 for differentiation. She says that the proposed reduction in the Spanish program is not good. She would like to see East Grand Rapids Schools looking at diversity from the student level.

Board Representative Report

No report this meeting.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Stein, Secretary  
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.

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\*\* 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.

Superintendent's Office - 5/28/04