

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, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Phone 616-235-3535.

Monday, March 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, March 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, Mrs. Beth Lent, Mr. Joe Camp, Mrs. Julie Ridenour, and Mr. Steve Edison

Administration: Dr. Sara Shubel, Mr. Kevin Philipps, Ms. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Kathy Wisniewski, Mrs. Jann VanAirdale, Mr. Larry Fisher, Mr. Peter Stuursma, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mrs. Linda Kehm, and Mr. Kris Vydareny

Meeting Called to Order

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

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments - None (See Below)

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

No report this month.

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Recognition of:

East Grand Rapids Public Schools' Support Staff Week - April 22-28, 2007 - Dr. Shubel

Secretaries' Day - April 25, 2007 - Dr. Shubel

Crossing Guard Appreciation Week - April 8-14, 2007 - Dr. Shubel

Mrs. Ridenour moved to recognize the school and city employees mentioned above and to thank them for their work with our children. Mrs. Lent seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Alyssa Burke - 1st Place MHSAA State Gymnastic Meet - Balance Beam Competition - Dr. Shubel and Mr. Scott Robertson

Dr. Shubel and Mr. Robertson recognized Alyssa Burke for her first place finish in the balance beam competition at the MHSAA state gymnastic meet. Mr. Camp, as the representative from the Board of Education, presented her with a certificate from the school and a congratulatory card from the Mayor. Mr. Robertson announced that Alyssa has been invited to apply for gymnastics nationals from May 23-25, 2007 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

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

Ms. Bander presented the report this month. She stated that all community service projects have been completed. The Junior class is completing the plans and work for prom. She noted that there have been some complaints regarding the type of dances being done and the student council will hold a meeting on this issue prior to prom.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Nancy McSkimming

Mrs. McSkimming stated that Parent/Teacher conferences for the elementary grades are currently being held. She stated that all the schools are busy now through the end of the year. She thanked the Board for offering an early retirement incentive for this school year.

Information Items:

Owner's Representative Update/Facilities Update - Mr. John Bowers and Mr. Joe Camp

Mr. Camp gave a broad overview of the bond projects to date. He thanked Doug Jenkins and Jim Haskins (URS) for all of their work on the technology package. He stated that the district is currently on schedule and under budget.

Mr. Bowers gave a brief overview of the projects the district has been working on over the last few months. They include: door hardware issues; energy management vendors; the schedule for construction; insulation removal; furniture, fixtures, and equipment; and clock replacement. He thanked everyone who has been involved in this process.

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Athletic Program Update - Mr. Scott Robertson

Mr. Robertson presented an athletic program report. There are approximately 76% of high school students involved in at least one sport in East Grand Rapids. He outlined his responsibilities as the Athletic Director and the committees of which he is a member. He outlined what the realignment of the OK Conference could look like if/when the city schools come into the conference.

Assessment Center Presentation - Mrs. Kathy Wisniewski and Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki

Mrs. Glowicki, Mrs. Wisniewski and Mrs. Patty Sienstra (Speech Pathologist and Early Childhood Home and Community Teacher) presented a report on how the Early Childhood Assessment Center came into being. They thanked everyone involved in the vision and completion of the assessment center. They reviewed some of the issues that parents may encounter with their children and the reasons parents may ask for an assessment.

First Reading of New Policy #9380 (Use of Temporary Signs and Banners on District Facilities) - (Enclosure #11)

Mr. Denton stated that in light of some need for clarification with the City, this item will be tabled until the next meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Mrs. Dionna Hassen, 1908 Menominee Road SE, requested to present a public comment to the Board. She stated she did not understand that she had opportunity at the beginning of the meeting and asked if she could have a few minutes at this time. Mr. Denton stated that since she did not understand the agenda, he would let her speak for 3-5 minutes, consistent with Board timelines. She stated that she is a schools of choice parent and has a concern regarding the Policy #9410 - Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Visitation of Classrooms. She stated concerns for her son's safety at the Middle School, and asserted that there are not always teachers in the locker rooms. She has requested to the administrators at the Middle School that safety must be the number one concern for the children in the school. She is asking the Board to re-look at Policy #9410 - Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Visitation of Classrooms and make changes so a parent can more readily visit classrooms. She feels the schools need to be more safety conscious with the children in their care. Mr. Denton thanked her for her parental concern.

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 12 through 15.

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Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 2/26/07 (Enclosure #12)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 3/12/07 (Enclosure #13)

Approval of Payment of Bills for February 2007 (Enclosure #14)

Approval of a Foreign Exchange Student from Germany (Enclosure #15)

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

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #12-15. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items:

Approval of Construction Bids for the High School (Enclosure #16)

Bids were received for the construction to be performed at the High School as part of the 2006 Bond Program. The Facilities Committee has received and reviewed the bids and recommends approval. Mr. Jim Schwass of OAK reviewed the bids for the Board.

Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve contracts to complete the construction scheduled for the High School for the 2006 Bond Program in the amount of \$1,941,053.00 as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent as presented in Enclosure #16. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of the Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract Extension

The Board conducted the annual evaluation of Dr. Shubel on March 12, 2007. They reviewed the Superintendent's goals and her performance. Mr. Denton, Board President, orally presented a summary of the Board's positive evaluation and recommended a 1-year contract extension. The Board recognized the strong interpersonal skills, careful and deliberative decision making, excellent level of effort, resilience and intelligence Dr. Shubel bring to the Superintendency, together with excellent communication with the Board and building a strong Leadership Team.

Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve the extension of Dr. Shubel's contract for an additional year through June 30, 2010. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

High School Update - Dr. Shubel stated that the position of high school principal is currently posted and she has been receiving resumes. Mrs. Glowicki, Mr. Philipps and Dr. Shubel will be initially reviewing all resumes with interviews to begin in April.

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Breton Downs Update - Dr. Shubel stated she has accepted Mr. Vydareny's resignation effective the end of this school year. She thanked him for his work over the last two years and wished him well in his future pursuits. This principal position will be posted by mid to late April with a mid June hire anticipated.

ASCD Conference - Dr. Shubel reported on this conference which she attended last week. She is on the national board of this group. She was able to network with many people during this time and stated that she learned very much over the time she attended. Mrs. Glowicki and Mr. Jenkins also attended and found the conference very rewarding.

Governor's Education Summit - Dr. Shubel, Mr. Philipps, Mr. Jenkins, Mrs. Glowicki and Mr. Denton attended the summit in Lansing today. The Governor is unhappy with the state of the budget and lack of agreement between herself and the legislators. Dr. Shubel also shared that there was an excellent speaker and good break out sessions for everyone attending.

Assistant Superintendent of Business

State Budget Update - Mr. Philipps gave a brief outline of the back and forth between the Governor and the legislators. He also reviewed what the effects have been from Proposal A and cuts in funding to the student aid grant. He encouraged everyone to contact their legislator to encourage them to stabilize the system so school districts do not have to go through this every year.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

ASCD - Mrs. Glowicki stated that this was an outstanding conference and she thanked the Board for allowing her and Mr. Jenkins the opportunity to attend such a great conference and have an incredible learning opportunity.

Professional Development for newly adopted Elementary and Middle School Math Curriculum - Mrs. Glowicki passed out a sheet showing the professional development schedule for the elementary and middle school math curriculum.

Summer Learning Opportunities - Mrs. Glowicki stated that there would be additional summer learning opportunities for staff. She is waiting for the State to come out with changes in some of the areas prior to developing some of the opportunities.

Board Representative Report

PTA Council – Mrs. Bok

Mrs. Bok said that the most recent and notable event sponsored by the PTA Council was the visit by Rachel Wiseman, author of *Queen Bee Moms and King Pin Dads*. This event was underwritten and sponsored by the PTA Council and the Jewish Federation. It was an outstanding program and was very well attended by parents in the community. Ms Wiseman also spoke with middle school girls the next day and all of her presentations to parents, staff and students were very powerful. Mrs. Bok thanked the PTA Council for bringing Ms Wiseman to East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Mr. Denton noted that the Candidates Forum, sponsored by the PTA Council, will be held on April 12th at the High School Little Auditorium. He encouraged everyone to attend to hear the three candidates (Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler, Mr. Brian Ellis and Mrs. Eileen Chamberlin) state their thoughts and goals for the district.

KIASB - Kent Intermediate Association of School Boards – Mrs. Lent

Mrs. Lent and Dr. Shubel attended this meeting. She stated that Win Irwin, of East Grand Rapids, was recognized by this group for his efforts in workplace development. She noted that participants were served an excellent meal prepared by the culinary students of the KISD.

Legislative Committee – Mr. Edison

The Committee met on March 12th and had a discussion on the impending budget vote in Lansing. Mr. Edison showed copies of the “2 cents” postcards and encouraged everyone to contact their legislators with these cards. He stated that the Committee also discussed new curriculum for math and social studies and the mandated standards from the state. He also reviewed the Grassroots meeting of March 15th at KISD. He acknowledged there was some letdown with this meeting as the Governor sent a PR representative and there was not much more information from Lansing as had been expected.

Joint Facilities – Mr. Camp

Mr. Camp reported that this committee met a couple of weeks ago. The three main topics covered during this meeting were the City’s sign ordinance; the short term and long term facilities upkeep; and continued commitment for a sinking fund for the artificial turf replacement.

Superintendent’s Advisory Council – Mrs. Trierweiler

Mrs. Trierweiler reported that at the last meeting Mr. Jenkins gave an overview of the testing required of our children and Mrs. Glowicki gave a report on the work of the diversity group in our school system.

PASE – Mrs. Trierweiler

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Mrs. Trierweiler stated that this is a transition time for all special education students. She encouraged parents to contact the KISD regarding information on special education. She reported that they are a great resource.

Communications and Outreach Special Committee - Mrs. Ridenour

Mrs. Rideonour stated that on April 10th this special committee would reconvene. They need to determine what can be accomplished yet this year, what kind of participation is needed, and what the process and timelines will be.

2007-2008 Tentative Board Meeting Dates - Mr. Denton (Enclosure #21G)

Mr. Denton asked everyone to look over the tentative meeting dates for next year.

Adjournment

Mr. Denton adjourned the meeting at 9:00 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 - 03/27/07