



REGULAR Meeting of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education

The James E. Morse Administration Center at Woodcliff
Community Board Room, 2915 Hall Street SE,
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.
For Information -Phone 616-235-3535.

Monday, January 29, 2007 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, January 29, 2007 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, Ms. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Kathy Wisniewski, Mr. Larry Fisher, Mr. Peter Stuursma, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mr. Kris Vydareny, Mrs. Linda Kehm, Mrs. Jann VanAirsdale, and Mr. Mark Tompkins

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Denton called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments - None

Martin Luther King Day Presentation – Mrs. Lisa Loyd and Breton Downs
Fifth Grade Students

Prior to the Martin Luther King, Jr. presentation, three of the students thanked the Board of Education for their work in the schools. The fifth grade students then sang a song in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Mrs. Loyd stated that the students had produced a short DVD of their artwork and singing and are selling the DVD's to parents and others. So far they have sold 37 DVD's and have raised \$247.00 from the sales with all proceeds going to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation in Washington, D.C..

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

Mrs. Trierweiler stated that the Board received a thank you card from Anthony Morey (Middle School Social Studies) and Polly for the gift certificate to Schuler's following the birth of their daughter; a thank you card from Robbie Burke (Breton Downs Paraeducator) for the book in memory of her father; and a thank you card from Sandy Brooks (High School Special Education) and John for the gift certificate to Schuler's following the birth of their son.

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

Mr. Stevens reported that Student Council has been very busy. They wrapped up the blood drive last week and it was a very successful drive. All service projects will be happening in the coming few weeks. Jimmy Gerken Day will be on the Friday prior to the Valentines dance. In the past it was Jimmy Gerken week and has now been shortened to a one-day celebration in remembrance of Jimmy. He read a letter from the Student Council to the Board members thanking them for all of their work in the district on behalf of the students and community.

EGREA President's Report – Mrs. Nancy McSkimming

Mrs. McSkimming introduced the Lakeside Student Council President, 5th grader, Alex Weiss, who presented the Board members with candy bars thanking the Board for their work. Mrs. McSkimming reported the teachers are excited about the Professional Development Days coming in February. She thanked the Board for their work and presented them Starbucks Cards from the teachers association.

Recognitions:

Recognition of We the People State Championship Team – Dr. Sara M. Shubel

The "We the People" team showed a short DVD of their competition in Lansing. Dr. Shubel and Mrs. Ridenour presented certificates from the district and City Mayor in recognition of their accomplishments to each of the "We the People" team members. The team will travel to Washington, D.C. in April for national finals. On Tuesday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the PAC, the "We the People" team will give a presentation. Proceeds from admission will be put toward costs to travel to Washington, D.C. On April 14th there will be an auction to raise funds, more information to follow at a later date.

East Grand Rapids Board of Education Members for School Board Recognition Month January 2007 - Dr. Sara M. Shubel (Enclosure #8A)

Dr. Shubel thanked the Board for their work. Each Board member received a gift and cake was served to the Board and audience members.

Recognition of Mr. Pat Cwayna - Dr. Sara M. Shubel

Mr. Cwayna was not able to attend the meeting. His certificates will be mailed to him. Dr. Shubel acknowledged his 20 years of dedicated service to the High School.

Recognition of Mr. Doug Jenkins - Dr. Sara M. Shubel

Dr. Shubel presented Mr. Jenkins with a certificate from the Michigan Department of Education recognizing him for his work over the summer on curriculum integration of the technology standards and the GLCE's.

Recognition of Principal's Week - February 11-17, 2007 - Dr. Sara M. Shubel (Enclosure #8C)

Dr. Shubel thanked the Principals and Directors for all of their work and stated that they are one of the reasons East Grand Rapids has outstanding schools.

Discussion Items:

Athletic Facilities Assessment Committee Update - Mrs. Beth Lent

Mrs. Lent introduced the committee members who have been working on this committee. The committee is comprised of administrators from the schools, community members, staff from the City and parents. She reviewed the goals of this committee. The committee is discussing a possible bond proposal on the ballot at the November 2007 election. A full presentation to the Board and community will be made once plans are more final through the committee process. URS representatives Craig Newhouse, Fred Gore and Ralph Moxley reviewed for the Board tentative plans for the ballot issue. There are three major areas: 1) Buildings: proposed fitness center and auxiliary gym, press box, multi-level concession/restroom stand, ticket booth and storage area. 2) Fields: replacement of turf at Memorial Field and Mehney Field. 3) Parking areas: Site function and safety would consist of revised parking area and new drive from

Lake Drive and revision of the senior lot. The Board asked questions of the URS representatives.

