

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 24, 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, March 24, 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, Mr. Steve Edison, and Mr. Peter Ruppert

Absent: Mrs. Julie Ridenour and Mr. Joe Camp

Administration: Dr. Sara Shubel, Mr. Kevin Philipps, Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mr. Peter Stuursma, Mr. Scott Robertson, Mr. Glenn Mitcham, 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 stated she has 5 children and that 2 of them are currently in the EGR schools through the schools of choice program. She is hoping that her other 3 children will be able to attend EGR schools as well through choice openings. She mentioned that she had received an unsigned letter

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regarding the tax burden placed on residents from having non resident students in the schools. She wanted to state that schools of choice students do not add to the tax burden of the schools.

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

Mrs. Trierweiler reported that the Board received a thank you card from Amy Marlow (BD 5th Grade) for the gift certificate to Schuler's Books following the birth of her son; a thank you card from Adam Brush (HS Math) for the gift certificate to Schuler's following the birth of his son; a thank you card from Deb Bonner (Wealthy Paraeducator) for the book placed in memory of her father-in-law at the Wealthy library; and a thank you card from Pam Ramey (BD 3rd Grade) for the book placed in memory of her mother-in-law at the Breton Downs library.

Recognition of:

2008 Swimming and Diving Lower Peninsula State Championship Division III Team

Dr. Shubel and Mrs. Bok presented certificates to the swimmers in recognition of their state swim championship, #105 for East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Mrs. Fee stated that 26 of those championships came under the leadership of Coach Butch Briggs.

Staff Appreciation Dates:

Crossing Guard Week - April 13-19, 2008 - Dr. Shubel

Support Staff Week - April 20-26, 2008 - Dr. Shubel

Secretaries' Day - April 23, 2008 - Dr. Shubel

Parent and Volunteer Appreciation Week - April 27 - May 3, 2008 - Dr. Shubel

Teacher Appreciation Week - May 4-10, 2008 - Dr. Shubel

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

Rachel Wiener reported for Mr. Yared. She announced that student council elections for next year will take place the week following spring break. All grades are continuing work on their service projects for spring. She stated that the "Relay for Life" will have student council involvement. She mentioned that Vern Ehlers was recently at the High School and spoke and answered questions for students, staff and community members.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Nancy McSkimming

Mrs. McSkimming reported that the MEAP scores are in to schools and the teachers are looking at the scores and doing GAP analysis in each building. Mr. Jenkins stated scores are still embargoed by the state and cannot be released to the public.

Information Items:

Facilities Update -Mr. Joe Camp

Mr. Camp was not at the meeting so Mr. Philipps and Mr. Edison gave the facilities update. They reported that the 2006 bond contingency balance is still very solid and work will begin over spring break at the High School to replace gymnasium lighting. Final details for the Middle School entrance are completed and we will be ready to begin work on this over the summer. The 2007 bond final drawings for bid package #3 are complete and ready to go out for bid. There have been code issues with the home side bleachers, so the district took a look at life span of bleachers and now will consider replacing the home bleachers when the press box work is completed. Mr. Philipps stated that in April a proposal will be brought to the Board to review and decide whether to move forward with this. At this point, both bonds projects are on time and under budget.

EGR Secondary School Media Centers - Mrs. Susan McCaffrey and Mr. Harry Coffill

Mrs. McCaffrey and Mr. Coffill presented the secondary school media report. They have made presentations on copyright, plagerism, "What's new in literature", and "When Harry met Susan" around the state. The High School and the Middle School are in the process of weeding out in the Media Centers to bring the books up to date. Also, when ordering new books they are ordering items to reflect the curriculum, and asking for teacher input on what items they need. Mrs. McCaffrey stated that April is National School Librarian Month. They expressed appreciation for the many dedicated parent volunteers and paraeducators at the Media Centers.

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

As stated earlier in the meeting, the state still has these scores embargoed so this report will come at a later date.

