

**East Grand Rapids Public Schools  
Board of Education  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES**

**January 16, 2006  
7:00 p.m.**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Community Board Room, Woodcliff Center, 2915 Hall St., SE, East Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506.

**Board of Education:** Mrs. Beth Lent, Mr. Charlie Denton, Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler, Mr. Joe Camp, Mr. Brian Ellis, Mrs. Julie Ridenour, and Mrs. Diane Bok

**Administration:** Dr. James Morse, Mr. Doug Derks

President Beth Lent called the Budget Workshop to order at 6:58 p.m.

Dr. Morse reported that each school did something special in honor of Martin Luther King Day. The fifth grade classes from Breton Downs presented a program to the Board in honor of Martin Luther King Day. They gave a power point presentation and sang songs.

**Public Comments** – No comments

Dr. Morse announced that our former Superintendent, George Ruwitch, passed away this weekend. A book will be placed in each school library in memory of him.

Dr. Morse also announced that Doug Derks has submitted his resignation. He will transition from March 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>. He stated that Doug has been here 10 ½ years and has done a wonderful job with all aspects of his position. He thanked Doug for his years of dedication and service to East Grand Rapids Public Schools and wished him the best in his next venture.

**Budget Workshop**

Mrs. Lent indicated that this meeting is the first step in the budget process to present a balanced budget to the community in June for the 2006-2007 school year. She turned the meeting over to Mr. Derks who indicated that we would begin by talking about a process. Tonight he provided budget assumptions. The Board will have another challenging year to balance the 06-07 budget. Mr. Derks reviewed the mission statement and stated the need to work together for the good of our children. He is proud of our community that comes together for the kids.

Mr. Derks presented a short history of school finance and discussed assumptions for the East Grand Rapids Public Schools 2006-07 budget. He stressed that we need to keep focused on our mission statement. He said the budget is a tool to help us with our Strategic Plan. He listed programs and methods that have been implemented over the last several years to make us more efficient and prepare for hard times. He reviewed funding over the last few years. Our student enrollment is estimated to be flat for next year.

Mr. Derks discussed time frames for when the unknown factors would become known. With what is known at this point in time, and with nothing changing, a budget deficit of approximately \$600,000 is projected. The Budget Committee is in place and has good representation of administrators, teachers and support staff. Mr. Derks stressed that bond dollars are totally independent of operating funds.

Mrs. Lent thanked Mr. Derks and gave Board members an opportunity to ask questions or make comments. She then reminded everyone that this problem is not unique to East Grand Rapids, but all districts are experiencing difficult times.

Dr. Morse thanked Mr. Derks for his presentation and complimented him on his leadership in the budget area. He also indicated that his priority was maintaining academic excellence in the district. He said this again would be a challenging time working on the budget and it will not be an easy process. All programs within the district will be reviewed. But, we are starting early, have a good administrative team, support of the Board of Education, and our staff will work with us throughout this process.

#### **Citizens Facilities Committee Recommendations**

Dr. Morse stated that the Board and administrators have been working through the Citizen's Facilities Committee recommendations. Mr. Derks outlined the timeline for the facilities plan process. He reviewed the recommended proposals: 1) Educational Quality (educational technology, classroom additions, building safety and integrity)\$15,915,000; 2) Building Environment (air conditioning) \$3,497,000; 3) Athletic Facilities (auxiliary gym, turf replacement, Memorial Field/Gerken Plaza completion) \$10,388,000. The total of all three proposals is \$29,800,000. He reviewed projected millage rates for bonds. He is asking for approval of the major components by the Board. The Board discussed the various proposals. Mr. Camp moved to proceed with Facilities Plan proposals as presented. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Lent indicated that there would be a Special Closed session of the Board of Education at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2006 to discuss the parameters of negotiations. The regular Board of Education meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2006. There will also be a Special Board of Education Meeting on January 30, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. to approve the Bond issue proposals.

#### **Adjournment**

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Trierweiler, Secretary  
East Grand Rapids Board of Education

\* Copies of these minutes may be requested from the Superintendent's Office, East Grand Rapids Schools, Woodcliff Center, 2915 Hall SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506, or call 616-235-3535.

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