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

REGULAR Meeting of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education

Woodcliff Community Board Room, Woodcliff Center,
2915 Hall SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Phone 616-235-3535

Monday, May 21, 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, May 21, 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, Mr. Larry Fisher, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mrs. Linda Kehm, Mr. Scott Robertson, Mr. Mark Tompkins, and Mr. Kris Vydareny

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Denton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noted the following items on the agenda this evening: Item #7 will be held in the gymnasium: the Board will move from the Board room to the gymnasium for the recognition and following the recognition, back to the Board room. Item #8 and Item #10 are postponed to the June 11, 2007 Regular meeting. He congratulated Stacy Trierweiler and Brian Ellis on their election to the School Board and also thanked Eileen Chamberlain for running for the School Board.

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments - None

Board Secretary's Report Communications to and from the Board - Mrs. Trierweiler
The Board received a thank you card from Molly Buxton (Lakeside Spanish) for the gift certificate to Schuler's following the birth of her daughter and a thank you card from Amy Marlow (Breton Downs 5th Grade) for the book placed in the Breton Downs library in memory of her grandmother.

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High School Student Council President's Report - Mr. Alex Yared

Mr. Alex Yared is the High School Student Council President for 2007-2008. He made a brief statement and let the Board know that he is looking forward to bringing monthly reports. He announced that commencement exercises are this week and also students are getting ready for the end of year and exams.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Nancy McSkimming

Mrs. McSkimming congratulated Mr. Ellis and Mrs. Trierweiler on the Board election results. She stated that all buildings are busy with end of year projects and finishing up. The Curriculum Advisory Team has been working hard and she states it is a great committee to serve on. The teachers have been very appreciative of being asked for input on various issues throughout the year and support the Board.

Recognition of:

Lakeside "3rd Grade Math Team" - Dr. Shubel

The Board left the Board room at 7:06 p.m. and went into the gymnasium to recognize the 3rd Grade Math Team from Lakeside on their national win. The Board passed out certificates to each of the students and congratulated them.

Information Items

EGR Public Safety Report - Chief Mark Herald

As stated earlier in the meeting by Mr. Denton, this report has been deferred to June 11, 2007.

KISD Annual Report - Mr. Ron Koehler

Mr. Jim McLain was not able to attend and in his place Mr. Ron Koehler presented the annual KISD report. He highlighted the services provided by the Kent ISD to the East Grand Rapids Public Schools. He thanked the East Grand Rapids community for their support of the KISD. The Board asked questions about East Grand Rapids Public Schools usage of the KISD and also how the KISD is working on the new State curriculum requirements to help the various districts in the KISD.

Food Service Update - (Enclosure #10) Mr. Jeff Sisson

As announced earlier in the meeting by Mr. Denton, the report has been deferred to June 11, 2007.

Facilities Update - Mr. Joe Camp

Mr. Camp reported that construction is underway at Lakeside and Breton Downs. The construction at the Middle School and Wealthy will begin once school is out for the summer. Construction is on time and under budget.

Athletic Facilities Assessment Presentation -Mrs. Beth Lent and Special Committee

Mrs. Lent reviewed the goals of the committee; the committee's progress; the current facility usage; an analysis of peer comparison of facilities; and community feedback. Mr. Camp thanked Ralph Moxley from URS and Jim Schwass from OAK for their work on this committee. He then presented the final designs for the proposals. Mrs. Lent reviewed the identified needs and benefits of each of the proposed projects. She discussed the final construction costs for each project with the total construction cost of \$9,887,000.00. The total cost of the proposal would be \$12,285,000.00, which includes fees and contingencies. Mr. Philipps reviewed tax implications of the bond. He also reviewed operational costs and future plans; future turf replacements; and possible revenue enhancements. He then discussed a timeline for a proposed November 6, 2007 bond election. The Board would be asked to vote on June 4, 2007 on the scope of the proposal along with each of the elements of design as reviewed this evening and the Board would also determine whether this would be brought to the community as one or more ballot proposals. Mr. Philipps and the Board recognized and thanked the committee members for their work on this proposal. The Board then had an opportunity for discussion and questions.

