

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, April 18, 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, April 18, 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, Mr. Pat Cwayna, Mrs. Jann Van Airsdale, Mr. Doug Jenkins, Mr. Mark Tompkins, and Dr. Ty Wessell,

Meeting Called to Order

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments - None

Recognition of:

Teacher Appreciation Week - May 1-7, 2005 - Dr. Morse

The Administration recommends a resolution designating May 1-7, 2005 as *Teacher Appreciation Week*.

Parent and Volunteer Appreciation Week - May 8-14, 2005 - Dr. Morse

The Administration recommends a resolution designating May 8-14, 2005 as East Grand Rapids Schools *Parent and Volunteer Appreciation Week* to show appreciation to our students' parents and our volunteers.

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Mrs. Kuras moved to recognize the teachers and parents and volunteers and to thank them for their work with our children. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Communications to and from the Board

Mrs. Lent announced that the May 9th Board meeting time has been changed to 5:30 p.m. as the High School Choral Concert is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. She also reminded everyone that May 3rd is the Board election date. Finally, Item #15 is being deleted from the agenda as the Kent ISD has cancelled the meeting.

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.

Information Items:

Kent ISD Presentation - Accountability II - Mr. Ron Koehler

Dr. Morse introduced Ron Koehler from Kent ISD. Mr. Koehler provided a snapshot of the key services provided specifically to East Grand Rapids Schools. He showed a tape that outlined various services provided countywide to all schools, public and parochial.

Presentation of the East Grand Rapids High School Annual Guidance Report - Mr. Larry Fisher

Dr. Morse introduced Mr. Fisher. This report is also available on-line on the "EGRPS" website. The Board stated that this is always a very exciting and positive report.

Presentation of Budget Committee Recommendations for 2005-06 General Fund Budget - Mr. Derks

Mr. Derks gave a brief overview of the work of the Budget Committee and discussed the various recommendations from the Budget Committee for the Board to 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 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.

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Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 3/28/05 (Enclosure #11)

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

Approval of a Maternity and Unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence for Mrs. Socorro Mercado De Blackport (High School) (Enclosure #13)

Under provisions of the Master Agreement in Article 15, Section M, Mrs. Socorro Mercado De Blackport is requesting a maternity leave of absence beginning approximately August 26, 2005 and an unpaid child care leave of absence for and additional four weeks following the birth of her child.

Motion to approve the recommendation to grant to Mrs. Socorro Mercado De Blackport a maternity leave of absence and an unpaid child-care leave beginning approximately August 25, 2005 and continuing until November 7, 2005 upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Mr. Camp moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #11 through #13. Mrs. Stein seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items:

Acceptance of Grants from the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation

At the March 23, 2005 East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation meeting, the Foundation board awarded the spring grants. Susan Laffrey from the EGR Foundation will present the information. (Enclosure #14)

Mr. Ellis moved to accept the grants awarded by the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation as listed in Enclosure #14 and to thank the Foundation for its generous support of East Grand Rapids Schools. Mrs. Stein seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

A Hearing to Consider Designation of an Electoral Representative and Alternate to the Kent Intermediate School District Board Election on June 6, 2005

Public Act 419 of 2004 requires the Board to hold an initial hearing of the resolution to appoint an electoral representative and alternate to the ISD board election on Monday, June 6, 2005.

The Board discussed potential representatives. Mr. Ellis offered to go as the representative and Mrs. Trierweiler as the alternate.

Mr. Denton moved to appoint Mr. Ellis as the representative with Mrs. Trierweiler as the alternate to represent East Grand Rapids Public Schools at the KISD Board Election on June 6, 2005. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

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Administrative Reports:

Superintendent

Dr. Morse gave an update on the Michigan High School Athletic Association inquiry. He stated that he, Mr. Cwayna and Mr. Fouch have met with Grand Rapids Public School officials; they have outlined protocol for incoming students; and a letter has been sent to the parent involved. He read the press release regarding the inquiry, which will be released to the public tomorrow.

Mrs. Lent read the following statement regarding the MHSAA Inquiry on behalf of the Board: "The Board has been well informed and supportive of the actions of the administration in dealing with the MHSAA inquiry. We believe that the District has continued to work diligently to verify residency for enrollment and to determine athletic eligibility to the furthest extent possible. I have concerns about the non-judicial procedure of this inquiry, the expanded scope of the inquiry based upon unsubstantiated allegations, and I disagree with several statements and conclusions in the text of the report. However, in the best interest of all students and neighboring districts, we are prepared to accept the measures indicated in the report and move forward."

Assistant Superintendent for Business

No report.

Board Representative Report

Mr. Ellis thanked Mr. Tompkins and the entire Wealthy Elementary staff for the way they handled Susan Nolan's death and the celebration of her life.

Mrs. Lent reported on Representative Ehler's visit to East Grand Rapids High School this morning.

Mrs. Lent discussed and encouraged Board members to attend the June 21st K-16 Coalition Rally in Lansing.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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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. aht-04/21/05