

EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Kent County, Michigan

REGULAR Meeting of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education
Woodcliff Center, 2915 Hall SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Phone 616-235-3535

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.

Monday, September 22, 2003

MINUTES

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, September 22, 2003 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, Mrs. Rosalie Stein, Mr. Charlie Denton, and Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler

Absent: Mr. Joe Camp

Administration: Dr. James Morse, Mrs. Christine Vettese, Dr. Ty Wessell, Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, Mr. Doug Jenkins, Mrs. Jann VanAirsdale, Mr. Pat Cwayna, and Mr. Jerry Fouch

Call to Order

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. She announced the addition of two addendum items, Enclosure #16A which is a Request for an Unpaid Leave of Absence for a Teacher, and Enclosure #17A, requesting approval of a cooperative gymnastics club with East Grand Rapids, Caledonia, West Catholic and Catholic Central.

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments - None

Recognition of Fund Raising Group

Last Spring, during our budget planning several parents stepped forward to raise funds to reinstate student programs. A total of \$31,900 was collected and the funds were used in the whole budget process, not specific programs or areas. Dr. Morse and Mrs. Lent thanked and presented Certificates of Recognition to: Mrs. Libby DeLong, Mrs. Diane Bok, Mr. Gerald Hickey, Mrs. Jo Wells, Mr. Dave Levitt, Mr. Brian Hire, Mrs. Elizabeth Bogo and Mrs. Suzan Arends. Mrs. Arends also gave a check to kick-off fund raising for the 2004-05 budget year.

Recognition of State Awards in Architecture

Dan Graham, recipient of the Teacher of the Year award for Technology and Math, introduced Mr. Ed VerMurlen an architect in the community who worked closely on a pilot program through the Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society. Dr. Morse and Mrs. Lent congratulated and presented Certificates of Recognition to: Ms. Lauren Gill and Mr. Nikko Rautiola. Mr. Ver Murlen also presented them with the software program with which they worked. The software has an estimated value of \$1,500.00.

Recognition of Student Semifinalists in the 2004 Merit Scholarship Competition

Mr. Cwayna, Principal at East Grand Rapids High School introduced Glenn Mitcham, Senior Class counselor. Mr. Mitcham explained the Merit Scholarship competition and announced those from East Grand Rapids High School who have become Semifinalists for 2004. There are 19 semifinalists, the most we have ever had! These students have a chance at becoming finalists. Some of the students were unable to attend this meeting and will be recognized at the October 27th meeting.

Dr. Morse and Mrs. Kuras congratulated and presented Certificates of Recognition to: Ms. Cristina Fotieo, Ms. Talitha Haller, Ms. Emmi Hilger, Mr. Christopher Khorey, Ms. Elizabeth Mann, Mr. Samuel Martin, Ms. Molly Rea, Mr. Stephen Schlatter, Ms. Rebekah Stevens, Ms. Sarah Wittingen, and Mr. Anthony Zabel.

Communications to and from the Board

A thank you card was received from Chad Mester (MS Custodian) and family for the gift basket following the birth of their second son. Shirley Hans sent a thank you note for the pen, gold pass, clock and retirement celebration. She also wants the BOE to know that "she enjoyed working with each and every one of you". Lisa Healey and family thanked the Board for the kind wishes and gift basket following the birth of their son.

High School Council President's Report

Ms. Steffie Kabat shared that they have had one executive committee meeting and one meeting of the whole. Major focus is on Homecoming right now. Student Council also was able to help a family in the district with funds received through the Script program.

EGREA President's Report

Mrs. Cynthia Bischoff reported that Open Houses at the schools are going very well. She brought in a book, "A House for a Mouse", which was written and illustrated by an alumni of East Grand Rapids schools, Mr. Smith Roberts. He will be coming to town to sign books and will make a stop at Wealthy School to talk with students.