Technology Curriculum - (Enclosure #13) Mr. Doug Jenkins and Technology Curriculum Committee

Mr. Jenkins and members of the Technology Curriculum Committee presented an overview of the work involved in bringing the technology curriculum forward. The Committee worked to make sure that all technology curriculum is integrated with other curriculum in the district. The Board had opportunity for questions. The Technology Curriculum will be brought for approval by the Board at the June 11, 2007 regular Board meeting.

2007-2008 Budget Update and Budget Committee Recommendations - (Enclosure #14) Mr. Kevin Philipps

Mr. Philipps reviewed where the budget committee began in January, looking at a \$740,000 deficit. He then walked through the past few months and the work of the committee during those months. He also reviewed the changes/no changes in funding from the State through the last few months. He reviewed the budget committee recommendations - deficit recommendations in priority order. Final total deficit is now at \$69,048. He identified the top recommended additions to the budget from the committee. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions. The Board thanked the committee and Mr. Philipps for their work over the last few months.

First Reading of Revised Policy #8020 and Acknowledgement of Revised Policy Rules #8020-R (Attendance) - (Enclosure #15)

Mrs. Bok reviewed the changes in this policy including the recommendations from the State which were incorporated into the revised policy and rules.

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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 16 through 18.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 4/23/07 (Enclosure #16)

Approval of Payment of Bills for April 2007 (Enclosure #17)

Approval of a Foreign Exchange Student from Germany (Enclosure #18)

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

Mr. Edison moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #16-18. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items:

2006-2007 Budget Amendments (Enclosure #19)

The Finance Committee has reviewed the attached amendment to the 2006-2007 General Fund Budget.

Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve the 2006-2007 General Fund Budget Amendment as recommended by the Finance Committee. Mr. Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Testing and Balancing Work Bid for the 2006 Bond Program

Bids were received for the testing and balancing work to be completed on HVAC systems for the 2006 Bond Program. The Facilities Committee and Superintendent have received the bids and recommends approval.

Mr. Camp moved to approve the contract from the low bidder, International Test Balance in the amount of \$42,000 with retention of \$80,000 as a line item as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

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Approval of KISD Budget for 2007-08 (Enclosure #21)

The State of Michigan now requires that local school boards review their ISD's proposed budget and act in support or non-support of the budget. The Finance Committee has discussed the KISD 2007-08 budget and recommends support.

Mr. Edison moved to support the KISD 2007-08 budget as presented. Mrs. Lent seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Designation of an Electoral Representative and Alternate to the Kent Intermediate School District Board Election on June 4, 2007 (Enclosure #22)

Section 614(2) of the Revised School Code [MCL380.614(2)] requires the Board to hold an initial hearing of the resolution to appoint an electoral representative and alternate to the ISD board election on Monday, June 4, 2007 and direct the representative to vote on behalf of the Board for a specific candidate. The initial hearing was conducted on April 23, 2007.

Mrs. Bok moved to appoint Mrs. Ridenour as the electoral representative and Mr. Camp as the alternate to the ISD board election on Monday, June 4, 2007 and direct the representative/alternate to vote on behalf of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board for Ralph Carey and Bill Joseph. Mr. Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of OK Conference Ballot (Enclosure #23)

The OK Conference sent to each district a ballot containing two proposals. Proposal I is a Bylaw change to Bylaw 1 regarding re-alignment transfer of schools between divisions and an OK Conference Crossover "Tie Breaker". Proposal II is the acceptance of 7 applicants for membership into the OK Conference.

