

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, March 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, March 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, Mr. Brian Ellis, Mrs. Rosalie Stein, Mr. Charlie Denton, Mr. Joe Camp, and Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler

Absent: Mrs. Natalie Kuras

Administration: Dr. James Morse, Mr. Doug Derks, Mr. Pat Cwayna, Mrs. Kathy Wisniewski, Dr. Ty Wessell, Mr. Mark Tompkins, and Mr. Doug Jenkins

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

Mrs. Lent stated that Item #10 would be removed from the agenda pending further review. The Board received a thank you card from Patty Sienstra for the gift card following her surgery; a thank you card from Jeanne Glowicki for the gift card for Principal's Week; a thank you card from Kathy Wisniewski for the gift card for Principal's Week; and a thank you card from Jann VanAirsdale for the gift card for Principal's Week.

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Recognition of:

East Grand Rapids Public Schools' *Support Staff Week* - April 24-30, 2005 - Dr. Morse

Secretaries' Day - April 27, 2005 - Dr. Morse

Crossing Guard Appreciation Week - April 10-16, 2005 - Dr. Morse

Mr. Camp moved to accept the motion to recognize the school and city employees mentioned above and to thank them for their work with our children. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

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

No report this month.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Cynthia Bischoff

No report this month.

Discussion Items

Assessment Update - Mr. Jenkins

Background: The Assessment Committee will be bringing recommendations to the Board in May and will provide an update for the Board tonight.

Mr. Jenkins presented an overview of the work of the Assessment Team. He outlined the needs identified by the committee; the team structure; strategic directions of the team; and the timeline. Discussion and questions were received from the Board.

Middle School Parent Survey - Dr. Ty Wessell, Mrs. Anne Minnema, Mrs. Betsy Bloom, and Mrs. Sally Malnor

Dr. Wessell and the parents reviewed the results of the Middle School survey.

Policy Rules Change #8335-R - Dr. Morse (Enclosure #10) - Deleted from agenda pending further review.

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 11 through 13.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 2/28/05 (Enclosure #11)

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Approval of Payment of Bills for February 2005 (Enclosure #12)

Approval of a Foreign Exchange Student from Germany ((Enclosure #13)

The High School Administration recommends that foreign exchange student, David Gajewski, from Germany, be approved for enrollment at East Grand Rapids High School during the 2005-06 school year.

Mrs. Trieweiler moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #11 through #13. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Other Action Items:

Approval of Extension of the Superintendent's Contract

The Board conducted the annual evaluation of Dr. Morse on March 1, 2005. They reviewed the Superintendent's goals and his performance. Mrs. Lent, Board President, will present a summary evaluation and recommendation for a contract extension for Board approval.

Board President will recommend. Mrs. Lent presented the results of the Superintendent's evaluation on March 1, 2005. Mrs. Stein moved to approve a contract extension for Dr. Morse. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. (Copy of evaluation attached.)

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

Dr, Morse stated that the Academic Boosters Meeting last Monday was a very impressive program. It shows the commitment of the high school and parents for academic excellence in East Grand Rapids.

Assistant Superintendent for Business

Budget Update – Mr. Derks gave an update on the process and where we are at financially. Not much has changed. A summary will be given at April 18th meeting to the Board.

Grass Roots Meeting – Mr. Derks gave a brief overview of the recent Grass Roots Meeting. Senate Bill 246 – highlights of this bill include: caps on the retirement rate at 12.99%; eliminates pro-ration language; auto transfer from General Fund to School Aid Fund and in the event of a shortfall guarantees an inflationary increase.

Board Representative Report

Parks and Recreation – Mr. Joe Camp gave a review of the Parks and Recreation Annual Report.

Gifted/Talented Connection – Mr. Denton reviewed the highlights of the first meeting. It was a very positive meeting.

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EGR Foundation Board – Mr. Denton – The Board met last week and will bring results of spring grants awarded to the April 18th Board meeting.

Mrs. Lent stated that the May 9th Board meeting time has been changed from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This is due to the Spring Choral Concert scheduled for 7:30 p.m. that evening.

2005-06 Tentative Board Meeting Dates – Mrs. Beth Lent – Board members reviewed tentative dates for Board Meetings in 2005-06. Mrs. Lent asked Board members to specifically check their schedules for July 1, 2005 at 7:30 a.m. This would be for the Organizational Meeting.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 8:35 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 – 03/31/05