

EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Kent County, Michigan

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

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education

Community Board Room at Woodcliff Center
2915 Hall Street SE
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Thursday, July 1, 2004 - 5:30 p.m.

Minutes

The ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Thursday, July 1, 2004 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, Mr. Doug Jenkins, Dr. Ty Wessell

Organizational Meeting Called to Order

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

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

Ms. Anne Thomsma, Secretary to the Board and Superintendent administered the oath of office to Mrs. Beth Lent and Mr. Joe Camp. Both Mrs. Lent and Mr. Camp will serve as members of the Board of Education for East Grand Rapids Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan for a 4-year term commencing July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2008.

Election of Officers - 2004-05

President

Mrs. Kuras moved that Mrs. Lent serve as President for the 2004-2005 school year. Mrs. Stein seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed 7-0.

Vice President

Mr. Denton moved that Mrs. Kuras serve as Vice President for the 2004-2005 school year. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed 7-0.

Secretary

Mrs. Trierweiler moved that Mrs. Stein serve as Secretary for the 2004-2005 school year. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed 7-0.

Treasurer

Mrs. Stein moved that Mr. Camp serve as Treasurer for the 2004-2005 school year. Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed 7-0.

Acknowledgment of Guests and Public Comments

Mr. Bob Eleveld of 3579 Hidden Lake Lane in Grand Rapids Township. He is running for the State House Representatives - 86th District - and is a former resident of East Grand Rapids. He states that public education is his #1 priority. As individuals, he is asking for the Board to participate in a letter he is writing to parents in EGR to support his candidacy.

Communications to and from the Board

None

President Announcements

Agenda Item # 10 (Appointment of Legal Counsel) will be moved from the Consent Agenda to "Other Action Items" so a vote can be taken. We have an Addendum, item #37A – Authorization for the Administration to Award Contract for the Wealthy Elementary Smokestack Bids.

Discussion Items:

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

Letter of Disclosure

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 that is used by East Grand Rapids Public Schools for personnel issues and other matters. He will have to abstain from that vote. The Board will move that agenda item, #10, to the "Other Action Items" for a vote.

First Reading of Revised Policy #8332 (Hazing) – (Enclosure #8)

Mr. Ellis explained that hazing is now a crime in the State of Michigan. He suggested that we put the updated policy in student handbooks with the disclaimer "pending Board approval". Mr. Denton states statute different definition of hazing than what we have. We will have Pat White review to get the proper wording.

Action Items - Consent Agenda:

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the all of the items in the Consent Agenda, numbering 9 and 11 through 28. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. Mr. Derks reported a few minor changes in various resolutions, nothing substantive (dates, name changes, etc.), see him for further details. The motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 6/17/04 (Enclosure #9)

Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent for Business to Transfer Budget Line Funds
(Enclosure #11)

Designation of Depositories (Enclosure #12)

Authorize the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Business, and Board Treasurer to Sign Checks
(Enclosure #13)

Authorize the Superintendent of Schools or his Designee to Hire, Accept Resignations, and to Terminate Employment for Certificated Staff (Enclosure #14)

Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent for Business to Hire, Accept Resignations, and to Terminate, When Necessary, Support Personnel (Enclosure #15)

Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent for Business to Invest Funds (Enclosure #16)

Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent for Business to Transfer Funds (Enclosure #17)

Authorize District to Utilize Electronic Transactions of Funds (Enclosure #18)

Authorize the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Head Bookkeeper, and Assistant Bookkeeper to Make Written or Oral Requests for Transfer of Funds (Enclosure #19)

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 (Enclosure #20)

Authorizations for Signatures on Checking Accounts (Enclosure #21)

Appointment of Auditors (Enclosure #22)

Adoption of the Summer Tax Collection (Enclosure #23)

Authorization to Approve Letters of Agreement With EGREA and EGRASE (Enclosure #24)

Resolution for Membership in Michigan High School Athletic Association (Enclosure #25)

Approval of Board of Education Memberships and Dues (Enclosure #26)

A motion to renew institutional memberships in the following organizations and pay the dues required as listed in Enclosure #26.