Mr. Philipps reviewed a tentative timeline. February through May will consist of refining the project scope, gathering data on other facilities in other districts, and discussions with the City, school and community groups. There will be a final recommendation to the Board of Education in May and then a meeting will be set with the Treasury Department for approval. In August the Board would consider approval of a resolution to call the election and finally there would be the election date in November. He also reviewed cost considerations and discussed potential alternative funding opportunities for some portion of these facilities. The next update to the Board on this proposal will come in March with a detailed presentation in May and a recommendation for a Board resolution in August.

Facilities Update – Mr. Joe Camp

Mr. Camp reviewed the ongoing Bond projects. He stated that Package #1 (Lakeside & Breton Downs) and Package #5 are already out for bid with bids due February 6. The other packages are on target to be put out according to the timeline. There is a website under construction to be rolled out in February. The website will contain all information about the various projects and timelines. It will be accessed from the EGRPS.org website.

Food Service – Mr. Jeff. Sisson (Enclosure #11)

Mr. Philipps introduced Mr. Jeff Sisson. He was the top candidate out of a group of three candidates for the position of Food Service Director. Eric Neering, District Manager of Chartwells, gave a brief background of Jeff's qualifications. Jeff stated he is excited and honored to be working with East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

New High School Course Proposal – French 7-8 Honors – Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki and Mrs. Jennie Frazier (Enclosure #12)

New High School Course Proposal – French 9-10 Honors – Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki and Mrs. Jennie Frazier (Enclosure #13)

New High School Course Proposal – Latin 5-6 Honors – Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki and Mrs. Jennie Frazier (Enclosure #14)

New High School Course Proposal – Latin 7-8 Honors – Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki and Mrs. Jennie Frazier (Enclosure #15)

Mrs. Frazier gave a brief outline of each of the above courses. The Board had opportunity to ask questions and give comments.

New High School Course Proposal – Digital Photography – Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki and Mrs. Sharon Pollice (Enclosure #16)

Mr. Larry Fisher presented the outline of this course on behalf of Mrs. Pollice. The Board was given an opportunity to ask questions and give comments.

New High School Course Proposal – Forensic Science Genetics – Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki and Mrs. Mary Billman (Enclosure #17)

Mrs. Billman outlined for the Board the course specifics. The Board had opportunity to ask questions and give comments.

Fall 2006 Grades 3-9 MEAP Report – Mr. Doug Jenkins (Enclosure #18)

Mr. Jenkins reviewed the fall MEAP scores for the Board. He stated that our scores are very strong and students have shown improvement in the writing scores in particular. All of the scores are scheduled to be reviewed by administrators and teachers to inform curricular and instructional decisions.

Timeline for the 2007-08 Schools of Choice Program (Enclosure #19)

Dr. Shubel reviewed the timeline for the 2007-2008 Schools of Choice program. She stated that the Kent ISD Superintendents will meet in early February for final approval of the plan and the Board would be asked to approve that plan at the February 26, 2007 meeting. Also at that same meeting the Board will be asked to approve any openings that East Grand Rapids Public Schools may have. Dr. Shubel will continue to keep the Board informed of the process.

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 the Consent Agenda Numbers 20 through 24.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 12/11/06 (Enclosure #20)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING on 1/22/07 (Enclosure #21)

Approval of Payment of Bills for December 2006 (Enclosure #22)

Approval of Overnight Student Activities (Enclosure #23)

Background: In accordance with Board of Education Policy #7490, the Athletic Department has an additional trip and overnight athletic activity as outlined in Enclosure #23 for approval by the Board.

Amendment to Administrators' Tax Sheltered Annuity Plan

Mrs. Lent moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #20-24. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items:

Approval of Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements

The Instruction Office and the High School Administration request that the Board of Education approve the credit changes to our high school graduation requirements, as presented at the Special Meeting on January 22, 2007, so that we meet the established criteria set forth by the State Board of Education with regards to the Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements.