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 11 through 12.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 2/25/08 (Enclosure #11)

Approval of Payment of Bills for February 2008 (Enclosure #12)

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Mrs. Bok moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #11-12. Mr. Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Other Action Items:

Approval of Numbers for the 2008-2009 Schools of Choice Program (Enclosure #13)

The 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. The Finance Committee and Superintendent are recommending that we accept 19 students at the upper elementary school level through the 2008-09 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.

Mr. Edison moved to accept 19 students (5 in 2nd grade; 2 in 3rd grade; 6 in 4th grade; and 6 in 5th grade) through the 2008-09 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. There was some discussion and questions by the Board. Mr. Edison commented on the unsigned letter received by the Schools of Choice parent mentioned during the Public Comments section. Board members thanked Mr. Philipps, Mrs. Glowicki and Dr. Shubel for their careful consideration and work to bring this recommendation. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of 2007 Bond Bid Package #1 (Utility Relocation) Bid (Enclosure #14)

Bids were received for the relocation of utilities at the High School as required to complete the work for the 2007 Athletic Facility construction program. The Facilities Committee has received and reviewed the bids and recommends approval.

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve contracts to complete the relocation of utilities for the High School for the 2007 Athletic Facility construction program as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent as presented in Enclosure #14. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of 2007 Bond Bid Package #2 (Mehney Field Replacement) Bid (Enclosure #15)

Bids were received for the replacement of Mehney Field as part of the 2007 Athletic Facility construction program. The Facilities Committee has received and reviewed the bids and recommends approval.

Mr Edison moved to approve a contract to complete the replacement of Mehney Field as part of the 2007 Athletic Facility construction program as presented in Enclosure #15. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. It was noted that there were two bidders on the field equipment bid. The bid was awarded to Bareman who was high bidder but also was the only one to bid according to specifications for field equipment. The Board discussed and asked questions regarding the bids and alternates. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Owners Representative Agreement (Enclosure #16)

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The Facilities Committee recommends creating an owner's representative position on a contracted basis for the duration of the 2007 Athletic Facilities construction program, similar to the position that was created for the 2006 construction program. The Facilities Committee also recommends John Bowers for the position of owner's representative.

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve the proposed contract with John P. Bowers, Facilities Management Consultants, LLC, with John Bowers serving as the district's owner's representative for the 2007 Athletic Facility construction program. Mr. Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Addendum to the Superintendent's Employment Agreement (Enclosure #17)

The proposed addendum to paragraph 11 (Evaluation) of the current Superintendent's Employment Agreement would allow for the annual evaluation to be completed prior to May 1 of each school year.

Mrs. Bok moved to approve the addendum to the Superintendent's Employment Agreement. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

ASCD Annual Conference - Dr. Shubel thanked the Board for their continued support for her work on the ASCD Board. She attended the annual conference and hopes to bring a few staff with her next year. "Reinventing Schools" was the focus of the conference this year. She stated there were many good break out sessions and she came away from the conference with lots of great ideas.

Assistant Superintendent of Business

State Budget Update - Mr. Philipps stated that Lansing underestimated the drop in taxable values statewide and therefore school aid fund will have to pay out more to school districts approximately an additional \$60 to \$90 per pupil. He said that the district is scaling back to \$100 per pupil increase for next year to use for budgeting purposes for 2008-09.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Summer Learning Opportunities for Staff and Students - Mrs. Glowicki stated that the district is in the beginning stages of looking at opportunities for the summer. Some of the groups that will be meeting will be the Math implementation team; the science group is looking at a couple of national conferences; and foreign language will be meeting soon to discuss what they would like to do to continue learning. Student summer learning opportunities will be offered in Physical education, Health, Algebra I and English I and II opportunities. The Middle School will also have some opportunities funded through Title I grants.

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Board Representative Reports

Mr. Ellis threw out the following numbers: 80, 52, 34. He stated that the Grand Rapids Press in Tom Rademaker's column recently featured Ralph Sims who is 80 yrs old, has spent 52 years as a teacher and 34 of those years in East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Thank you Mr. Sims for your years of service.

Adjournment

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 - 03/25/08