

Our Mission

***Educating and inspiring each student to navigate successfully
in a global community.***

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 Street, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Phone 616-235-3535.

Monday, February 26, 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, February 26, 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, Mr. Joe Camp, and Mr. Steve Edison

Absent: Mrs. Beth Lent and Mrs. Julie Ridenour

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, and Mr. Mark Tompkins

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Denton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He announced that Agenda Item #22 (Approval of a Foreign Exchange Student from Germany) would be moved from Other Action Items to the Action Items - Consent Agenda. Also, the High School Annual Guidance Report will be given later in the meeting, once Mr. Fisher arrives from the airport.

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

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Public Comments – Mr. Brian Ellis 45 Brooktree Lane announced that he is running for the school board and is looking forward to the election.

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

Mrs. Trierweiler stated that the Board received a thank you card from Beth Hill (Middle School Special Education) and Chris for the gift certificate to Schuler's following the birth of their son; a thank you card from Bill Behrendt (Middle School Special Education) and Amber for the gift certificate to Schuler's following the birth of their son; thank you notes from all Principals, Assistant Principals and Directors for the gifts in recognition of Principal's Week; and a thank you card from Matthew Putnam (Breton & Lakeside Physical Education) and Kelly for the gift certificate to Schuler's following the birth of their daughter.

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

Mr. Stevens said that Kabookie Day went well. Individual class projects have been completed and juniors are in full swing planning prom. The Senior class is looking at commencement and graduation. Sam Wohns and Nathan Stevens are looking for a way to have the Student Council fund various co-curricular projects. Mr. Stevens will bring more information at a later date.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Nancy McSkimming

No report this month.

Information Items:

Report on February Professional Development Days – Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki and Mr. Doug Jenkins

Mrs. Glowicki and Mr. Jenkins presented information on the 3rd Annual Professional Development Conference. Overall there were many positive comments on the programming through a Zoomerang survey. Results from the survey will be used to design the conference for next year. She thanked everyone for working together collaboratively on this conference.

Facilities Update – Mr. Joe Camp

Mr. Camp stated that the first rounds of bids have come in – we will here more information later in the meeting. The Pioneer Auditorium and Wealthy updates will be outstanding. He thanked Patty Temple, Dan Graham and Jon Bowers for their extra work and insight in the projects. The High School will be bid in March and the Middle School bid will be in April. Everything is currently on time and under budget.

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

Mr. Fisher arrived from the airport and presented the High School Annual Guidance Report to the Board. The Board had a few questions and comments. The Board thanked Mr. Fisher and the Guidance Department for the excellent report.

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 10 through 14 & Number 22.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 1/29/07 (Enclosure #10)

Approval of Payment of Bills for January 2007 (Enclosure #11)

Approval of High School Transition Compensation (Enclosure #12)

Approval of Overnight Student Activities (Enclosure #13)

Background: In accordance with Board of Education Policy #7490, the Athletic Department has an additional trip and overnight athletic activity as outlined in Enclosure #13 for approval by the Board.

Approval of 6 New High School Courses

At the January 29, 2007 the following courses were presented to the Board for review and discussion: French 7-8 Honors; French 9-10 Honors; Latin 5-6 Honors; Latin 7-8 Honors; Digital Photography; and Forensic Science Genetics.

Approval of a Foreign Exchange Student from Germany (Enclosure #22)

The High School Administration recommends that foreign exchange student, Cathleen Dobrowolski, from Germany, be approved for enrollment at East Grand Rapids High School during the 2007-08 school year.

Mr. Camp moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #10-14 & 22. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Other Action Items:

Approval of the Schools of Choice Resolutions for 2007-2008

East Grand Rapids Public Schools has participated in the Kent Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program since its inception in the 1996-97 school year.

A. Approval of a Resolution to Opt Out of Section 105 State of Michigan Choice Plan
(Enclosure #15A)

East Grand Rapids Public Schools has opted out of the State Choice Plan since the inception of the KISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Plan in the 1996-97 school year.

Mrs. Bok moved to pass a resolution to opt out of Section 105 of the State School Aid Act of 1979, as amended by Public Act 300 of 1996, of the State of Michigan Schools of Choice Program for the 2007-2008 school year, for the purpose of participating in an intermediate school district-wide schools of choice program. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

B. Approval of a Resolution to Opt Out of Section 105c of the State 2007-08 Schools of Choice Plan (Enclosure #15B)

In accordance with Section 105c as permitted in the State School Aid Act, Public Act 119 of 1999, as amended by Public Act 297 of 2000, it is recommended that East Grand Rapids Public Schools not accept applications for enrollment from residents of contiguous intermediate school districts for the 2007-08 school year.

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to pass a resolution to opt out of Section 105c as recommended by the Superintendent. Mr. Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

C. Approval of a Resolution to Participate in the 2007-08 Kent Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program (Enclosure #15C)

This is the sixth year of the new Kent ISD Choice Program.

Mrs. Bok moved to pass a resolution to participate in the Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for the 2007-08 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Numbers for the 2007-2008 Schools of Choice Program (Enclosure #16)

The East Grand Rapids Public Schools has participated in the Kent Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program since its inception in the 1996-97 school year. The Finance Committee and Superintendent are recommending that we accept 10 students at the middle and high school levels through the 2007-08 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.

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Mrs. Bok moved to accept 10 students at the Middle and High School levels through the 2007-08 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. There was discussion by the Board of the grade-level analysis and also the number of employee children being accepted and Dr. Shubel explained that per state law, employee children are not a part of the schools of choice program. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of March as "Reading Incentive Month" (Enclosure #17)

The Board is asked to designate March as "Reading Incentive Month" in East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Mr. Edison moved to designate March as "Reading Incentive Month" in the East Grand Rapids Public Schools and to encourage all students, staff members, and community members to support this program. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Construction Bids for Breton Downs and Lakeside Elementary Schools 2006 Bond Program (Enclosure #18)

Bids were received for the construction being performed at Breton Downs and Lakeside Elementary Schools as part of the 2006 Bond Program. The Facilities Committee has received the bids and recommends approval.

