

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, April 28, 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, April 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. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mr. Peter Stuursma, Mr. Larry Fisher, Mrs. Linda Kehm, Mrs. Wendy VanZegeren, Mrs. Jann Vanairsdale, 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 - None

Recognition of:

There were no recognitions this evening, but at the May 19, 2008 meeting the following will be honored: The Vision (High School newspaper), the We the People team, and the Latin Award winners.

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

Mrs. Trierweiler reported that the Board received a thank you card from Kristie Tollas (Wealthy Paraeducator) for the book placed in the Wealthy library in memory of her father-

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in-law and a letter was received from Joseph Gallagher (2517 Richards Drive SE) regarding concerns that the turf replacement at Mehney and Memorial fields be certified lead-free.

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

Mr. Yared reported that Student Council elections were held last week and the results were announced today: Sam Wohns, President; J. Ludlow, Vice President; Elise Cunningham, Secretary; and Charlie Wondergem, Treasurer. He reported that the Seniors are preparing for commencement and that the Student Council has committees reviewing the cell phone policy and the absence for school business policy.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Nancy McSkimming

Mrs. McSkimming stated that this is a very busy and exciting time of year. She noted that this week is parent/volunteer appreciation week and thanked the many parents and volunteers for their countless hours spent helping in the schools.

Information Items:

Foreign Language Update - Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki and Mrs. Jenny Frazier (Enclosure #8)

Mrs. Glowicki introduced Mrs. Frazier who presented the update to the Board. Mrs. Frazier thanked the Board for the time given to teachers to review curriculum. She stated that the committee looked at foundational items of world languages. There have been four meetings this year and the committee began by looking at the national standards, which has five areas which were reviewed. Next the committee reviewed State standards and benchmarks. Curriculum templates from the national, state, regional and local level were studied and reviewed. Finally the committee looked at future steps. She reminded the Board to attend the May 8th community celebration of Foreign Language at the PAC beginning at 7:30 p.m. She noted that East Grand Rapids Public Schools would receive two national awards of recognition at the celebration.

Facilities Update - Mr. Joe Camp

Mr. Camp reported that the 2006 bond issue is still under budget. He noted that the bids for the Middle School entrance came in high, in part due to the fact that materials costs have gone up. Work on the Middle School entrance will begin when school lets out. He stated that the 2007 Bond utility relocation over Spring Break went smoothly and noted that Bid package #3 is out to bidders with bids due May 8th and bid approval coming to the Board for approval at the May 19th meeting. Bid package #4 is still out and under review - more information on this package will be presented later in this agenda. The technology is still going strong and CAD lab bids will also come before the Board for approval at the May 19th meeting. He reported that we are on time and under budget for both the 2006 and 2007 bond construction projects. He then addressed the issue of artificial turf and health concerns, which has been given a lot of press lately. He noted that the District will require

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certification from the turf company, prior to the turf being laid. Mr. Moxley of URS also spoke to the Board on this issue. He noted that only one product line out of one state has had an issue with lead in the fibers of the turf and that it has been found in only two fields in the entire United States. Mr. Moxley stated that the school district has been assured by professionals that proper precautions and guarantees will be established so we can move forward with confidence on this issue when the turf is replaced.

Fall 2007 Grades 3-9 MEAP Report - Mr. Doug Jenkins (Enclosure #10)

Mr. Jenkins presented the MEAP scores which were finally released by the State. He gave a review of all of the Fall 2007 MEAP scores. He noted that East Grand Rapids Public Schools scores have remained consistently higher than the statewide scores. The Board had questions for Mr. Jenkins and asked for clarification on a few items.

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 11 through 16.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 3/24/08 (Enclosure #11)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 4/2/08 (Enclosure #12)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 4/17/08 (Enclosure #13)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 4/22/08 (Enclosure #14)

Approval of Payment of Bills for March 2008 (Enclosure #15)

Approval of Overnight Student Activities (Enclosure #16)

In accordance with Board of Education Policy #7490, the High School has requested approval by the Board of Education for Madrigal students in grades 10-12 to go to Europe in February 2009 as outlined in Enclosure #16.

Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #11-16. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items:

Acceptance of Grants from the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation (Enclosure #17)

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At the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation meeting, the Foundation board awarded the spring grants. Betsy Raymond from the EGR Foundation will present the information.

