

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 25, 2008

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 25, 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. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mr. Peter Stuursma, Mrs. Kathy Wisniewski, Mrs. Linda Kehm, Mr. Mark Tompkins, Mrs. Wendy VanZegeren, Mr. Scott Robertson, Mr. Glenn Mitcham, Mr. Larry Fisher, and Mr. Doug Jenkins

Meeting Called to Order

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

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments - Mrs. Melissa Williams-Freeman of 1725 Hiawatha SE said she is attending the meeting this evening as a Schools of Choice parent. She stated her oldest two children attend East Grand Rapids Public Schools and she is hoping her other two children can attend this fall. She said she is looking forward to the release of Schools of Choice numbers for the fall.

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

Mrs. Trierweiler reported that the Board received a thank you card from Sharon Pollice (HS Art) for the gift certificate to Schuler's Books following her recent surgery; a thank you card from Jeanne Glowicki for the book placed in memory of her mother-in-law at the Breton Downs library; and a

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thank you card from Kathy Larson (Lakeside Music) for the book placed in memory of her grandmother at the Lakeside library.

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

Mr. Yared reported that Kabookie Week 2008 went very well. He stated that the 8th grade transition day, which piggybacked on Kabookie Day, also went well. There was a club fair which was set up during this time to let the 8th grade students know what extra curricular activities are available at the high school. He announced that two students from each class were awarded the Kabookie Award.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Nancy McSkimming

Mrs. McSkimming reported that the teachers attended the Professional Development days last week and many of them commented that it was a success. She said the key note speaker was excellent and the variety of sessions very beneficial.

Recognition of Jennifer Schaafsma Class B MHSAA Scholar Athlete for 2007-08 - Mr. Scott Robertson

Mr. Robertson, Dr. Shubel and Mrs. Bok presented Jennifer Schaafsma a certificate for achieving the rank of 2007-08 Scholar Athlete from the MHSAA. There were over 2000 applicants this year and only 16 boys and 16 girls around the state received the award.

Information Items:

Transitions

Kindergarten - Mrs. Kehm, Mr. Tompkins and Mrs. VanZegeren

Dr. Shubel introduced Mrs. Kehm, Mr. Tompkins, Mrs. VanZegeren and Mrs. Wisniewski. They in turn presented the transition to kindergarten program which will be implemented this year. Emphasis will be on the district getting ready for the students to enter our schools, in place of the student getting ready to enter school. They stated that East Grand Rapids Public Schools is the first school district in the state to use this process, and one of the first in the nation. They described how children will be assessed; how this process will be communicated to each resident in the district with post cards and a parent information night open house on April 16, 2008; and some of the events which will take place on the information night and a visitation time for the Young 5's and Kindergarteners. The building secretaries will be involved in this process and the changes being made since they are usually the first contact by the parent.

8th Grade Transition Day - Mrs. Fee and Mr. Stuursma

Mrs. Fee and Mr. Stuursma gave a brief overview of the recent 8th grade transition day at the high school. Each expressed that this was a great success and 8th graders and high school students were involved in the process. The 8th graders got a taste of high school life and what will be in store for them next year not only academically but also with the various clubs and extra curricular activities.

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

Mrs. Glowicki, Dr. Shubel and Mr. Jenkins described how Professional Development Days came about and the history since 2004 of sessions and keynote speakers. They stated that the Strategic Plan is followed when the committee plans Professional Development days. They noted that all eleven teachers from St. Stephens Schools attended the conference and there was good interaction between staff from EGRPS and St. Stephens. Mrs. Glowicki thanked everyone who contributed to this day from those behind the scenes to those who presented. They then showed a short DVD of the day.

Facilities Update - Mr. Joe Camp

Mr. Camp reported that the 2006 bond had a change order approved at the Facilities Committee meeting for Pioneer Auditorium at Wealthy. He stated that the district continues to be on schedule and under budget for the 2006 bond. He also announced that there would be some updating to technology with this bond money. For the 2007 bond, the Board will be seeing design drawings this evening for the high school campus and bids will go out this week for the utility relocation package and the Mehney field turf replacement package and then in early April for rest of the project.

Fall 2007 Grades 3-9 MEAP Report - Mr. Doug Jenkins

This item is deleted as MEAP scores are still embargoed by the State. No report at this time.

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 16.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 1/28/08 (Enclosure #12)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 2/11/08 (Enclosure #13)

Approval of Payment of Bills for January 2008 (Enclosure #14)

Approval of a Foreign Exchange Student from Germany (Enclosure #16)

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

Mr. Ellis stated that there has been a request to take Item #15 off from the Consent Agenda and vote on it separately. Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #12-14 and item #16. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

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Approval of 3 New High School Courses

At the January 28, 2008 the following courses were presented to the Board for review and discussion: Public Speaking; Film Making; and Film Studies I.

Mr. Camp moved to support three new courses as presented at the January 28, 2008 Board meeting: Public Speaking; Film Making; and Film Studies I. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. The Board discussed and addressed questions about the previous speech class graduation requirement. There was discussion of the deliberate intent to integrate communication skills and speech standards throughout the curriculum. The Board expressed expectations that speech standards and skills truly be integrated throughout the curriculum. Motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items:

Design Development Approval for the 2007 Bond (Enclosure #17)

URS Corporation presented the design development drawings for the 2007 Bond construction project. Following the URS presentation, Owen Ames Kimball (OAK) presented its cost estimates based on those design development drawings and discussed variations from the cost proposals developed during the schematic design phase.

Mr. Edison moved to approve the design development drawings for the 2007 Bond construction project as presented. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy #7650 (Assessment Program) (Enclosure #18)

The Board had a first reading of revised Policy #7650 (Assessment Program) at the Board of Education meeting on January 28, 2008.

Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve revised Policy #7650 (Assessment Program), as recommended by the Policy Committee and Superintendent. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of March as "Reading Incentive Month" (Enclosure #19)

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

Mrs. Bok 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. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of an Athletic Cooperative Program Agreement (Enclosure #20)

Due to anticipated low participation numbers for Boys waterpolo for the next couple of years, a cooperative program agreement with Catholic Central High School would allow the continuation of a waterpolo team for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years.

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve that due to low participation numbers, the East Grand Rapids Public School District participate with Catholic Central High School in a cooperative program for boys waterpolo for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years. East Grand Rapids Public Schools will be responsible for overseeing the administration of the team. Mr. Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

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Administrative Reports:

Superintendent - No report this month

Assistant Superintendent for Business - No report this month

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction - No report this month

Board Representative Report

Mr. Edison stated that it is gratifying to see the collaboration between the East Grand Rapids community and the East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Adjournment

Mr. Ellis adjourned the meeting at 8:53 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 - 02/26/08