

Our Mission

***Educating and inspiring each student
to navigate successfully in a global community.***

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. For Information -Phone 616-235-3535.

Monday, October 20, 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, October 20, 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, Mr. Steve Edison, Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler, Mrs. Julie Ridenour, and Mr. Peter Ruppert, Mrs. A. Michellie Rabideau and Mr. Robert Minnema

Administration: Dr. Sara Shubel, Mr. Kevin Philipps, Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mrs. Linda Kehm, Mr. Peter Stuursma, Mrs. Wendy VanZegeren, Mrs. Heidi Sunderhaft Christiansen, Mr. Larry Fisher, 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 - No comments

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

Mrs. Trierweiler reported that the Board received a thank you note from Linda Graham (MS Guidance Secretary) for the book placed in the Middle School library in memory of her father; a thank you note from Socorra Mercado-Blackport (HS Spanish) for the gift certificate to Schuler's following the birth of her daughter, Victoria; a thank you card from Mayor Cindy Bartman and family for the gift certificates to D&W and Osta's following the fire at their home; and a thank you card from Hollie Rademacher (MS Physical Education) for the book placed in the Middle School library in memory of her brother-in-law.

High School Student Council President's Report - Mr. Sam Wohns

Mr. Wohns stated that Homecoming went very well last week. On Thursday there will be an exchange with Lowell High School, 4 students will be going to Lowell for the day and 4 Lowell students will come to East. There is a mock election and debate planned for next week to coincide with the Presidential election. Mr. Wohns announced he would be going to Lansing in the near future to meet with the Senate Education Committee regarding graduation requirements.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Nancy McSkimming

Dr. Shubel stated that Mrs. McSkimming had contacted her today and was not able to make the meeting. No report at this time.

Recognition of East Grand Rapids Commended Students in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Competition - Mr. Larry Fisher, Mrs. Fee, Mrs. Rabideau and Dr. Shubel

Five students achieved the rank of Commended Students in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Dr. Shubel, Mrs. Rabideau, Mr. Fisher and Mrs. Fee presented certificates to the students: Andrew Axtell, Rachel Emery, Kelly Koch, Elizabeth Nelson, and Samuel Wohns.

Discussion Items:

Facilities Update - Mr. Edison

Mr. Edison reported on both Facilities and Joint Facilities. He gave a Facilities overview of all construction projects in the district. He stated that the Joint Facilities Committee met last week and the Committee agreed that the Canepa Tennis Courts will be taken care of next spring. He noted there was also much discussion by this committee of the Wealthy Field area. All projects are on schedule and under budget.

Title IX Report Overview - Mr. Robertson

Dr. Shubel thanked Mr. Robertson and his team for their work on this report. Mr. Robertson gave a brief history of the work the committee needed to do and the data collected. He said that overall East is in good shape, but that the few items that stood out already have a plan in place to address the issues. He also noted that East is about 7 months ahead of the required dates for reporting.

Replacement of Memorial Field Turf

Mr. Philipps gave an overview of the replacement timeline for both Mehney Field and Memorial Field. The City and the schools each contribute \$40,000/year toward replacement costs for both fields. It was agreed by both parties to try to stagger replacements by a couple of years. Memorial Field had some seams which were fixed this Spring but these repairs have deteriorated. If the Board approves, the timeline would be to design and go out for bid the first of the year with replacement in June so the field would be ready by August for fall sports. The Board had discussion of the issue and asked Mr. Philipps to start the process of getting the design going and having bids be brought before the Board for approval. Mr. Philipps hopes to have bids brought to the Board for approval by the meeting in January.

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Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Technology Integration - Mrs. Glowicki and Mr. Jenkins (Enclosure #11)

Mrs. Glowicki and Mr. Jenkins gave a presentation of their work in curriculum, instruction, assessment and technology. All these areas are interfaced and their work crosses over quite a bit. They described the process, the initiatives of research and study; review and develop; implement and reflect; and support. The Board had a few questions for them and then a discussion of the presentation.