Mr. Edison moved to approve contracts to complete the construction scheduled for Breton Downs and Lakeside Elementary Schools for the 2006 Bond Program as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent as presented in Enclosure #18 in the amount of \$2,828,726.00. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. The Board had questions for Mr. Schwass of OAK and Mr. Philipps and discussed the bid. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Bleacher Bids for the 2006 Bond Program (Enclosure #19)

Bids were received for the new bleachers being installed in the High School and Middle School gymnasiums as well as the mobile bleacher systems for the Breton Downs and Lakeside Elementary Schools gymnasiums. The Facilities Committee has received the bids and recommends approval.

Mr. Edison moved to approve the purchase of the bleacher systems from the low bidder, InterKel Corporation, in the amount of \$295,421.00, as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. Mr. Schwass of OAK described the bid to the Board and answered questions. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Major Mechanical Equipment Bids for the 2006 Bond Program (Enclosure #20)

Bids were received for the major mechanical equipment being purchased for the 2006 Bond Program. The Facilities Committee has received the bids and recommends approval.

Mr. Edison moved to approve the purchase of the major mechanical equipment from the low bidder, York Corporation, in the amount of \$427,725.00 for the base bid and alternate as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent. Mr. Camp seconded the

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motion. Mr. Schwass of OAK and Mr. Moxley of URS described the bid to the Board and answered questions. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Early Retirement Incentive (Enclosure #21)

The EGREA Teachers' Association has requested a retirement incentive this year. The Finance Committee and Administration are recommending a retirement incentive for the 2006-07 school year.

Mrs. Bok moved to approve the Retirement Program as presented in Enclosure #21 upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Dr. Shubel and Mr. Philipps described the incentive and answered questions from the Board. Motion passed 5-0.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent

"Did you Know?" Power-Point

Dr. Shubel presented a Power-Point presentation on "Did You Know?" She then discussed the need for us to keep ahead of upcoming technology. She reminded the Board that the educational system of the United States provides education for all students, whereas other countries like China and India only provide it for their high ability students.

Grand Rapids Community College Millage

The Grand Rapids Community College will be asking for a millage this year. This will be the first time GRCC has asked for a millage since 1998. More information to come soon.

Assistant Superintendent for Business

Governors Budget Proposal

For the current school year of 2006-07, Mr. Philipps reported that there is a shortfall in the school aid fund in revenue of \$224/pupil. The Governor's proposal is to reduce the assets of MSPERS (Michigan State Public Employee Retirement System) to eliminate half of the deficit. The other half would be eliminated by the proposed 2% excise tax. She is recommending 39% of the excise tax from this year on would go to schools. For the 2007-08 school year she is recommending a \$178/pupil increase. She is also recommending a 2.5% increase for at risk pupils. Middle School Math Initiative funds have been eliminated for 07-08. She is recommending consolidation of services for all school districts. There were questions from the Board and discussion of various implications.

2006 Bond Program Webpage

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Mr. Philipps gave a preview of the 2006 Bond Projects sub-page on the www.egrps.org webpage. He encouraged everyone to take the time to visit this page often and to follow the process of construction through this page. This information will be given to parents through the media, school newsletters and via PTA meetings.

Spring Student Count - February 14, 2007

We had a count of 3,040 students in February 2007 and in September 2006 the student count was 3,020. FTE numbers fall at 3,033 for February and 3,016 for September. The February numbers are preliminary at this point.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Social Studies/Diversity Curriculum Update

Mrs. Glowicki stated that these committees are moving forward. The full curriculum package will most likely be brought to the Board for discussion at the April meeting. The teaching staff is very excited.

Technology Curriculum Update

This was reviewed at a previous Board meeting.

Summer School

Summer school will again be offered. Partially in response to the new graduation requirements the following classes will be offered: PE, Health (3 weeks) and the possibility of Algebra I (6 weeks). Mrs. Glowicki and Mr. Fisher are developing a unique and creative summer school schedule. Thanks to Mr. Fisher for his work on this. Summer school is self-funded and many of our own teachers will be teaching the classes.

Board Representative Report

Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC) - Mrs. Trierweiler

Mrs. Trierweiler stated that at the last meeting the math curriculum was presented to the group and also Mr. Scott Robertson and Mr. Fred Bunn presented on the sharing of facilities and programs between the District and City.

Legislative Coffee with Vern Ehlers - Mr. Edison

The Legislative Coffee was held on February 12th with Representative Ehlers. There were many parents and students in attendance. He was very receptive to the many questions and comments from everyone attending. He agreed to support the "We the People" program, which many times is on the chopping block for funding. The people in attendance appreciated the time and answers of Mr. Ehlers.

Youth Development - Mr. Camp

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Mr. Camp stated that the Board and staff of Youth Development are very dedicated and that is nice to see. The G2G (Girl to Girl) program is growing. He encouraged everyone to look at the Youth Development page on the High School webpage.

Adjournment

Mr. Denton announced that on July 2, 2007 the annual Board of Education Organizational Meeting would be held at 6:00 p.m. Also on March 12th at 6:00 p.m. there will be a Special Meeting for the Superintendent's Evaluation. He encouraged Board members to review the various other information in their Board Packets: PTA meetings for March and the KISD Association of School Boards dinner meeting on March 8th. Please let Ms. Thomasma know if you will be attending the KIASB dinner meeting.

Mr. Denton adjourned the meeting at 8:46 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 - 03/09/07