

EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Kent County, Michigan

REGULAR Meeting of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education

Community Board Room, the James E. Morse Administration Center at Woodcliff,
2915 Hall St. SE For information, phone 616-235-3535

Monday, June 2, 2008

5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, June 2, 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. Stacy Trierweiler, Mrs. Julie Ridenour, Mr. Joe Camp, and Mr. Steve Edison

Absent: Mr. Peter Ruppert and Mrs. Diane Bok

Administration: Dr. Sara Shubel, Mr. Kevin Philipps, Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mrs. Linda Kehm, Mrs. Wendy VanZegeren, Mrs. Jann VanAirsdale, Mr. Mark Tompkins, and Mr. Doug Jenkins

Call to Order

Mr. Ellis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Ellis stated that by law the school board must conduct a budget hearing prior to adoption of the budget for 2008-2009. He let the audience know that the Board would not be taking any action tonight on the budget, but will vote on budget at the Board meeting on June 9, 2008. He thanked everyone in the audience for their attendance and stated that all comments made need to be kept away from naming specific individuals. He also stated that when making public comments to the Board, that the same point does not need to be made over and over.

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Communications to and from the Board

Mrs. Trierweiler reported that the Board received letters from various individuals concerning teacher lay-offs and staffing.

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Information Items

Budget Hearing: 2008-09 General Fund Budget – Mr. Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #4)

Mr. Ellis introduced Dr. Shubel and Mr. Philipps. Mr. Philipps reviewed the process of how the budget is put together throughout the year. He started with a history of per-pupil funding. He then gave a review of revenue vs. expenses since 2002-03; areas of collaborative implementation; reduced services and programs from previous years; revenue assumptions for next year; the proposed budget for 2008-2009; fund balance differences; a breakdown of budgeted expenses and a breakdown of wages; issues for consideration; a review of athletic, food service, sinking fund, and debt retirement budgets; and a long range financial forecast. The Board expressed their concern about the \$100/pupil assumption. The Board held discussion of concerns for funding.

Mrs. Bok arrived at the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Mr. Ruppert arrived at 5:36 p.m.

Public Comments

Judy Baars, 1115 San Jose Drive – addressed the Board regarding Special Ed staffing at the high school.

Phil Skaggs, 2615 Hall Street – addressed the Board regarding the decrease of class sections at 3rd grade at Lakeside elementary. He also presented a letter to the Board and stated his concerns that other budget cuts were not made.

Kati Gross, 1031 Kenesaw – addressed the Board regarding the decrease of class sections at 3rd grade at Lakeside elementary.

Beth Milanowski, 2640 Hall Street – addressed the Board regarding the decrease of 3rd grade class sections at Lakeside elementary.

Lindel Hoff, 2730 Bonnell – addressed the Board regarding the decrease of 3rd grade class sections at Lakeside elementary.

Jerry Gross, 1031 Keneesaw – addressed the Board regarding the budget committee recommendations and the decrease of 3rd grade class sections at Lakeside elementary.

Sam Miller, 2144 Wilshire SE – addressed the Board regarding Special Ed staffing at the high school.

Kevin Brader, 1095 Idema – addressed the Board regarding the decrease of 3rd grade class sections at Lakeside elementary.

Trisha Reed, 2333 El Dorado – addressed the Board regarding the decrease of 3rd grade class sections at Lakeside elementary.

Chase Becsey, 932 Floral – addressed the Board regarding Special Ed staffing at the high school.

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Bruce Kratt, 2135 Wilshire - addressed the Board regarding the decrease of 3rd grade class sections at Lakeside elementary.

Julie Moore, 2500 Hall - addressed the Board regarding the decrease of 3rd grade class sections at Lakeside elementary.

Rhonda Markham, 2200 Heather - addressed the Board regarding Special Ed staffing at the high school.

Jerry Grose, 1031 Keneesaw - again addressed the Board regarding the decrease of 3rd grade class sections at Lakeside elementary.

Barbara Reed, 903 Orchard - addressed the Board asking if the District had ever thought of outsourcing custodial services. She also asked for clarification and a breakdown of the business expenses.

Kristi Merritt, 1010 Lake Grove - addressed the Board regarding Special Ed staffing at the high school.

Tamara Christians, 1111 Idema - addressed the Board regarding the decrease of 3rd grade class sections at Lakeside elementary. She also questioned if community members could pitch together and pay for anything.

Sandra Pearson, 3060 Bonnell - addressed the Board regarding the decrease of 3rd grade class sections at Lakeside elementary.

Glynis Miller, 1753 Asbury - addressed the Board regarding Special Ed staffing at the high school.

Sam Miller, 2144 Wilshire - again addressed the Board regarding Special Ed staffing at the high school.

Katie Roudi, 976 Cambridge - addressed the Board regarding Special Ed staffing at the high school.

Kara Markham, 2200 Heather - addressed the Board regarding Special Ed staffing at the high school.

Gabe Tharp, 1563 Sherwood - addressed the Board regarding Special Ed staffing at the high school.

Kati Gross, 1031 Kenesaw - again addressed the Board regarding the decrease of 3rd grade class sections at Lakeside elementary and Special Ed staffing at the high school.

Mr. Ellis called a 5-minute recess at 7:08 p.m. Mr. Ellis called the Board to session again at 7:13 p.m.

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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 6 through 6.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 5/19/ 2008 (Enclosure #6)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approved consent agenda item 6. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items

Approval of 2008 Millage Rates for the General Fund Budget, Debt Retirement, Sinking Fund, and Recreation Millage (Enclosure #7)

The Board of Education is required to annually set millage rates for the General Fund, Debt Retirement Fund, Sinking Fund and Recreation Millage.

Mrs. Ridenour moved to certify the 2008 millage rates per Enclosure #7. Mrs. Bok seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

Teacher Retirements (Enclosure #8)

Dr. Shubel announced that there are three teachers retiring this year. She wished all three teachers the best of luck for their future and thanked them for their service to East Grand Rapids Public Schools. She reminded the Board that the retirement luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

Assistant Superintendent of Business

No reports.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Summer Learning Opportunities

Mrs. Glowicki distributed a sheet to the Board showing the summer learning opportunities for staff during the summer of 2008. The sheet also showed staff members who will be attending the sessions. She noted that funding for these sessions is from Federal Grants.

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Board Representative Report

Adjournment

Mr. Ellis adjourned the meeting at 7:38 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 Shubel, Superintendent, at 235-3535. Superintendent's Office - 06/03/08