

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, 2915 Hall Street, SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.
Phone 616-235-3535.

Monday, February 28, 2005 - 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, February 28, 2005 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, Mr. Brian Ellis, Mrs. Rosalie Stein, Mr. Charlie Denton, Mr. Joe Camp, and Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler

Administration: Dr. James Morse, Mr. Doug Derks, Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Jann Van Airdale, Mr. Mark Tompkins, Dr. Ty Wessell, and Mr. Doug Jenkins

Meeting Called to Order

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments

Eric Parry - 1165 Conlon SE asked if the Board would comment on the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) charges regarding Kevin Grady recruiting athletes to attend East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Dr. Morse responded that East Grand Rapids Public Schools did an internal investigation, met with officials at Grand Rapids Public Schools and that we have very strict procedures in place for students requesting to attend East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Mr. Perry asked if Kevin Grady has use of East Grand Rapids Public Schools facilities free of charge and is he using the facilities for recruiting. Mr. Derks responded that we do have a rental policy for district facility use. Dr. Morse said he would meet with Mr. Parry or anyone else if they are interested.

Communications to and from the Board - None

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

Mr. Bander stated that the Student Council is working on addressing the dress code at the high school. A letter will be sent to high school parents this week for feedback. He also said that they are revising their constitution regarding elections. Future work is focusing on organizing a clean-up day due to take place on May 7th.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Cynthia Bischoff

No report as Mrs. Bischoff was ill.

Information Items:

Impact of the Reading Recovery Program - Mr. Mark Tompkins

The East Grand Rapids Public Schools Reading Recovery Program was started 10 years ago. Ms. Kathy Fleet, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader for the area and Ms. Nancy Erickson a Reading Recovery Teacher in East Grand Rapids Public Schools were introduced. Mr. Tompkins gave a presentation on the impact of the Reading Recovery Program.

Report on February Professional Development Days - Mr. Doug Jenkins and Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki

Dr. Morse praised the incredible program - "Color Me Human" and thanked all of the staff members who worked hundreds of hours putting this conference together. Mrs. Glowicki and Mr. Jenkins presented a review of the Color Me Human conference and also the Professional Development Days.

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 14.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 1/24/05 (Enclosure #9)

Approval of Payment of Bills for January 2005 (Enclosure #10)

Theater Program at the High School

Background: The High School is recommending three new theater courses: Theater I, Theater II, and Theater Production. These courses were presented to the Board of Education on December 13, 2004.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the three proposed high school theater courses for the 2005-2006 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

Middle School Social Studies Curriculum

Background: The Middle School has proposed a new Social Studies Curriculum and materials for Grades 6-8. The new curriculum was presented to the Board of Education on January 24, 2005.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the new Middle School Social Studies Curriculum for the 2005-2006 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

K-12 Art Curriculum

Background: A representative committee has proposed a new K-12 Art Curriculum. The new curriculum was presented to the Board of Education on January 24, 2005.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the new K-12 Art Curriculum for the 2005-2006 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy #7055 (Comprehensive School Health Education) (Enclosure #14)

Background: The Board had a first reading of revised Board Policy #7055 - Comprehensive School Health Education, at the Board of Education meeting on January 24, 2005.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the revised Board Policy #7055 as recommended by the Board Policy Committee and the Superintendent.

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #9 through #14. Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items:

Approval of Numbers for the 2005-2006 Schools of Choice Program (Enclosure #15)

The East Grand Rapids Public Schools has participated in the Kent Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program since its inception in the 1996-97 school year. The Finance Committee and Superintendent are recommending that we accept 47 (includes 13 siblings) students plus additional siblings if space is available through the 2005-06 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.

Discussion by Board members of the numbers and concerns. Mr. Camp moved to approve the motion to accept 47 (includes 13 siblings) students plus additional siblings if space is available through the 2005-06 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1. Mrs. Kuras cast the one no vote.

Approval of March as "Reading Incentive Month" (Enclosure #16)

The Board is asked to designate March as "Reading Incentive Month" in East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve the motion to designate March as "Reading Incentive Month" in the East Grand Rapids Public Schools and to encourage all students, staff members, and community members to support this program. Mrs. Stein seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of 2005-2006 School Year Calendar (Enclosure #17)

Each year the Board of Education is asked to approve the calendar for the following school year. This calendar has been reviewed and approved by the Problem Solving Committee and the EGREA Executive Committee as well as the administrative Leadership Team.

Mr. Denton moved to approve the motion to approve the 2005-2006 school year calendar as presented in Enclosure #17. Mrs. Stein seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Food Service Contract

The Administration is required to bid our Food Service contract. Mr. Derks has initiated the process and has received one bid. He will present the proposal at the Board meeting on February 28, 2005.

Mr. Camp moved to approve the motion to approve the Food Service Contract as recommended by the Finance Committee and Administration. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent

Gifted/Talented Update

Dr. Wessell presented an update on the Gifted/Talented Program. This group will be moving from a committee to being the Gifted and Talented Parent and School Connection.

Middle School Scheduling Update

Dr. Wessell reviewed the Middle School process at this time. Postcards have been sent to parents of music program students to determine interest in the music program. Recommendations for next year include: the 7th grade will maintain an every other day music program and the 8th grade will be an every day course next year. Board members commented on the schedule and thanked Dr. Wessell and the staff for their work.

District Assessment Program Update

Mr. Jenkins gave an update on the District Assessment Program. The committee is looking at a national assessment program such as the Stanford Test, Terra Nova or the Iowa test. Because of No Child Left Behind there will be additional testing for our students. The MEAP test is changing to the fall next year. The committee is asking "how much testing is too much?" An update will be brought to the Board in March with final recommendations brought to the Board in May.

Dr. Morse stated that there are two administrative positions open, the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and the Middle School Principal. Both of these will be posted in March for both internal and external applicants. Dr. Morse stated that he and a group of administrators would screen the applicants. When he has two or three final candidates for each position then he will have each candidate meet with feedback groups comprised of parents, students, Board members and administrators. He will make the decision on whom to hire and inform the Board by May or June. He is expecting to have both positions filled by July 1st.

Assistant Superintendent for Business

Budget Update

Mr. Derks gave an overview of where we are at in the budget process. A preliminary recommendation from the Budget Committee will be brought to the Board at the April 18th meeting. He stated that there are still many unknowns at this point in time.

Board Representative Report

Joint Facilities – Mrs. Beth Lent

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Mrs. Lent stated the Joint Facilities committee met on February 16th of this year. The Committee has met its budget for this year. They are looking ahead at items that may need replacement in the next few years. The next meeting of the Joint Facilities Committee will be in March.

Financing in Schools Workshop – let Mrs. Lent know if you would like to attend.

Foundation – Mr. Denton

Mr. Denton reminded everyone that Foundation Grant requests are due tomorrow.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 9:34 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 – 03/03/05