

EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Kent County, Michigan

**REGULAR Meeting of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education**  
Woodcliff Center, 2915 Hall St., SE., East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Phone 616-235-3535

***Our Mission***

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

**Monday, August 30, 2004**

**7:30 p.m. - REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, August 30, 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, Mrs. Kathy Wisniewski, Mr. Jerry Fouch, and Mr. Pat Cwayna

**Meeting Called to Order**

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**Acknowledgment of Guests**

There were no guests to be acknowledged.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

August 30, 2004

Page 2

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Recognition of the East Grand Rapids High School MHSAA Boys Class B 2004 State Championship Lacrosse Team – Dr. James Morse and Mr. Jerry Fouch

Mr. Fouch stated Lacrosse is the second largest team in the schools. He also said that the coaches are top quality and they have done a good job with this program. Adam Vincent (Asst. Coach) discussed the high school and middle school programs. He said that the future looks bright and the team will remain competitive.

Dr. Morse, Mr. Jerry Fouch and Mrs. Beth Lent presented certificates to Coach Vincent to distribute to the following coaches and team members of the 2004 Lacrosse State Championship team: Rick DeBlasio, Adam Vincent and Cam Keyes (Coaches) and the players: Joey Barss, David Baxter, Wade Begrow, Max Bissell, Daniel Boylan, Adam Brant, Daniel Catzere, Alexander Cisler, Eric Haslinger, Julian Heidenreich, David Handorp, Chris Idema, John Kotwick, Robert Leonard, John Littlejohn, Wyatt Martin, Ryan Mc "Aleenan, John Mc Call, Steven Norton, Tyler Oates, Michael Pinckney, Douglass Price, Niiko Rautiola, Joseph Scheltema, Paul Schelatema, Robert Schriefer, John Sprague, Eric Syverson, Nick Thompson, Bryant Tuthill, Reid Van Gelderen, James Welch and William Wismer.

Communications to and from the Board

The Board received a thank you card from David Ghareeb for the book donation in memory of his father and also a thank you card from Stacy Trierweiler and family for the book donation in memory of her father-in-law.

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 6 through 9

Approval of Minutes of Organizational MEETING of 7/01/04 (Enclosure #6)

Approval of Payment of Bills for June and July (Enclosure #7)

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

August 30, 2004

Page 3

### Approval of Overnight Student Activities

In accordance with Board of Education Policy #7490, the district has various trips and overnight athletic and student activities as outlined in Enclosure #8 for approval by the Board. (Enclosure #8) Additional trips were added from the High School and Wealthy elementary school.

### Approval of Unpaid Medical/Childcare Leave of Absence – Mrs. Janice Yates (Enclosure #9)

Under the provisions of the Master Agreement in Article 15, Section M, Mrs. Janice Yates is requesting an unpaid medical/childcare leave of absence for the 2004-05 school year.

Mr. Camp moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #6-9. Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### *Other Action Items:*

#### Appoint Delegate Representatives to MASB Fall Conference Delegate Assembly

The Michigan Association of School Boards' 2004 Delegate Assembly is meeting at the annual 2004 Fall Conference at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids on Friday, November 5, 2004. Three delegates may be appointed to represent the East Grand Rapids Board of Education. (Enclosure #10)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to appoint Mr. Camp, Mrs. Kuras and Mrs. Stein as delegates to the MASB 2004 Delegate Assembly. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

#### Approval of Region 3 Candidate for the MASB Board of Directors Three-Year Term

Official ballots must be returned to MASB by September 3, 2004, to participate in the MASB Board of Directors Election. Two candidates, James Dittmer (nominated by Mason-Lake ISD) and Laurie A. Gibson (nominated by Vestaburg Community Schools), have been nominated to represent our region, Region 3.

Mrs. Lent explained that she proposes voting for Mr. Dittmer as he has more years of service and more knowledge of school boards and will represent us well. Mrs. Stein moved to approve Mr. Dittmer as the candidate to represent Region 3 on the MASB Board of Directors. (Enclosure #11) Mr. Denton seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. Motion passed 7-0.