Action Items - Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 8/25/03

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of 8/25/03 and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. (Enclosure #9)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 8/25/03

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the minutes of the Special meeting of 8/25/03 and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. (Enclosure #10)

Approval of Payment of Bills for August 2003

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the payment of bills for August 2003 and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. (Enclosure #11)

Approval of Lakeside Student Trip

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the Lakeside 4th grade overnight trip to Mackinac Island as recommended by the Superintendent and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. (Enclosure #12)

Approval of Athletic Overnight Trips

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the various Athletic overnight trips as recommended by the Superintendent and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. (Enclosure #13)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 22, 2003

Page 4

Approval of High School Student Trips

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the various High School student overnight trips as recommended by the Superintendent and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. (Enclosure#14)

Approval of Wealthy Student Trips

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the Wealthy 5th grade trip to Science Camp at Mystic Lake and the Mackinac Island trip for the Wealthy 4th grade as recommended by the Superintendent and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. (Enclosure #15)

Approval of 2003 Revised O.K. Conference By-Laws

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the 2003 revised O.K. Conference By-Laws as recommended by the Superintendent and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. (Enclosure #16)

Approval of a Request for an Unpaid Leave of Absence for Mrs. Lisseth D. Hoksbergen

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the unpaid leave of absence for the second semester of the 2004-05 school year as requested by Mrs. Lisseth D. Hoksbergen and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. (Enclosure #16A)

Action Items:

Appoint Delegate Representatives to MASB Fall Conference Delegate Assembly

The Michigan Association of School Boards' 2003 Delegate Assembly is meeting at the annual 2003 Fall Conference at the Detroit Marriott renaissance Center in Detroit on Thursday, November 7, 2003. Three delegates may be appointed to represent the East Grand Rapids Board of Education. (Enclosure #17) Mrs. Stein moved to appoint Mrs. Lent to represent the East Grand Rapids Board of Education and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Approval of a Joint Gymnastics Club

Last year, gymnastics was a cooperative sport with Caledonia. This year, as a result of budget reductions, gymnastics was moved to club status. East Grand Rapids, Caledonia, West Catholic and Catholic Central have agreed to have a cooperative gymnastics club pending approval by the respective Boards. There will be no cost to the District. (Enclosure #17A) Mr. Denton moved to approve the cooperative gymnastics club and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent

Enrollment Update (Enclosure #18A)

Dr. Morse reported that a few students were lost from last week, but over the first couple of months, the numbers fluctuate. He reminded the Board that the student count day is Wednesday. He anticipates the District will be close to the budgeted number, which is approximately 2,900.

Diversity Dinner - KIASB

The Kent Intermediate Association of School Boards will have a dinner meeting on Wednesday, October 1st at Duba's Restaurant. The topic will be Diversity and staff and students from local districts will be presenting. Mrs. Lent, Mrs. Kuras and Mrs. Vettese will attend this event.

Strategic Planning Update

All Board members should have received the update on the Strategic Planning dates. There will be three ways for people to become involved: participate on the Planning Committee, be a part of a Focus Group or fill out a survey. Input will be sought from Board members, teachers, support staff, administrators, students, and community members.

Assistant Supt. for Instruction

Update on Status of MEAP Scores

Mrs. Vettese spent the day in Lansing and reported that many of the difficulties with the MEAP scores seem to be technology related. The State is now saying that scores should be received by the end of October. There was discussion regarding MEAP information and testing for the future.

Community Dialogue on Diversity

the Diversity Breakfast will be held October 21, 2003 from 7:30-11:30 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center. One Hundred and eighty people have been invited.

Mrs. Vettese handed out brochures "hot off the presses" for the East Grand Rapids High School drama season. She encouraged everyone to order tickets early for the various productions.

Board Representative Report

Champions of Diversity - Mrs. Stein

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 22, 2003

Page 6

Mrs. Stein encouraged everyone to RSVP for the Community Breakfast on October 21st. She indicated that the Champions of Diversity would have their next meeting in a couple of weeks.

Mrs. Trierweiler and Mr. Denton attended the MASB (Michigan Association of School Board) workshops last weekend. Mrs. Trierweiler found the workshops to be very interesting and especially enjoyed the interaction with other school board members from around the State. She is thankful that the community of East Grand Rapids is so supportive of the school district. Mr. Denton indicated he felt the workshops he attended were excellent and he experienced the same feelings as Mrs. Trierweiler in regard to the community support.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosalie R. 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.
- ** 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 - 9/23/03