

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, Community Board Room,
2915 Hall Street, SE.,
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.
For Information, call 616-235-3535.
7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 15, 2008

MINUTES

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, December 15, 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, Mrs. A. Michelle Rabideau and Mr. Robert Minnema

Absent: Mr. Peter Ruppert

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

Meeting Called to Order

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

Acknowledgement of Guests - None

Public Comments - None

Board Secretary's Report - Communications to and from the Board - Mrs. Trierweiler
Mrs. Trierweiler reported that the Board received a thank you note from Teya Lober (Lakeside) for the book placed in the Lakeside library in memory of her mother-in-law

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and a thank you note from Mary K. Weadock (Breton Downs Special Ed. Para-educator) for the book placed in Breton Downs library in memory of her brother.

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

Mr. Wohns stated the annual community food drive went very well. The drive collected 340 bags of food which allowed the Student Council to provide food for 60 families. He also noted that they collected close to \$1,000 which was used to buy fresh food. The annual blood drive is coming up at the end of January. The Student Council is working with Kerri Gibson of Food Service to create a Food Service Advisory Committee which will give ideas and suggestions to Food Service.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Shelly Schram

Mrs. Schram thanked the Administration and Board for attending the annual holiday party. She noted that teachers are excited to have a couple weeks off to get rested and refreshed.

Recognition of:

Randi Brown 2008 Division 3 State Champion Girls Diving - Mrs. Jenny Fee, Dr. Sara Shubel and Mrs. Michelle Rabideau

2008 Division 3 Football State Championship Team - Dr. Sara Shubel, Mr. Peter Stuursma, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Dr. Sara Shubel and Mrs. Michelle Rabideau

Captains here to represent Chris Blair, Joe Glendenning and Robert Bell

Joe Glendenning - Gatorade 2008 Football Player of the Year in Michigan - Mr. Peter Stuursma, Dr. Sara Shubel and Mrs. Julie Ridenour

J. Peter Stuursma - Coach of the Year - Football - Mrs. Jenny Fee, Dr. Sara Shubel and Mrs. Julie Ridenour

Janice Yates - Michigan's Teacher of the Year for Civics Education - Mrs. Jenny Fee, Dr. Sara Shubel and Mr. Brian Ellis

All of the above individuals and groups were presented with certificates of recognition from the Board of Education.

Presentation:

Food Service - Introduction of Kerri Gibson - Mr. Kevin Philipps

Mr. Philipps introduced Kerri Gibson, the new Food Service Director for the district. Kerri previously worked for Forest Hills PS Food Service and has hit the ground running.

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Facilities Update – Mr. Steve Edison

Mr. Edison reported that construction is now moving inside. The bleachers are down and an electrical switchover (relocation of transformers) will take place during the holiday break. He noted that the field turf design for Memorial Field will be lined for football and boys lacrosse. It has been discussed to have the words “Memorial Field” put into the turf on both the home and visitor sides of the field, to remind the community of those who gave their lives in various wars. There were comments and discussion by the Board on the field color and also the words “Memorial Field” being added into the turf.

Michigan Merit Curriculum (Enclosure #10) – Ms. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mr. Larry Fisher, Mr. Peter Stuursma, Mrs. Jann VanAirsdale and Mr. Doug Jenkins

Ms. Glowicki and the committee presented an overview of the MMC. The Committee will request approval of the MMC curriculum from the Board in the next couple of months. Mrs. Fee reviewed the background and rationale of MMC, and gave a brief overview of graduation requirements. In looking at current East Grand Rapids Public School students, she noted that approximately 85% already meet or exceed the MMC requirements. She discussed the effects of the MMC on East Grand Rapids – supporting students who will struggle, defining levels of proficiency for earning credit and accommodating new avenues through which students can earn credit. Personal curriculum was discussed. The committee will bring recommendations to the Board in January/February and the Board will be asked to give final approval in February/March. Once approval has been given then Board policy changes will also have to be made.

Mr. Edison left the meeting to attend another function at 7:34 p.m.

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 the Consent Agenda Numbers 11 through 14.

11. Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 11/17/08 (Enclosure #11)
12. Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 11/20/08 (Enclosure #12)
13. Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 12/08/08 (Enclosure #13)

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14. Approval of November Payment of Bills (Enclosure #14)

Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve consent agenda items 11-14. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Other Action Items:

2008-2009 Budget Amendment (Enclosure #15)

Each fall, the Board Finance Committee recommends a Budget Amendment to the Board of Education. The Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed amendment. Mr. Philipps reviewed the budget presented in June and the changes in revenues and expenses since June which have affected the budget and the school funding out of Lansing. He also gave a brief glimpse into the 2009-10 budget including state funding, legislative issues, health insurance and the retirement system.

Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve the amendment for the 2008-09 budget as listed in Enclosure #15. Mrs. Rabideau seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Acceptance of Grants from the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation (Enclosure #16)

The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation awarded the fall Mini Grants and Grants at the November 2008 Foundation meeting.

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to accept the grants as listed in Enclosure #16 totaling \$20,864.49 and to thank the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation for its support of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Mr. Minnema seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

Strategic Planning Next Steps - Dr. Shubel gave a brief overview of the Strategic Planning process. She then outlined the goals and processes of the plan. She indicated more comprehensive information will be forthcoming sometime in February of 2009.

All-Staff Holiday Breakfast - December 17, 2008 - This breakfast will be at the High School cafeteria and Board and Administrators will be serving staff.

US News & World Report - EGR High School - Silver Medalist - Dr. Shubel stated that East Grand Rapids High School once again received a silver medalist award, the second year in a row. She congratulated staff on this accomplishment and noted that the staff from the elementary, middle school, and high school have all contributed to the success of our students.

Assistant Superintendent for Business

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Budget Workshop Date – Mr. Philipps recommended the following two dates: February 9, 2009 or February 16, 2009 for the Budget Workshop to be held. Mr. Ellis will contact all Board members to determine which date works best for the Budget Hearing.

Mr. Philipps stated that legislation passed through the house to allow expanded usage of sinking fund money for technology and busses. Now the measure moves to the senate for a vote. He urged everyone to contact the senate and indicate support for the legislation.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

February Professional Development Days – Mrs. Glowicki presented a detailed overview of the February Professional Development Days and the variety of courses being offered. She stated that as of today 84% of the teaching staff have registered for the courses.

Board Representative Report – No reports

Adjournment

Mr. Ellis adjourned the meeting at 8:49 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 – 12/16/08