

EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Kent County, Michigan

*Our Mission:
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, September 24, 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, September 24, 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. Brian Ellis, Mrs. Diane Bok, Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler, Mrs. Julie Ridenour, Mr. Joe Camp, Mr. Steve Edison, and Mr. Peter Ruppert

Administration: Dr. Sara Shubel, Mr. Kevin Philipps, Mr. Larry Fisher, Mr. Mark Tompkins, Mrs. Kathy Wisniewski, Mr. Glenn Mitcham, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mr. Peter Stuursma, Mr. Doug Jenkins, Mrs. Linda Kehm, and Mrs. Wendy VanZegeren

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He noted that on the agenda for this evening, Agenda Item #24 would be moved to the meeting on October 22nd. He also noted that there is an addendum to the meeting this evening, Agenda Item #22A.

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

Mrs. Trierweiler reported that the Board received a thank you card from the family of Officer Michael Winchester.

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Administration of Oath and Welcome to Newly Appointed Board Member

Ms. Anne Thomasma, Secretary to the Board and Superintendent administered the oath of office to Mr. Peter G. Ruppert. Mr. Ruppert will serve on the Board of Education for East Grand Rapids Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan. He will serve for the term vacated by Mrs. Beth Lent. The term will run until June 30, 2008.

Acknowledgment of Guests - Mr. Ruppert introduced his wife, Jessica, and his three youngest children; Grace, Pierce and Ben. He stated his Middle School student was at football practice.

Public Comments - None

Recognition of Student Semifinalists in the 2007 Merit Scholarship Competition - Mr. Fisher

East Grand Rapids High School has 6 semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition. The following students were presented with certificates from the BOE by Dr. Shubel and Mrs. Ridenour: Allison Bartoszewicz; Alexander Constantelos; Bradford McMullen; Ryan Oechsler; Maxwell Mikelic; and Ryan Waldron.

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

Mr. Yared reported that student council has been busy working on homecoming and spirit days. They are also looking into forming an inter-club government.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Nancy McSkimming

Mrs. McSkimming stated that the technology district wide and air conditioning, in the elementary buildings, are much appreciated by all teachers. On behalf of the association she thanked the Board, administrators, parents and community for thinking outside the box and encouraging everyone to not be status quo.

Presentation/Discussion:

Facilities Update - Mr. Camp/Mr. Phillips

Mr. Camp thanked URS and OAK for their great work on the bond issue. He also thanked John Bowers and Doug Jenkins for their contributions. Finishing items in the buildings are being completed and punch lists and being worked on. By the end of October things should be finished for this year and in 2008 will begin again to complete. In 2008 the rest of the buildings will get air conditioning. He stated that the projects continue to be on time and under budget.

Foreign Language - Mrs. Jenny Frazier (Enclosure #10)

Dr. Shubel thanked each of the teachers in Foreign Language: Steve Brinks from the Middle School; Christy Steketee from the High School; Paulette Karatsinides from the High School; Laurie Laarman from Breton Downs; Lisseth Hoksbergen from Wealthy; Marianna

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Scimeca from the Middle School; and Jenny Frazier from the High School. Each teacher took a few minutes to tell the Board what they are thankful for in the school district in regards to language and thanked the Board for their continued support. They showed a DVD celebrating foreign language and pointed out the various activities throughout the year in celebration of foreign languages.

Cadet Teaching Program - Mrs. Marlene DeBlasio (Enclosure #11)

Dr. Shubel thanked Mrs. DeBlasio for her work with this program. Mrs. DeBlasio gave an overview of the current program and the requirements of the State for participants in the program. She stated that not only are students are very positive about the program, but also the teachers involved with the cadet teachers are very appreciative and positive.

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 12 through 17.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 8/20/07 (Enclosure #12)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 8/27/07 (Enclosure #13)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 9/13/07 (Enclosure #14)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 9/18/07 (Enclosure #15)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 9/19/07 (Enclosure #16)

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

Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #12-17. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items:

Approval of Bid Award for New Furniture (Enclosure #18)

Bids were received for new furniture as part of the 2006 Bond Program. The Facilities Committee and Superintendent have received bids and recommends approval.

Mr. Edison moved to approve the contract for new furniture in the amount of \$268,040.42 as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

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Approval of Cell Tower Rental (Enclosure #19)

The district was approached by a firm by the name of IPC Wireless, Inc., who is interested in leasing ground space from the district so they can place equipment on the cell tower owned by Sprint/Nextel. The Finance Committee and Superintendent have reviewed the plans and recommend approval of the lease.

Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve the contract to lease ground space to IPC Wireless, Inc., as recommended by the Finance Committee and Superintendent. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Underwriting Agreement (Enclosure #20)

Pending approval of the November 6 election, the Board will need to work with a bond underwriter to sell bonds. To expedite the sale of bonds and to insure the best rate, we are recommending that the Board authorize a contract with Fifth Third Securities to prepare a bond sale.

Mrs. Bok moved to approve that the Board of Education authorize the administration to enter into an agreement with Fifth Third Securities to broker the sale of bonds pending approval of the November 6 election, as recommended by the Finance Committee. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Architectural Agreement (Enclosure #21)

The Board has worked with URS on our last three bond projects. Pending the outcome of the November 6 election, we are requesting authorization to enter into a contract with URS.

Mr. Camp moved to approve that the Board of Education authorize the administration to enter into a letter of intent with URS, pending the outcome of the November 6 election, as recommended by the Finance Committee. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion.

Mr. Ruppert moved to amend the motion to allow Mr. Philipps to negotiate a contract with URS, pending the outcome of the November 6 election, subject to terms Mr. Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Construction Management Agreement (Enclosure #22)

The Board has worked with OAK on our last three bond projects. Pending the outcome of the November 6 election, we are requesting authorization to enter into a contract with OAK as recommended by the Finance Committee.

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Mr. Camp moved to approve that the Board of Education authorize the administration to enter into a contract with OAK, pending the outcome of the November 6 election, as recommended by the Finance Committee. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of DDT Textbook

The DDT (Drafting/Design/Technology) class has requested a new textbook. A textbook for the DDT class: "Architecture: Residential Drafting and Design" was presented to the CAT Committee by the new DDT teacher and the committee recommends approval of this textbook. Jenny Fee will discuss the implications for the DDT classroom.

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve a textbook for the DDT class: "Architecture: Residential Drafting and Design" as recommended by the CAT Committee. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. There followed some discussion about the book and about the cost. Mrs. Fee stated the cost for each book is \$56.00, which comes to a total of \$1,680.00 for 30 books. The High School will pay for a portion with Instruction picking up the balance. Motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent

ASCD- LEAP Conference Report - Washington, D.C. (September 15-18, 2007)

Dr. Shubel gave a brief overview of her time in Washington, DC. She stated that the conference is an invitation only conference and there were approximately 200 educators in attendance. She thanked the Board for their support of her attending the conference.

Assistant Supt. for Instruction

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Technology Coordination (Enclosure #24)

Report to be moved to the October 22, 2007 meeting.

Assistant Supt. for Business

Financial Update:

Mr. Philipps stated that there still is not a state budget out of Lansing. He cited examples of what would happen financially to East Grand Rapids Public Schools with the scenario the state is looking at currently or what would happen if the state has a shutdown. He noted that if the State shuts down, the schools could continue to run through Thanksgiving. The Finance Committee is already looking at options to keep us educating our children until Lansing figures things out. There was discussion by the Board of the current situation in Lansing. The Board thanked both Mr. Philipps and Dr. Shubel for their proactive approach to this situation.

Board Representatives Reports

PASE Meeting – Mrs. Trierweiler

Mrs. Trierweiler reported that the first PASE meeting was held recently. Agenda items for the coming year of the PASE Committee will include the Special Education requirements for High School students and integrative technology and transitioning. She thanked the Special Education department for keeping East Grand Rapids PASE members informed of the issues.

Youth Development – Mrs. Trierweiler

The first meeting of Youth Development was held recently. It was noted at the meeting that the senior retreat was a great success again this year. There was a high turnout of both students and volunteers. She noted that Healthy High will be this Saturday and already a record number of students have signed up to participate.

Communications Committee – Mr. Edison

Mr. Edison stated there has been no formal meeting yet this year. He said the Committee has been busy with the announcement of Mrs. Lent leaving the Board and getting the word out about the vacancy. They have also been working on a bond information sheet for the community. Committee members have given presentations to the Parks and Rec Department Commission and also the City Commission regarding the bond proposal. A community presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23rd regarding the November 6th bond proposal.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Bok

Mrs. Bok stated that the first meeting of the Policy Committee was held today. The primary topic was the electronic device use policy. She said that the committee would be working on this policy and hopes to bring it to the Board for a first reading in October.

Parks and Recreation

Mr. Camp noted that the presentation to this group regarding the upcoming bond proposal was very well received. The Commission was very appreciative of the information.

Adjournment

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Mr. Ellis stated that the next Board meeting would be Monday, October 22nd at 7:00 p.m. and also that there is a Community Forum on the bond scheduled for Tuesday, October 23rd at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Ellis adjourned the meeting at 8:29 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 - 9/25/07