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Educating and inspiring each student
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EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Kent County, Michigan

REGULAR Meeting of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education

The James E. Morse Administration Center at Woodcliff,

2915 Hall St. SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

For Information, call 616-235-3535.

Monday, November 27, 2006

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, November 27, 2006 in the Community Board Room of the James E. Morse Administration Center at Woodcliff, 2915 Hall Street SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Board of Education:

Present: Mr. Charlie Denton, Mrs. Diane Bok, Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler, Mrs. Beth Lent, Mrs. Julie Ridenour, Mr. Joe Camp, and Mr. Steve Edison

Administration: Dr. Sara Shubel, Mr. Kevin Philipps, Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, Mr. Pat Cwayna, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mr. Larry Fisher, Mrs. Jann VanAirsdale, Mr. Kris Vydareny, Mr. Mark Tompkins, Mrs. Linda Kehm, and Mr. Peter Stuursma

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Denton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Denton and Dr. Shubel placed the Superintendent/Board of Education Ground Rules on the wall in the Boardroom. These rules were developed during the Superintendent/Board Workshop on August 22, 2006 and adopted at the regular meeting on October 23, 2006.

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments - None

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Board Secretary's Report - Communications to and from the Board - Mrs. Trierweiler

No report this month.

High School Student Council President's Report - Mr. Nathan Stevens

Mr. Stevens reported that the High School has just wrapped up their Cystic Fibrosis fundraiser. Last weekend was Arts and Crafts show and approximately \$6,100 was raised. The annual food drive will begin tomorrow.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Nancy McSkimming

Mrs. McSkimming stated that Parent/Teacher conferences went well. Teachers are now getting ready for the end of first semester and the upcoming holiday season. She reminded Board members that they are invited to attend the Teacher Association party on December 8th. She also mentioned that the English and Math teachers are beginning a pilot program at the High School.

Presentation:

Facilities Update - Mr. Joe Camp

Mr. Camp stated that on November 16th at the Special Meeting, the design development was approved. Now the focus is on completion of the construction documents. In early January the Board will meet to review these documents and vote on approval.

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 8 through 11.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 10/23/06 (Enclosure #8)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 10/18/06 (Enclosure #9)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 11/16/06 (Enclosure #10)

Approval of October Payment of Bills (Enclosure #11)

Mrs. Bok moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #8-11. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

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Other Action Items:

2005-2006 Audit Report

The audit was completed by Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter, P.C. this fall. The Board Finance Committee reviewed the report and recommends that the Board of Education receive the 2005-2006 Audit Report.

Mr. Philipps reviewed the audit report and answered questions from the Board. Mrs. Ridenour moved to receive the 2005-2006 Audit Report as presented and recommended by the Board Finance Committee and Superintendent. Mrs. Lent seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

2006-2007 General Fund Budget Amendment (Enclosure #13)

Each fall, the Board Finance Committee recommends a Budget Amendment to the Board of Education. The Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed amendment.

Mr. Philipps reviewed the amended budget and answered questions from the Board. Mrs. Lent moved to approve the amendment for the 2006-07 budget as listed in Enclosure #13. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Owner Representative Contract (Enclosure #14)

The Facilities Committee recommends creating an owner representative position on a contracted basis for the duration of our construction project related to the 2006 Bond Issue. The Facilities Committee interviewed four candidates and chose John Bowers for the position.

Mr. Denton requested that the contract language include that if there is to be a replacement or substitute, then the district will have to approve. Mr. Camp moved to approve the proposed contract with John P. Bowers, Facilities Management Consultants, LLC, with John Bowers serving as the district's owner representative for the duration of the 2006 Bond construction project. Mr. Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

Dr. Shubel congratulated Mr. Stuursma and the whole EGR Football team for winning the State Championship this past weekend.

India Trip Report

Dr. Shubel showed a power point presentation on her recent ASCD trip to India and shared many of her experiences. She stated that schools in India struggle with many of the same curricular and assessment issues as American schools.

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Foundation Dinner Report and Foundation Grant Process

Dr. Shubel stated the Foundation Dinner was an incredible event and it was a nice evening. She also had her first opportunity to read Foundation grants. On Wednesday evening the Foundation Board will select the grants to be awarded to the teachers. She thanked the Foundation Board for their continued generous support of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Assistant Supt. for Business

Energy Education - Thanksgiving Shutdown

Over the Thanksgiving break the district had an energy holiday shutdown. The results will be calculated and a report will be given at a future Board meeting.

Assistant Supt. for Instruction

Curriculum Update

Mrs. Glowicki passed out an informational sheet showing where the various curriculum committees stand currently. She discussed each of the committees and the work they are doing.

Professional Development Online

Mrs. Glowicki stated that there will be 50 learning opportunities for Professional Development days in February, most of which will be provided by in-house presenters. The theme will continue the opening day theme of "Celebrating What's Right With the World." Judge Sara Smolenski will be the keynote speaker.

East Grand Rapids Public Schools Annual Report - PA 125/NCLB

Mrs. Glowicki presented to the Board the most current annual report. She stated that this information can also be accessed online.

Board Representative Report

Athletic Facilities Assessment Committee - Mrs. Beth Lent

Mrs. Lent reported that this special committee met for the first time last week and discussed each of the athletic facilities in the prior Bond Proposal III. The committee addressed the timeline and reviewed the community survey. There will be two meetings in the next two weeks. The first will be to discuss facility design proposals and details and the second meeting will be to discuss communications with the community.

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MASB Delegate Assembly – Mr. Steve Edison

Mr. Edison attended the MASB Delegate Assembly on behalf of our School Board. He gave a brief report of the numerous items discussed and voted upon. The main discussion involved health and pension benefits for teachers and the second main discussion involved allowing school board members to be volunteer coaches in smaller districts (House Bill 566). Both proposals were passed at the meeting. He recommended that next year the entire Board review the agenda for this meeting and give recommendations on votes.

Community Action Council – Mr. Steve Edison

Mr. Edison stated that the Community Action Council is redefining itself and working on a mission statement and some structural changes. They are working on finding a way to address concerns about drug and alcohol issues in the East community. The committee wants to remain active and effective in the coming years.

SAC (Superintendent's Advisory Council) – Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler

Mrs. Trierweiler reported that SAC met two weeks ago and the topic for the meeting was Gifted/Talented and assessments used in the district. She stated that there was a good discussion and input on both topics from all attendees.

Legislative Committee – Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler

Mrs. Trierweiler stated the Committee met and reviewed the change by the State of Michigan with the High School Reform requirements. There was also a discussion of the recently failed ballot Proposal 5. There will be a coffee on December 11th with Senator Mark Jansen and Representative Dave Hildenbrand at 9:00 a.m. at the High School. Vern Ehlers will be in the district for coffee in February.

Parks & Recreation Committee – Mr. Camp

Mr. Camp reported that the American Cancer Society again asked for a permit for a 24-hour cancer walk to be held in August. He noted that this is a very worthwhile and moving experience. He stated that the Recreation Department provides many opportunities for our students and residents. The Parks and Recreation commissioners will be out and about in the community watching events and talking with community members.

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Mr. Edison reminded the Board that the girls Basketball team has an opportunity to bring home State Championship #102, if they win their next three games. He encouraged everyone to support them and attend the playoff games.

Mr. Denton stated that the Superintendent's Mid-Year evaluation will be on December 7, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. He asked Board members to be sure this is on their calendar. He also reminded attendees that the next Regular meeting of the Board will be on Monday, December 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Denton adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy L. Trierweiler, 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. Sara M. Shubel, Superintendent, at 235-3535.

Superintendent's Office - 12/04/06