Dr. Shubel introduced Mrs. Raymond, President of the Foundation, and thanked the Foundation for their work and generous support of the schools. Mrs. Raymond outlined the Spring grant cycle and gave a brief overview of the seven grants which were funded in the total amount of \$24,401.40. She noted that there had been fourteen requests this time around. She reported that this cycle of grants had higher dollar amount requests, thus the decision to fund seven of the grants. Mrs. Ridenour moved to accept the grants awarded by the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation as listed in Enclosure #17 and to thank the Foundation for its generous support of East Grand Rapids Schools. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

New High School Bleachers (Enclosure #18)

From the planning of the Athletic Facility construction program, a discussion was generated about this being the time to replace the home bleachers at Memorial Field while the other improvements are being completed. The replacement of the bleachers is part of our 10-year sinking fund plan to maintain facilities. The Facilities Committee and Superintendent have discussed the rationale for replacing the bleachers during the Athletic facility construction program and recommend approval for the replacement of the bleachers on the home side of Memorial Field. Mr. Moxley and Mr. Gore updated the Board on this bid package, which is Bid Package #4 and reviewed various components of the package. The Board asked questions for clarification and had discussion on the package.

Mr. Edison moved to approve the replacement of the Memorial Field home side bleachers as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent as presented in Enclosure #18. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. There were questions and discussion by the Board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of the Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract Extension (Enclosure #19)

The Board conducted the annual evaluation of Dr. Shubel on April 2, 2008. They reviewed the Superintendent's goals and her performance. Mr. Ellis, Board President, presented an oral summary evaluation for Board approval and stated that a written summary would be available on April 29, 2008.

Mr. Ellis moved to approve the Superintendent's Evaluation statement and the extension of Dr. Shubel's contract for an additional year through June 30, 2011. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Property Parcel Transfers between East Grand Rapids Public Schools and the Grand Rapids Public School District (Enclosure #20)

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The Board was notified of a land swap agreement between the city of East Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids. The agreement was made in order for Calvin College to expand its facilities and not cross municipality boundaries. Both cities agreed to the land swap. Because of the change in municipalities there is also a need for a change in the school district boundaries.

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve the resolution to transfer the parcels in question as outlined in Enclosure #20. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent

Wealthy Administrative Position Update

Mr. Mark Tompkins, Principal at Wealthy Elementary School has accepted the Superintendent position in Harbor Springs. Dr. Shubel gave a brief update of the process which will be used and a timeline for filling the principal position at Wealthy Elementary. She stated the goal is to have someone hired by mid-June. The process will be similar to what was used last year to fill the Principal position at Breton Downs Elementary.

Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Shubel stated that she and Mrs. Glowicki met with Carmelita Murphy and had discussion of current goals and mapping out plans for a new cycle of strategic planning beginning next fall. Dates will be sent to Board members to put into their calendars.

"We the People" Update

The "We the People" team is going to Washington DC this weekend. Thanks to the fantastic community support at the auction fund raiser, the East Grand Rapids Foundation grant, the High School PTSA, and the Academic Boosters the funding goal was reached which will allow 27 members of the team, including 8 student coaches, to make the trip to Washington, D.C.

High School Musical

The High School drama department will present "On the Town" and performances will take place at the PAC on May 1, 2, and 3, 2008. Dr. Shubel urged everyone to attend.

Assistant Superintendent of Business - No further reports

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Draft of Summer Opportunities for Staff/Students

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Mrs. Glowicki provided an overview of the summer learning opportunities for staff and students and stated that the funding will come from Title II grants. She noted that the final brochure would be finished this week and sent electronically to all teachers.

Fast Forward

Mrs. Glowicki noted that East Grand Rapids Public Schools prides itself on developing readers. She stated that our teachers know how to teach but still we have some students who lag behind on reading. She will be meeting this week with a representative of Fast Forward and will be concentrating on possibly piloting with Middle School students for this program during the summer. She said she would use Title money to fund the program. Mrs. Glowicki will bring back to the Board more information at a later date.

Curriculum Updates - No updates for this month.

Board Representative Report - No reports this month.

Adjournment

Mr. Ellis reminded everyone that the next meeting would be May 19th and that graduation will be held on May 22nd. Mr. Ellis adjourned the meeting at 9:07 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. aht-04/29/08