<u>Name</u>	<u>2004-05 Dues</u>
Michigan Association of School Boards, Inc.	\$4,206.00
MASB Legal Trust Fund	Waived for 04-05
Kent School Board Association	\$50.00

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

Approval of Section 6 Non-Resident Students (Enclosure #28)

Other Action Items:

Appointment of Legal Counsel (Enclosure #10)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to appoint legal counsel as submitted in Enclosure #10. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Denton abstained because of possible conflict of interest.

Approval of Middle School Science Textbooks – Mrs. Vettese (Enclosure #29)

Mrs. Vettese introduced Mr. John Burke who presented on the Middle School textbooks. Mr. Denton moved to approve the Middle School science textbooks as recommended by the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. Mrs. Stein seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Second Reading and Approval of Revised Board Policy #8320 - Student Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Enclosure #30)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve revised Board Policy #8320 – Student Use of Electronic Communication Devices as recommended by the Board Policy Committee and the Superintendent. Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Second Reading and Approval of Revised Board Policy #8383 – Procedures for Discipline (Enclosure #31)

Mr. Ellis moved to approve Board Policy #8383 – Procedures for Discipline as recommended by the Board Policy Committee and the Superintendent. Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Second Reading and Approval of Revised Board Policy #8390 – Suspension Procedures (Enclosure #32)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve Board Policy #8390 – Suspension Procedures as recommended by the Board Policy Committee and the Superintendent. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Official Meeting Dates for the 2004-05 School Year (Enclosure #33)

Mr. Denton moved to authorize official Board Meeting date as listed in Enclosure #33. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 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.

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. Thomasma to do the subscribing.

Approval of a School Bond Loan Resolution (Enclosure #36)

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the attached resolution authorizing the district to borrow funds from the Michigan School Bond Loan Program as presented. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Demolition of Wealthy Coal Bin

Mr. Camp moved to award a contract to H & M Demolition Companies for the demolition and fill of the Wealthy coal bin in the amount of \$38,036.00. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Authorization for the Administration to Award Contract for the Wealthy Elementary Smokestack Bids

Mr. Camp moved to authorize the Administration to award the contract for the Wealthy Elementary smokestack demolition within Sinking Fund budget parameters following the opening of bids on July 14, 2004. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a Study Leave

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve Dr. Morse leading a Rotary International Group Study Exchange to Japan from October 23 – November 21, 2004. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Superintendent Goals for 2004-2005 (Enclosure #39)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve the Superintendent's Goals for 2004-2005 as discussed at previous Board meetings and outlined in Enclosure #39. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

Board/Administrator Retreat – This will be scheduled for either September 28th or October 11th this year. This way school can get underway and any issues can be addressed at the retreat. Mr. Ellis asked what is the purpose of the meeting? Dr. Morse said it is an opportunity for Board members and administrators to discuss issues and give updates of school goals and it also promotes communications between the Board and the administration. Mrs. Lent will follow-up with Board members on dates and times.

Dr. Morse thanked the Board for their efforts this past year and stated he is looking forward to next year.

Assistant Superintendent for Business – No report.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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Mrs. Vettese gave a brief presentation on the article in the Grand Rapids Magazine that ranked East Grand Rapids Public Schools as #1 in the county and the East Grand Rapids community ranked at #3.

Board Technology Update – Mr. Jenkins

Mr. Jenkins gave a brief report on how our on-line and electronic Board initiatives. They seem to be working very well. Highlights include having our Board Policies on line, Board Agendas and Minutes on line and Board Packets being sent electronically. We will continue into next year and if any Board members would prefer to receive their Board packet electronically rather than hard copy, let Anne Thomas know.

Board of Education Members' Report

Appointments of Representatives to Committees and Organizations – Mrs. Lent

Mrs. Lent will assign committees to Board members. She will send an e-mail to all members. Please respond via e-mail over next few weeks with your interests.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 6:48 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.

JEM/aht 07/07/04