



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, Community Board Room,
2915 Hall Street, SE.,
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.
For Information, call 616-235-3535.
7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 28, 2008

MINUTES

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, January 28, 2008 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, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mr. Peter Stuursma, Mrs. Jann VanAirsdale and Mr. Doug Jenkins

Meeting Called to Order

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

Acknowledgement of Guests - None

Public Comments

Mr. Joe Camp announced he would not be seeking re-election for another term on the school board. Mr. Peter Ruppert announced that he would run for one of the two open seats on the school board. Mrs. Michelle Rabideau of 3000 Hall Street SE stated she would be running for one of the two open seats on the school board. Mrs. Melissa Williams Freeman of 1725 Hiawatha SE stated she has two children in East Grand Rapids Public Schools through the schools of choice program and that she and her husband are thankful that their children are attending East schools. She stated they have had a very positive experience with the schools and the community. She said she has five children and that last year due to East Grand Rapids not having openings in lower elementary grades, two of her children were not able to attend

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East schools. She urged the school board to look and reconsider openings for families already in the system.

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

Mrs. Trierweiler reported that the Board received a thank you card from Eleanor Davis (Custodian at Wealthy) for the gift certificate to Schuler's Books following her recent surgery; a thank you card from Deb Bonner (Wealthy and High School) for the book placed in memory of her mother-in-law at the High School library; a thank you card from Julie TeWinkle (High School French) for the gift certificate to Schuler's Books following the birth of her child; a thank you card from Rosanne Mack (EGR Foundation) for the gift certificate to Schuler's Books following her recent surgery; a thank you note from Diane Bok (Board member) for the flowers following her recent surgery; and a thank you note from Brian Topolewski (Middle School Music) for the book placed in the Middle School library in memory of his father.

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

Mr. Yared reported that the December food drive was very successful and was able to provide 64 families with food baskets. Some of the left over food was donated to Arbor Circle. The blood drive was held last week and was successful. He noted that on February 15th there would be a special assembly during Kabookie Week for the students and the community to honor Jimmy Gerken. He stated that the high school would also be inviting the 8th grade class to attend.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Nancy McSkimming

Mrs. McSkimming presented gift cards to the Board of Education on behalf of the Teachers Association for School Board appreciation month. She stated that the first semester was very successful. Currently teachers are looking forward to Professional Development opportunities in February.

Recognition of East Grand Rapids Board of Education Members for School Board Recognition Month January 2008- Dr. Sara Magaña Shubel (Enclosure #7)

Dr. Shubel thanked each of the Board members for their work throughout the year on behalf of the students and staff of East Grand Rapids Public Schools. She presented each member with a gift of appreciation. Mr. Stuursma presented certificates to each Board member denoting that a brick for each of them would be placed on Gerken Plaza in recognition of their work for students and staff.

Recognition of Principal's Week - February 10-16, 2008- Dr. Sara Magaña Shubel (Enclosure #8)

Dr. Shubel stated that Principal's Week would be February 10-16, 2008. She said that she is grateful for the high caliber principal's in East Grand Rapids Public Schools and thanked them for their dedication to the students and staff. The Board then expressed thanks to all of the administrators for their work throughout the year.

Recognition of We the People State Championship Team - Dr. Sara Magaña Shubel

Dr. Shubel and Mrs. Fee gave a review of the recent State Championship of the We The People team. The team now goes on to the nationals in Washington, D.C., which will be held the first

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weekend in May. Dr. Shubel and Mrs. Fee presented certificates to members of the We The People team.

Presentation:

Facilities Update - Mr. Joe Camp

Mr. Camp reported that there is much going in with facilities. The 2006 bond is in hold right now and contractors are doing some punch list items. Next summer the rest of the buildings will have air conditioning installed. He also noted that technology from this bond continues to be installed. He said that the contingency looks great and projects continue to be on time and under budget. The 2007 bond currently is in the construction documents and budgets phase with many decisions being made at this time. Bids will be going out soon for utility work with construction starting this spring when the snow melts. The second bid package for Mehney field turf replacement will go out at the beginning of March with construction completed during the summer. The third bid package will be for the balance of the project with bids going out in early April and construction taking place over the next two years. All three phases are currently on time and on budget and he stated they would stay that way. Once in place, a parking plan for the high school will be communicated to students, staff and parents. Also, to keep a promise to the community, the district is currently drafting a long-term plan to keep all facilities repaired and running smoothly. Funding for this will come from the Sinking Fund.

New High School Course Proposal - Public Speaking -Mrs. Pam Steers (Enclosure #11)

Mrs. Steers gave a brief overview of the proposed Public Speaking course. She then answered questions from Board members regarding the course.