Mr. Edison moved to support Proposal I on the OK Conference ballot. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Camp moved to accept Proposal II Grand Rapids Catholic Central into the OK Conference. Mr. Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Camp moved to accept Proposal II Grand Rapids Central into the OK Conference. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Camp moved to accept Proposal II Grand Rapids Christian into the OK Conference. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Camp moved to accept Proposal II Grand Rapids Creston into the OK Conference. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Camp moved to accept Proposal II Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills into the OK Conference. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

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Mr. Camp moved to accept Proposal II Grand Rapids Union into the OK Conference. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Camp moved to accept Proposal II Grand Rapids West Catholic into the OK Conference. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

Administrative Positions Update

Dr. Shubel announced the appointment of Mrs. Jenny Fee as the High School Principal. She officially begins her position on July 1, 2007. She thanked both Mrs. Fee and Mr. Fisher for their leadership over the last few months. We now have an Assistant Principal position open at the High School and this position has been posted both internally and externally.

Breton Down's Principal position begins first round interviews this week. Dr. Shubel hopes to have a candidate to present to the Board by the June 11, 2007 Regular Board of Education meeting.

The "We the People" team finished in the top 10 in Washington, DC. Dr. Shubel thanked the Varnum Law Firm for hosting the reception for the group.

Assistant Superintendent of Business - No Reports

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

On-Line Mandarin-Chinese Student Opportunities at the High School

We were alerted of an opportunity through Michigan State University for one student from East Grand Rapids High School to attend this course on-line. Michigan State only is accepting 300 high school students statewide for this course. Mrs. Glowicki spoke with the coordinator of the program at Michigan State and EGRPS High School now has 7 students signed up for the course.

Mrs. Glowicki handed out the flyer for the EGR Summer Series - this is the Professional Development course being offered to teachers in June.

Community Action Council - Met today and the goal was to review how CAC is now formed as a team. Committees will look at goals and action statements and work through the year.

Board Representative Report

Legislative Committee - Mrs. Trierweiler

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Mrs. Trierweiler stated that the committee met recently with Senator Janson's assistant. She stated that the members of this committee let the assistant know how frustrated we are with Lansing at this point.

PASE - Mrs. Trierweiler

Mrs. Trierweiler said that they had a very good breakfast meeting with the group. There were many different topics covered and reviewed. Mrs. Wisniewski thanked Mrs. Trierweiler and the other representatives for giving their time to this important committee.

Joint Facilities - Mr. Denton

Mr. Denton stated that the Joint Facilities budget is in good shape. Repairs scheduled to be made are the Manhattan tennis courts and, elementary playground repairs. Concerns with usage of the outdoor public address system at the High School were also discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2007. A "Storm Ready" designation was presented to the City of East Grand Rapids. This is the first such designation in Kent County. The City Sign ordinance policy is reportedly being revised to remove the schools from the ordinance and the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Policy Committee is currently looking at our own policy regarding signs.

Board Manual Project - Mrs. Bok

Mrs. Bok reported that Mr. Denton, Mr. Edison and Mrs. Bok have been talking about starting a manual for new Board members. The committee has been working on identifying what is needed and some ideas. The committee will bring back recommendations and ideas to the Board at a later date.

East Grand Rapids Foundation - Mrs. Lent

Mrs. Lent reported that the wrap up meeting was last week. Susan Laffrey has left the Foundation Board after 7 years of service. Betsy Raymond is the new President. The Grants committee is reviewing their entire process of looking at grants. The Foundation is also looking at a budget process. She reported that the East Grand Rapids Public Schools continue to benefit from the Foundation.

Youth Development - Mr. Camp

The Youth Development Board meeting was held last week. Mr. Camp reported that plans are already underway for next year's Healthy High and the theme will be "Take the High Road". Dave Kampfschulte, the Youth Development Director is retiring and the position has been posted. The High School administration let the Youth Development Board know that they see the Youth Development Director as a very important position. Rodney Martin is now the Youth Development Board president.

Adjournment

Mr. Denton stated that the City Complex Lobby has been dedicated to the Edison family.

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He reminded Board members that there will be an expulsion hearing on Tuesday afternoon and asked Board members to let him know their availability to attend the hearing.

East Grand Rapids Public Schools graduation is Thursday, May 24, 2007. Everyone is hoping for good weather so the ceremony can be held out of doors.

A reminder to everyone that on Monday, June 4th we will hold our Budget Hearing at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Denton adjourned the meeting at 10:08 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 -05/24/07