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

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

For Information, call 616-235-3535.

Monday, November 29, 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, November 29, 2004 in the Community Board Room, Woodcliff Center, 2915 Hall Street SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Board of Education:

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

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

Absent: Mr. Joe Camp

Meeting Called to Order

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

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments - None

Communications to and from the Board

A thank you card was received from Sandy Olson (Wealthy Elementary) for the donation of a book to the Wealthy Elementary library in memory of her father; a thank you card was received from Bob Stein (husband of Board member Rosalie Stein) for the fruit basket following his surgery; a thank you card was received from Kristin Borak (Lakeside Elementary) for the goodie basket following the birth of her twins; and, a

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thank you card was received from Harry Cofill (High School) for the goodie basket following the birth of his son.

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

The Arts and Crafts show held a week and a half ago went very well. The Food Drive started today. This is an annual service project and the students will be collecting food for the next two weeks. This year the goal has been increased to provide food for 55 families. Work continues on the dress code. A survey was sent to all students and about half have been returned.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Cynthia Bischoff

Mrs. Bischoff is ill, no report. She did ask that a reminder be given to the Board members of the EGREA holiday party at the Yacht club on Friday, December 3rd from 3:30-8:00 p.m. All Board members are invited to attend.

Recognition of Ms. Rachael G. Kerr for perfect ACT Score - Dr. James Morse

Mrs. Lent and Dr. Morse presented Ms. Kerr with a certificate for her perfect ACT score. Mr. Cwayna stated the High School is proud of her accomplishments.

Recognition of the Girls Cross-Country Championship Team - Mr. Pat Cwayna

The team is not here as they are busy students involved in other activities at this time. The students will be recognized at the school. Mr. Cwayna stated he is proud of not only the students but also the excellent coach, Nick Hopkins.

Presentation:

Food Service Update - Mrs. Amy Larson and Ms. Jean Aitken

Mr. Derks introduced Mrs. Larson and Ms. Aitken. He thanked Amy for the turnaround in the Food Service program since she has been here. Mrs. Larson and Ms. Aitken gave a review of the past year, discussed special promotions, went over the financial figures and reviewed the goals for this school year. Cathie Creager, head cook at the High School won first prize in a recipe contest from Chartwells. She was recognized at this meeting and was presented with awards from the competition.

Advanced Placement Biology - Mrs. Christine Vettese and Mrs. Jan Huff (Enclosure #10)

Mrs. Vettese and Mrs. Huff presented a brief overview of the AP Biology program. Mr. Cwayna, Dr. Morse and the Board thanked Mrs. Huff for her work on this program.

Strategic Plan Update - Progress Report on Differentiation in the Classroom (Superintendent Goal #2) - Mrs. Christine Vettese (Enclosure #11)

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Mrs. Vettese gave a review of differentiation in East Grand Rapids Public Schools. The class this year is the largest since we have started offering differentiation training. There is much excitement from all of the participants.

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 12 through 14.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 10/18/04 (Enclosure #12)

Approval of October Payment of Bills (Enclosure #13)

Approval of Medical Leave of Absence – Mrs. Roberta J. Wadel

Background: Under the provisions of the Master Agreement in Article 15, Section M, Mrs. Roberta J. Wadel is requesting a medical leave of absence beginning November 3, 2004 for approximately 8-12 weeks. (Enclosure #14)

Recommendation: Motion to approve the recommendation to grant to Mrs. Roberta J. Wadel a medical leave of absence upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Mr. Denton moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #12-#14. Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Other Action Items:

2003-2004 Audit Report

Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter, P.C. completed the audit this fall. The Board Finance Committee reviewed the report and recommends that the Board of Education receive the 2003-2004 Audit Report.

Mr. Denton moved to approve the motion to receive the 2003-2004 Audit Report as presented and recommended by the Board Finance Committee and Superintendent. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

2004-2005 General Fund Budget Amendment

Each fall, the Board Finance Committee recommends a Budget Amendment to the Board of Education. The Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed amendment. (Enclosure #16)

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Mrs. Stein moved to approve the motion to approve the amendment for the 2004-05 budget as listed in Enclosure #16. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

Japan Trip Report

Dr. Morse showed slides and gave a brief presentation of his recent Rotary Study Group trip to Japan. He also had flags from the various Rotary clubs he visited as well as various items he brought back from Japan. He thanked the Board for approval of this trip. All expenses for the trip were paid by Rotary.

Assistant Supt. for Business

State Aid Update

Mr. Derks presented information on the status of state revenues. On December 3rd a revenue hearing will take place. By the end of January we should know if there will be an Executive Order from the Governor.

WMHIP (West Michigan Health Insurance Pool) Update

The application has been submitted to the State. The State required some amendments to the application. We trust that within 3-4 months we should be given authorization to begin the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool. There are 20 school districts involved at this time.

Assistant Supt. for Instruction

East Grand Rapids Public Schools Annual Report - PA 125/NCLB

It is required by No Child Left Behind that we publish the annual report. It is now on-line on our website.

High School Receives "A" on Adequate Yearly Progress
All Schools in EGR Receive All "A's"

The final grade for all East Grand Rapids Public Schools was an "A".

Diversity Professional Development Day - "Color Me Human" -
February 21, 2005

This will be an all-day conference put on by East Grand Rapids Public Schools. All professional staff will be attending. Board members are also encouraged to attend this conference.

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Curriculum Preview

There will be new Theatre courses at the High School. There is a new K-12 Art Curriculum which we hope to present at the December Board meeting and work continues on the Middle School 6-8 Social Studies curriculum.

Board Representative Report

Diversity Report - Mrs. Stein

This committee met last week and discussed the "Color Me Human" conference. After three years the group is taking shape. Mrs. Stein expressed that it has been good to have the Strategic Plan in place to help guide this group.

Youth Development Report - Mrs. Stein

The Youth Development Committee has put out a newsletter, which will be distributed to the Board. This committee will be doing a fund drive prior to the end of 2004. Mrs. Stein stated that this group is really all about the kids.

Grass Roots - Mrs. Beth Lent

KISD Grass Roots met on November 11th. This group is focusing on funding from the state for public schools. There are two goals for this year: meet the need for adequate and consistent funding for public schools and close the revenue gap for districts. The next meeting will be on February 3, 2005.

K-8 Science Curriculum - Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler

This has been a very passionate group that worked very hard to get this K-8 Science curriculum moving forward. Mrs. Trierweiler thanked everyone for working quickly and passionately on this committee.

Foundation Representative Report - Mr. Charlie Denton

The Foundation Board met on November 17th to review grant requests. Results of the grant disbursements will be brought to this Board on December 13th. The Foundation will publish a new alumni directory. The Foundation website has been re-done. There is a spot on the website now for giving to the foundation. The Distinguished Alumni Dinner was a great success. It was a sold out event at Meijer Garden. The results of the artwork auction have not been announced yet.

Just a note that the Legislative Committee will have a coffee on December 6th beginning at 8:00 a.m. with Rep. Hildenbrand as the featured speaker. All Board members and Administrators are encouraged to attend.

Board members are asked to hold Monday, January 17, 2005 in reserve for the Budget Workshop.

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The annual staff Holiday Breakfast will be held on December 14, 2004 from 6:45-8:15 a.m. The format has been revised this year. This will be an exciting event. Please plan to attend. Sign up sheets will be sent out within the next week.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 9:52 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 - 11/30/04