Mrs. Lent moved to approve the Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements as recommended by the Instruction Office and High School Administration. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. There was much discussion by the Board of this mandate by the State Board of Education with many concerns expressed not only for this district but also other districts in our area. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Security Camera Bid (Enclosure #26)

Request for proposals were sent to vendors to furnish security cameras and related equipment necessary to utilize cameras. Mr. Paul Bustanji of URS gave a brief overview of the process and the needs of the district.

Mr. Camp moved to accept the bid furnished by Riverside Integrated in the amount of \$79,548.00 as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent for security cameras and related equipment. Mrs. Trierweiler

seconded the motion. The Board discussed this bid prior to the vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Y5-12 Math Curriculum

The Y5-12 Mathematics Curriculum Committee was presented to the Curriculum Advisory Team on January 9 and January 16 and to the Board of Education on January 22, 2007.

Mrs. Lent moved to approve the Y5-12 Math Curriculum and textbooks as presented at the January 22, 2007 Board meeting and recommended by the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and the Superintendent. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

High School Transition Plan

Dr. Shubel stated that Mrs. Fee and Mr. Fisher have assumed the position of Associate Principals at the high school through the end of the year. Glen Mitcham has assumed some of the Assistant Principal responsibilities. The High School Principal position will be posted by the end of February and Dr. Shubel expects to have a candidate in place by May with a start date of July 1st for the 2007-2008 school year.

Assistant Supt. of Business

Mr. Philipps announced that there continues to be state budget deliberations in Lansing and he is not sure if or how much of a proration there will be in funding for this year.

Assistant Supt. of Instruction

Staff Development Progress (Enclosure #30A)

“Celebrating Learning, Come On” is the theme for this year. This is the first year we have put out an online registration and it is working very well. Mrs. Glowicki stated that the creation of the online registration has been quite a learning experience for everyone in the Instruction Office. Now that it is up and running in the future this will be much easier for everyone and will be quite a timesaver for everyone involved. There is much excitement from teachers about the upcoming Professional Development Days.

Social Studies/Diversity Curriculum Update

Mrs. Glowicki stated that these two groups have merged and the group is currently looking at books that they would like to use for the updated Social Studies curriculum. East Grand Rapids Public Schools will be used as a test pilot site for the elementary book. The District will have a K-12 curriculum for social studies once this is complete. The Social Studies/Diversity curriculum will be presented to the Board in March or April of this year.

Board Representative Reports

Community Action Council – Mr. Steve Edison

Mr. Denton reported for Mr. Edison. This year the Community Action Council is reviewing and redefining its purpose. The mission of CAC is to educate students, parents, and the community to avoid drug and alcohol problems. The officers elected at the January 26th meeting are: Dee McGraw, President; Kim Rossi, Vice President; Sam Wolffis, Secretary; and Sara Swaney, Treasurer. March 22nd is the next meeting of the CAC Board. The next full meeting of the CAC will be held on April 19th.

Curriculum Advisory Team – Mrs. Bok

Mrs. Bok stated that her report was essentially already given by the teachers and administrators when discussing and approving the Math curriculum and looking at future approval of the Social Studies/Diversity curriculum.

Joint Facilities Committee – Mr. Denton

The Joint Facilities Committee met on January 17th and looked at future funding for replacement of both turf fields (Mehney and Memorial Field). They discussed having a sinking fund-type arrangement, which would be designated only for future replacement of the turf fields. The committee also revisited the sign/banner ordinance, which the city is working on currently with input from the schools.

Superintendent’s Advisory Committee – Mrs. Trierweiler

Mrs. Trierweiler stated that Mr. Philipps presented a very informative presentation of school funding and updates and timelines for bond projects.

Legislative Committee – Mrs. Trierweiler

Mrs. Trierweiler encouraged everyone to write their representative and let them know that schools cannot endure any more cuts to funding. We are still waiting to hear if the Governor will order a midyear cut in funding for this school year. U.S. Representative Vern Ehlers will be in East Grand Rapids for a community coffee at the High School Media Center Conference room on February 12th at 8:45 a.m. She encouraged everyone to attend. Representative Hildenbrand would like to have school funding begin when the school district fiscal year begins, not 4 months into the school year. The State is looking at raising the minimum drop-out age to 18 instead of 16.

Adjournment

Mr. Denton announced that on March 12th at 6:00 p.m. there would be a Special meeting for the Superintendent's Evaluation. He encouraged Board members to review the various other information in their Board Packets. Mr. Edison announced that today is Mr. Stuursma's birthday. Mr. Denton adjourned the meeting at 9:40 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 - 02/12/07