#### Approval of Refunding of Bonds

Based on current interest rates, it is advantageous for the district to authorize refunding of bonds. Estimates indicate a savings in excess of one million for taxpayers.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

August 30, 2004

Page 4

Mr. Camp moved to approve the Finance Committee recommendation that the Board of Education adopt a resolution authorizing the refunding of bonds. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Wealthy Parking Lot Bids

Request for proposals were sent out for repaving of Wealthy Elementary parking lot as a result of the coal bin and smoke stack demolition. (Enclosure #13)

Mr. Camp moved to approve the Finance Committee recommendation that the Board of Education authorize the lowest bidder, Key Construction, to complete the repaving at Wealthy Elementary. Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Second Reading and Approval of Revised Board Policy #8332 - Hazing (Enclosure #14)

The Board had a first reading of revised Board Policy #8332 - Hazing, at the Organizational meeting on July 1, 2004.

Mr. Camp moved to approve revised Board Policy #8332 - Hazing, as recommended by the Board Policy Committee and the Superintendent. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Resolution Tentatively Designating the Regular Election Date for the District and Authorization for Publication of the Notice of Public Hearing

Due to election consolidation, election law requires the school district to adopt a resolution designating the date it will hold it's regular election. The Board must also approve the Publication of the Notice of Public Hearing regarding the election date. (Enclosure #15)

Mr. Denton moved to approve the tentative designation of May as the annual election for the Board of Education and to approve the Publication of Notice of Public Hearing. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

*Administrative Reports:*

Superintendent

Opening of School

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

August 30, 2004

Page 5

Dr. Morse stated that the opening staff meeting today was the best one we have had in years! Thanks to Christine Vettese for all of her work. Mark Pullen received the Nicholas Plastics/Vi-Chem award for Science, Mathematics and Technology. The Excellence in Teaching Award was given to Bill Schram for the elementary and Mary Elderkin for secondary. Evon Roberts, the Secretary at the Middle School, was voted the Support Staff Person of the Year. Thanks also to the whole committee for all of their hard work. School starts tomorrow. The buildings look wonderful and students are excited. We are anticipating an enrollment of around 2900.

### New Staff (Enclosure #16B)

Seven new staff members have been hired. They are all high quality outstanding people.

#### Assistant Supt. for Business

### State Aid Update

MASB sent memo out stating: There is no State Aid act in place yet. The memo outlined three points: 1) The School Aid Fund must be adequately supported with sustainable revenue that keeps pace with inflation. 2) Three years of no Foundation Grant growth plus three years of cuts have put Michigan's K-12 education system in peril. 3) School Aid cuts that selectively place the burden of revenue shortfalls on certain districts or programs are ultimately, a detriment to all districts and programs. Mr. Derks will send an e-mail to all Board members with a copy of the memo for review.

### Summer Projects

Mr. Derks provided a PowerPoint presentation on "What We Did On Your Summer Vacation". Work has been completed or is finishing up on: Lakeside Fascia, Breton Downs Tennis Courts, Middle School Locker Rooms, Team Room, High School "Camp-Stein-Morse" Crosswalk, Memorial Field Bleachers, Wealthy Smokestack Demolition, Wealthy Coal Bin demolition and parking lot repaving. Thanks to our Operations Staff - Patty Temple, Ed Visockis and Bill Kerr. Mr. Camp reminded everyone that all of the projects mentioned above have been completed with Sinking Funds not Operational Funds.

#### Assistant Supt. for Instruction

### Strategic Plan

Mrs. Vettese stated that it is easy to make a plan and have it collect dust, but here in East we live with our plan. Great launch this morning at the all staff meeting, of the new Strategic Plan.

### Curriculum Plan 2004-05

Mrs. Vettese handed out assignments for the Curriculum Plan for 2004-05.

### Diversity Rally

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

August 30, 2004

Page 6

This was a great rally with a wonderful speaker! Everyone from East who attended was enthusiastic.

Board Representative Report (Enclosure #19)

Board Committee Assignments – Mrs. Lent

Thanks to all Board members for being willing to serve on the various committees.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 8:29 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.
- \*\* 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 - 8/31/04