

*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, May 9, 2005**

**5:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, May 9, 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, Mr. Charlie Denton, Mr. Joe Camp, and Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler

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

**Absent:** Mrs. Rosalie Stein

**Meeting Called to Order**

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Mrs. Lent asked Mr. Camp to fill in as Secretary Pro-Tem as Mrs. Stein was absent.

**Recognition of:**

East Grand Rapids High School students and their advisor, Mr. Pierre Sirois, in the national competition of *We The People* for their outstanding performance. Dr. Morse, Mrs. Lent and Mr. Denton presented certificates to the students.

Background: EGR High School students won the State of Michigan competition in January and represented Michigan at the national competition in Washington, D.C. finishing in the top ten in the nation.

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Recognition of: Mrs. Cynthia Bischoff, Former EGREA President

Dr. Morse and Mrs. Lent presented Mrs. Bischoff with a plant and certificate in recognition of her 10 years of service as the EGREA President. Nancy McSkimming will now take over as the President for EGREA.

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments - None

Mrs. Lent recognized Mr. Tom Bander, Student Council President. He reported on the annual clean-up day that was held last Saturday at the high school. Students are looking forward to graduation in a couple of weeks. He introduced John Abraham. John has been elected to be Student Council President for next year.

Communications to and from the Board - A thank you card was received from Mrs. Kuras for the floral arrangement at the memorial service for her mother.

Information Items

Annual Child Care Program Update - Enclosure #6

Mr. Derks introduced Julie Jewell, Child Care Director. Mrs. Jewell gave an overview of the pre-school and child care program.

First Reading of Revised Policy #7650 (Assessment Program) - Enclosure #7

The High School is considering asking the Board to make MEAP testing a graduation requirement in the graduation policy.

First Reading of New Policy #7655 (Michigan Merit Award - Community Service Requirements) - Enclosure #8

Beginning with the Class of 2006, students must have 40 hours of volunteer service to receive the Michigan Merit Award.

First Reading of Revised Policy #5430 (Hiring) - Enclosure #9

This policy change delegates approval of leaves of absence to the Superintendent.

Acknowledgement of Revised Policy Rules and Regulations #8335-R (Unlawful Substances and Other Criminal Acts) - Enclosure #10

This updates rules and regulations and will be included in the student handbook.

Acknowledgement of Revised Policy Rules and Regulations #8040-R-2 (School Admissions) - Enclosure #11

This policy change covers admission of students of employees.

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Strategic Plan Update – Progress Report on Differentiation in the Classroom  
(Superintendent Goal #2) – Mr. Doug Jenkins

Mr. Jenkins gave an overview of the program. About 30 more teachers have to go through this program. All teachers in the district should be through the program by the end of the 2005-06 school year. Thanks to the East Grand Rapids Foundation for their support of this program.

*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 13 through 16.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 4/18/05 - Enclosure #13

Approval of Payment of Bills for April 2005 - Enclosure #14

Approval of a Maternity and Unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence Enclosure #15

Background: Under provisions of the Master Agreement in Article 15, Section M, Mrs. Nicole Gessner is requesting a maternity leave of absence beginning approximately July 31, 2005 and an unpaid child care leave of absence for an additional two weeks following the birth of her child.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the recommendation to grant to Mrs. Nicole Gessner a maternity leave of absence and an unpaid child-care leave beginning approximately July 31, 2005 and continuing until September 19, 2005 upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Approval of a Medical Leave of Absence Enclosure #16

Background: Mrs. Melissa Sayre is requesting a medical leave of absence beginning May 12, 2005 through approximately June 10, 2005.

Recommendation: Motion to approve a medical leave of absence for Mrs. Melissa Sayre as recommended by the Superintendent.

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #13 through #16. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

*Other Action Items:*

Approval of Early Retirement Incentive Enclosure #17

Background: The Teachers' association has requested a retirement incentive this year. The Finance Committee and Administration are recommending a retirement incentive for the 2004-05 school year.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the Retirement Program as presented in Enclosure #17 upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Mr. Camp moved to approve the motion to approve the early retirement incentive as presented in Enclosure #17. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

*Administrative Reports*

Superintendent

High School Graduation - May 26, 2005 - All Board members should have received a letter inviting them to participate.

Middle School Principal & Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Positions:

There were a number of candidates who applied for the Middle School Principal position. A committee has interviewed four qualified candidates. The position will be reposted to get a bigger selection of qualified candidates. A committee has completed screening interviews for the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction position. The committee will make decision of whether to repost or choose a candidate from the four applicants they interviewed.

MEAP Scores - Mr. Jenkins presented a report to the Board on the MEAP scores. East Grand Rapids continued to have very good scores which were consistently above the state average.

Assistant Superintendent for Business

Request for Proposals for Summer Projects

Mr. Derks reviewed a number of projects - Student Management Software; Middle School Lockers; Middle School Roof Work; Replacement Vans; High School Senior parking lot; and the High School weight room (there may be potential donors for this particular project). All projects should be completed this summer.

Board Representative Report

Joint Facilities - Mrs. Beth Lent

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Mrs. Lent reported that the school and city will each budget \$60,000 toward the Joint Facilities projects. The projects being looked at for next year are: resurfacing of the Wealthy tennis courts, maintenance to the girls softball field, minor maintenance to Mehney field, and work on the playground at Manhattan.

K-16 Education Rally – June 21, 2005 – Mrs. Beth Lent

Mrs. Lent encouraged everyone to attend the K-16 Education Rally to be held in Lansing on June 21<sup>st</sup>. She stated that the people of Michigan need to present a united front to the Legislature. The Legislative Committee would like at least 150 people representing East Grand Rapids to attend the rally. Dr. Morse stated he would like to see students, Board members, teachers, support staff, administrators and parents attending this rally.

The Organizational Meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Friday July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please reserve Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> for a possible Board retreat.

Mrs. Lent presented a book on golf to Mrs. Kuras to be donated to the High School Library in memory of her mother.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Camp, Secretary Pro-Tem  
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 – 5/11/05