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 19

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 9/22/08 (Enclosure #12)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 9/23/08 (Enclosure #13)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 9/24/08 (Enclosure #14)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 9/27/08 (Enclosure #15)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 10/08/08 (Enclosure #16)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 10/09/08 (Enclosure #17)

Approval of Payment of Bills for September 2008 (Enclosure #18)

Approval of Overnight Student Activities (Enclosure #19)

Background: In accordance with Board of Education Policy #7490, the Athletic Department has additional trips and overnight activities as outlined in Enclosure #19 for approval by the Board.

Mr. Edison moved to approve consent agenda items 12-19. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items:

Approval of Training Facility Equipment Bid (Enclosure #20)

The Administration has requested and received bids for the individual pieces of equipment that will be utilized in the High School training facility when the facility is completed next September. The companies awarded bids will store the equipment to be purchased until the district is ready to take possession next August. Bids were requested early to avoid likely cost increases in training equipment between now and next summer.

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Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve the bids in the amount of \$246,495.06 as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent as presented. Mrs. Rabideau seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Cell Tower Agreement (Enclosure #21)

The district was approached by a firm by the name of MetroPCS, Inc., who is interested in leasing ground space from the district so they can place equipment on the cell tower owned by Sprint/Nextel. The Finance Committee and Superintendent recommend approval of the lease.

Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve the contract to lease ground space to MetroPCS, Inc., as recommended by the Finance Committee and Superintendent. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Bulletin #8 for the 2007 Athletic Facility Construction Program (Enclosure #22)

The district has been in consultation with our architectural firm and has agreed that improvements to the design of the heating and cooling systems for the addition at the High School are needed. The cost of the proposed changes is \$88,740.00. The Facilities Committee has reviewed the need for this bulletin and recommends approval.

Mr. Edison moved to approve Bulletin #8 in the amount of \$88,740.00 as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent. Mr. Minnema seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Sara Shubel Professional Development (Enclosure #23)

The School Board and Superintendent are contractually committed to seeking out and pursuing life-long learning opportunities for the benefit of the Superintendent and the district. The Board and Superintendent have identified a professional development opportunity for the Superintendent via a program offered by the University of Chicago. This program focuses on High Performance Leadership.

Mr. Ellis moved to approve a professional development opportunity at the University of Chicago for the Superintendent at a negotiated cost to the district of \$5,000 plus expenses and one week away from the district. Mrs. Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent

Student Count Update - Dr. Shubel reported that count day at end of September showed that the district numbers are currently at 2985; with the breakdown as follows: Breton Downs and Wealthy having approximately 440 students each, Lakeside with 469 students, Middle School at 699 students and the High School at 933 students.

Bulldog Blitz - Dr. Shubel showed a video which showcased students from Breton Downs in the Bulldog Blitz. She stated that Mrs. VanZegeren and teachers have worked together to provide these opportunities to students. Mrs. VanZegeren said that the Bulldog Blitz is done once a week on Monday mornings.

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Assistant Superintendent of Business

State Budget Update – Mr. Philipps reported the good news is that through September state tax collections were exceeding the projections made in May. The concerning news is House Resolution iii which would give no increase in taxable value if equalized value drops and the Senate Appropriations Committee introducing a proposal to limit future School Aid Fund appropriations to 96% of predicted revenues at the revenue estimating conference.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

ELL Conference – Mrs. Glowicki reported that we have Mrs. Karen Comeau as an ELL (English Language Learner) teacher. There are 10 students directly served and 6-7 students who are indirectly served. Mrs. Glowicki recently went with Mrs. Comeau and Mrs. Caroline Cannon to a conference with Rebecca Freeman as the presenter. She stated it was a very exciting presentation and the three of them brought back much good information.

Upcoming MME Brochure – Mrs. Glowicki stated that at the next Board of Education meeting in November the final communication brochure will be presented to the Board.

Science – Discussed during the earlier presentation.

Professional Development Planning – Discussed during the earlier presentation.

RTI (Response to Intervention) – Discussed during the earlier presentation.

Mrs. Glowicki reported that the University of Michigan Education Department hit a homerun today with an announcement that they will be developing a think tank among leaders in west Michigan to provide education partnerships.

Board Representative Report – No reports this month

Adjournment

Mr. Ellis adjourned the meeting at 8:44 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, Ph.D. Superintendent, at 235-3535.