New High School Course Proposal - Film Making - Mrs. Pam Steers (Enclosure #12)

Mrs. Steers presented an overview of the proposed Film Making course and then answered questions from the Board.

New High School Course Proposal - Film Studies I - Mrs. Pam Steers (Enclosure #13)

Mrs. Steers reviewed the proposal for the Film Studies I class and answered questions from the Board.

First Reading of Revised Policy #7650 - Assessment Program (Enclosure #14)

Dr. Shubel and Mrs. Fee discussed the proposed revision of the policy designed to bring East Grand Rapids Public School in compliance with current state law.

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 15 through 18.

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Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 12/10/07 (Enclosure #15)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 12/11/07 (Enclosure #16)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 12/20/07 (Enclosure #17)

Approval of Payment of Bills for December 2007 (Enclosure #18)

Mr. Edison moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #15-18. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items:

Approval of a Foreign Exchange Student from Norway (Enclosure #19)

The High School Administration recommends that foreign exchange student, Ane Killingberg, from Norway, be approved for enrollment at East Grand Rapids High School during the 2008-09 school year.

Mr. Camp moved to approve the recommendation by the administration that Ane Killingberg from Norway be enrolled at East Grand Rapids High School for the 2008-09 school year. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of the Schools of Choice Resolutions for 2008-2009

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.

Approval of a Resolution to Opt Out of Section 105 (Enclosure #20A)

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 exercise the option permitted by Section 105 of the State School Aid Act of 1979, as amended by Public Act 300 of 1996, to not accept Section 105 applications of non-resident students from outside our district, for purposes of operating an intermediate school district-wide schools of choice program in accordance with Section 105 for the 2008-09 school year. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a Resolution to Opt Out of Section 105c (Enclosure #20B)

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 2008-09 school year.

Mrs. Ridenour moved to pass a resolution to exercise the option permitted by Section 105c of the State School Aid Act, Public Act 119 of 1999, as amended by Public Act 297 of 2000, to not accept applications for enrollment from residents of contiguous intermediate school districts for the 2008-09 school year. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a Resolution to Participate in the 2008-09 Kent Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program (Enclosure #20C)

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This is the seventh year of the KISD Schools of Choice Program.

Mrs. Ridenour moved to pass a resolution to participate in the Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for the 2008-09 school year. Mr. Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

District Updates – Dr. Shubel asked Mr. Stuursma to describe the new transition process for 8th graders to enter high school. This will be the first time the district is using this process to acclimate 8th graders to high school and make a smooth transition. During their visit to the high school on February 15 the eighth graders will also be meeting with various staff and students from the high school to hear and learn what to expect when they move to the high school.

Board of Education Election – Board elections will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008. The candidate-filing deadline is February 13, 2008.

Assistant Superintendent for Business

January Revenue Conference Update – Mr. Philipps showed a power point presentation on the January 2008 revenue conference. He noted that the State is projecting higher school aid to be available for the 2008-2009 school year but stated that East Grand Rapids Public Schools would be using conservative numbers when determining the budget. He also stated that the State is showing a drop in enrollment statewide. The Governor will present her budget on February 7, 2008 and from there the East Grand Rapids Public Schools budget committee will begin looking at numbers for next year.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Due to Ms. Glowicki's absence, Dr. Shubel gave the report.

Professional Development Update – Dr. Shubel presented an update of the upcoming Professional Development days in February. She stated that this is a collective effort and much work goes into planning for these days. The online registration is scheduled to launch tomorrow morning. St. Stephens's school teachers will be invited to attend the conference and invitations will go to educators throughout the county to attend the keynote address by Flip Flippen.

General Curriculum Update – The Foreign Language committee met recently. Mr. Ellis is a part of this group and stated that State requirements are quite high and the group is looking at ways of lining up with the new standards. Dr. Shubel stated the Science Committee will start up next week and that the Math Committee is ongoing.

Martin Luther King Day Update – Dr. Shubel gave a brief overview of the various activities of the schools in honor of Martin Luther King Day. She also showed a short video from Breton Downs Elementary documenting their visit to their Hamilton Park pen pals.

Board Representative Report

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Mrs. Bok announced that the Legislative Committee will be hosting Vern Ehlers at the High School on February 11, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. She encouraged everyone to attend and noted that staff and students would also be attending.

Adjournment

Mr. Ellis announced an added meeting scheduled for February 11 at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will be to approve and sign the bond issue notes and also will include a budget workshop for the Board of Education.

Mr. Ellis thanked both Mr. Ruppert and Mrs. Rabideau for announcing they would be running for the two open Board seats. He also encouraged others in the community to step forward and run for the Board of Education openings on May 6, 2008. Mr. Ellis adjourned the meeting at 8:36 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 - 01/29/08