

EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Kent County, Michigan

*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, September 20, 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, September 20, 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, Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Linda Kehm, and Mr. Pat Cwayna

Meeting Called to Order

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Acknowledgment of Guests

There were no guests to be acknowledged.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

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Recognition of Student Semifinalists in the 2004 Merit Scholarship Competition - Mr. Fisher

East Grand Rapids High School had 17 semi-finalists in the Merit Scholarship competition. Mr. Fisher gave a brief overview of the Merit Scholarship competition and the students who received the awards. Dr. Morse and Mrs. Kuras presented certificates to the following students: Thomas Bander, Bess Conners, John Faichney, William Frayer, Kyle Fuller, Joseph Gallmeyer, Katherine Harger, John Hayes, James Hogan, Rachel Kerr, Megan Maloney, Joshua Mankoff, Leyton Nelson, Catherine Pease, Jennifer Skoog, Renee Verdier, and Katherine Wiseman.

Communications to and from the Board

There were no communications this month.

High School Student Council President's Report - Mr. Tom Bander

Mr. Bander reported that committees have been formed for the homecoming parade. The Student Council is now working on providing suggestions for the dress code and looking at the student council election process.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Cynthia Bischoff

Mrs. Bischoff was not able to be here as she is preparing for open house tomorrow night. She wanted the Board to know that the teachers were pleased to have summer curriculum completed.

Public Hearing on the Board of Education's Regular Election Date

The Board passed a resolution on August 30, 2004 tentatively designating the May regular election date in both even and odd years. This is the time for a public hearing regarding the election date. Mrs. Lent opened the public hearing at 7:40 p.m. The Board discussed the date and the public hearing was closed at 7:48 p.m.

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 10.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 8/30/04 (Enclosure #9)

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

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Mr. Ellis moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #9 & 10. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Action Items:

Resolution Designating the Regular Election Date for the District

Due to election consolidation, election law requires the school district to adopt a resolution designating the date of May in both even and odd years as the date it will hold its regular election. (Enclosure #11)

Mr. Ellis moved to approve the designation of May as the regular election date in both even and odd years. Mrs. Stein seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken: Mrs. Lent - yes; Mrs. Kuras - yes; Mrs. Stein - yes; Mr. Camp - yes; Mr. Ellis - yes; Mr. Denton - yes and Mrs. Trierweiler - yes. Motion passed 7-0.

Resolution Ratifying the 1996 Refunded Bonds

At the last Board meeting on August 30, 2004 the Board authorized the Administration to move forward refunding the 1996 debt bonds. The 1996 refunded bonds went to market on Tuesday, September 14, 2004. The positive results of the sale will be presented at the Board meeting. (Enclosure #12)

Dr. Morse thanked Mr. Derks for his work on this project. By refunding the bonds it will save taxpayers \$1.9 million. Mr. Derks gave a brief explanation of the numbers.

Mr. Camp moved to approve the resolution ratifying the 1996 refunded bonds. Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent

Enrollment Update (Enclosure #13)

Dr. Morse reviewed the report in the packet. The Administration projects the 4th Wednesday count will be approximately 2900 students. The numbers in all grades look good and we still have low class sizes. The Board discussed the numbers.

Grass Roots Meeting

Dr. Morse reviewed information from the Grass Roots meeting which was held at the KISD last week. School districts are now paying 17% more in payroll costs for Social Security and retirement than prior to Proposal A with no significant increase in State funding. There may be an Executive Order in the middle of this year. We anticipate a 3%-4% increase in retirement costs in 2005-06 with no additional funding from the State. Thanks to our community for their support for the Recreation and Special Education millages.

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Assistant Supt. for Instruction

Curriculum Discussion

Mrs. Vettese reviewed two of the projects with the Board and gave a handout on "A Nation Deceived". She stated that this has been the best year of teachers working on summer curriculum projects.

Assistant Supt. for Business

125 Plan Update

Mr. Derks authorized itinerant staff to be a part of the KISD 125 plan. They cannot sign up for our plan if they are on the KISD's plan.

Board Representative Report

Mrs. Lent notified Board members that on December 13th the High School Choral Concert starts at 7:30 p.m., which is the same time as the Board of Education meeting. She suggested that the Board change the meeting time on December 13th from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. All Board members agreed. The December 13, 2004 Board of Education meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Governor's Summit - Mrs. Beth Lent

Mrs. Lent stated that this was a very positive meeting. There was discussion about the vital communication link between schools and parents. The Governor received a standing ovation and was very personable in her talk to everyone. Tom Watkins was also very positive.

Art Committee Report - Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler

This is a relatively small committee and they have begun their work. They will present recommendations to the Board by January of 2005.

Dr. Morse mentioned that GR Schools will be closed on election day in November. East schools do not plan on closing.

Mr. Ellis asked that the Leadership Team look at school safety issues and make sure we are up to date and comfortable with our procedures. He stated that we cannot take things for granted and must keep up to date. Dr. Morse replied that the district annually reviews our Safety Plan with the EGR Public Safety Department to be sure that all schools are up to date and have current information on safety.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

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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 - 9/21/04