

***Our Mission***

***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 Community Board Room, 2915 Hall Street, SE.,  
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

For Information, call 616-235-3535.

**5:30 p.m.**

**Monday, December 13, 2004**

**MINUTES**

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, December 13, 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, Dr. Ty Wessell, Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Linda Kehm, Mrs. Jann Van Airsdale, Mr. Mark Tompkins, and Mr. Pat Cwayna

**Meeting Called to Order**

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**Acknowledgement of Guests** - None

**Public Comments** - None

**Communications to and from the Board** - None

**Recognition of Tom Bander for perfect SAT Score** - Dr. James Morse and Mrs. Beth Lent

Dr. Morse and Mrs. Lent presented Tom Bander with a certificate in recognition of his perfect SAT score. Mr. Cwayna said a few words about Tom as a person.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

December 13, 2004

Page 2

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

Mr. Bander reported that they finished the food drive last week. Students delivered food last weekend and used other funds to purchase fresh food items. Student Council is currently working on fundraisers for Cystic Fibrosis and DeVos Children's Hospital. At the first of the year they will begin preparations for graduation and prom.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Cynthia Bischoff

Mrs. Bischoff said this has been a busy time. Staff are looking forward to the breakfast tomorrow morning. Teachers have expressed excitement about the "Color Me Human" seminar.

*Presentation:*

Strategic Plan Update - Presentation of Diversity Plan (Superintendent Goal #1) - Mrs. Vettese and Mrs. Glowicki -(Enclosure #8)

Mrs. Vettese introduced Mrs. Glowicki. They presented an overview on the Diversity plan.

Theater Program at the High School - Mrs. Vettese and Mrs. Steers (Enclosure #9)

Mrs. Vettese introduced Mrs. Steers, Director of the High School Theater program. Mrs. Steers reviewed three proposals for theater courses. Two students, Mr. Josh Mankoff and Ms. Mallory Merpi, came to answer questions. Mrs. Vettese addressed the budget issues.

First Reading of Revised Policy #7175 (Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Involvement Policy - General Education and Title I Programs) - (Enclosure #10)

Mrs. Trierweiler indicated we received this information about a week ago. All school districts across the State must have this in place. The information will be distributed via student handbooks.

First Reading of Revised Policy #1190 (Minutes of Board Meetings) - (Enclosure #11)

Mrs. Trierweiler indicated that FERPA requires that there be no identifying information regarding students being disciplined. Board members had many questions and asked Ms. Thomasma to run the questions past our attorney for clarification.

First Reading of Revised Policy #1020 (Election of Board Members and School Elections) - (Enclosure #12)

Mrs. Trierweiler indicated that this change was made to conform to our resolution on school elections.

*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 the Consent Agenda Numbers 13 through 15.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 11/29/04 (Enclosure #13)

Approval of November Payment of Bills (Enclosure #14)

Approval of High School Advanced Placement Biology Course

Background: The curriculum for the AP Biology course was presented at the Board of Education meeting in November.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the AP Biology curriculum for the High School upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Mr. Denton moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #13 through 15. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

*Other Action Items:*

Acceptance of Grants from the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation

The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation awarded the fall Mini Grants and Grants at the November 2004 Foundation meeting. (Enclosure #16)

Mrs. Susan Laffrey reviewed the various grants. Mrs. Kuras moved to accept the grants as listed in Enclosure #16 totaling \$25,478.61 and to thank the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation for its support of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

Staff Holiday Breakfast

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

December 13, 2004

Page 4

Tomorrow morning at the high school cafeteria, the Board members and administrators will cook breakfast for all staff.

Employee Choice Program

With the passage of Public Act 227 of 2004 all schools are required to offer this program. A survey has been sent to all employees to gauge interest. At the January Board of Education meeting Dr. Morse will bring the number of students the Administration is recommending for the Choice program. We would ask the Board to approve the choice numbers in February. The openings would be filled as follows: first offering to siblings of current choice families; second to employee choice children and finally it would be open to students in the county wide program.

Assistant Supt. for Business

State Aid Update

Dr. Morse stated that the State tried to protect school districts from having a mid year cut by transferring money from General Fund. Unfortunately they cancelled the itinerant staff program for Kent, Ottawa and St. Clair Shores Intermediate School District's. There will be a press conference tomorrow morning. One of the main points of the conference will be that the State gave verbal approval and the request from the Superintendents that the State fund itinerants at least through this year.

Food Service Request for Proposal - Mr. Derks to present at the next meeting

Assistant Supt. for Instruction

Mrs. Vettese thanked the Board for the AP Biology endorsement. She also thanked the Foundation for generosity with the grants.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 6:55 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.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

December 13, 2004

Page 5

\*\* 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 - 12/14/04