

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 27, 2009

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 27, 2009 in the Community Board Room at 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, Mr. Peter Ruppert, and Mrs. A. Michelle Rabideau

Absent: Mr. Robert Minnema

Administration: Dr. Sara Shubel, Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Wendy VanZegeren, Mrs. Heidi Christiansen, Mrs. Jenny Fee, Mr. Peter Stuursma, and Mrs. Jann VanAirsdale

Meeting Called to Order

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

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments - Mr. Cameron Papp of 2929 Bonnell SE wanted to mention that we should use electricity balls so we don't pollute the world.

Recognition of:

Lakeside 3rd Grade Math Team - Dr. Shubel, Mr. Pullen and Mr. Mitten
Mr. Pullen outlined for the Board the concept of the math team and stated this is a national competition. This group had perfect scores throughout the year and was the only team in the nation to do so. The students were presented with certificates of recognition and shook each Board members hand. Two students had perfect scores individually - Julia Blanchard and Ben Forstner.

Board Secretary's Report Communications to and from the Board - Mrs. Trierweiler
No report this month.

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High School Student Council President's Report – Mr. Charlie Wondergem

Mr. Charlie Wondergem, Executive Board Treasurer, filled in for Mr. Sam Wohns. He noted that the freshman class is having a clothing drive for their service project, the sophomore class sponsored a flashlight foot race which was a financial success. They donated half to the class fund and half to Habitat. He stated that officer elections were held last week and results will be announced in a few days. Also a reminder that prom tickets are on sale this week.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Nancy McSkimming

Mrs. McSkimming stated that this is her last meeting. Shelly Schram will take over as President of the Association as of May. She thanked the Board for the meetings and noted that this is a very unique district that encourages involvement between administration and teachers. She commended the Board for encouraging teachers to be involved in developing professional development days, curriculum and representation on the budget committee.

Mr. Ellis stated that Item #16 will be moved up at this time.

Other Action Items:

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

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.

Mrs. Ridenour moved to accept the grants awarded by the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation as listed in Enclosure #16 and to thank the Foundation for its generous support of East Grand Rapids Schools. Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Mrs. Betsy Raymond reviewed the various grants awarded this spring. Motion passed 6-0.

Information Items:

K-12 Science Update – Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, Mr. Bill Trapp, Mr. Mike Arthur, Mrs. Laurie Potter, Mrs. Emily Jo Ziemba and Mrs. Betsy Anderson (Enclosure #8)

Mrs. Glowicki introduced the members of the committee in addition to the people named above. She and various committee members outlined the work of the committee. There were questions from the Board. Mrs. Glowicki thanked each member of the committee for their work and their passion to science.

Facilities Update – Mr. Steve Edison

Mr. Edison reported that work on the plaza and concrete work will begin to show progress. He noted that we are on budget and on time. The 2006 bond proposal contingency money is almost all used. The 2007 bond has 80% of the project completed with money left in contingency funds. Memorial Field will be ready for graduation.

Fall 2008 Grades 3-9 MEAP Report – Mr. Doug Jenkins (Enclosure #10)

Mr. Jenkins reviewed the finally embargoed MEAP scores. He discussed changes in the MEAP, gave an overview of guided school improvement and presented IGOR (Information Gathering to Obtain Results). There were questions from the Board following his presentation.

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First Reading of New Policy #4455 (Wellness) - Mr. Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #11)

Mr. Philipps and Mrs. Trierweiler stated this is a policy we must have by law. We already are doing everything in the policy, but now we have documentation of our expectations. This policy will be brought before the Board for approval at the next meeting in May.

Budget Update and Budget Committee 2009-2010 Recommendations - Mr. Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #12)

Mr. Philipps presented a power-point of the work of the budget committee and also presented and reviewed the recommendations of the committee. The recommendations will also be reviewed at the various PTA meetings, building staff meetings and the community for input. The final vote will be taken by the Board at the June 8th meeting. He thanked the Budget Committee for their work and professionalism. There were questions and discussion by the Board.

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 13 through 15.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 3/19/09 (Enclosure #13)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING of 4/20/09 (Enclosure #14)

Approval of Payment of Bills for March 2009 (Enclosure #15)

Mrs. Ridenour moved to approve consent agenda items #13-15. Mr. Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Other Action Items:

Approval of the Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract Extension (Enclosure #17)

The Board conducted the annual evaluation of Dr. Shubel on April 20, 2009. They reviewed the Superintendent's goals and her performance. Mr. Ellis, Board President, will present a summary evaluation for Board approval. Mr. Ellis stated that the Board and Dr. Shubel had in depth conversation and a review of the goals and progress made this year towards those goals

Mr. Ellis moved to approve the Superintendent's Evaluation and extend her contract by a year to June 30, 2012. Mrs. Rabideau seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent

We the People Update - Dr. Shubel stated that the We the People team was phenomenal during their hearings in Washington, DC. This evening they are still waiting to hear how they did in the national competition. She noted that the whole team was very well prepared and also very

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composed and calm under all the pressure. She also said that the team receives much support from their families and that the hearing rooms are packed every time with standing room only! Janice Yates was able to spend some time with Justice John Roberts and he also met for about 20 minutes with the rest of the team. Thanks to Libby Southworth for writing the letter to Justice Roberts asking for the meeting with Mrs. Yates.

May Dates of Importance – Dr. Shubel noted that each Board member received a handout in their supplemental information folders with important dates for May.

Retirement Numbers – We have eight teachers and three support staff retiring this year. Six of the teachers are from the elementary grades and two are from the high school. Dr. Shubel said that the district is losing experience as these staff members walk out the door, and that the same can be said for the support staff that are retiring.

Elementary Updates – Breton Downs Odyssey of the Mind – This team placed first at the regional competition and 10th overall at the state competition. For a first time team, this is quite an accomplishment. At Lakeside they held a Hike for Hunger, in cooperation with Food Basket for Kids and raised \$6,968.00 to provide evening meals for low income GRPS students. Mrs. Kehm stated that the students felt very connected to this particular fundraiser.

Assistant Superintendent of Business – No further reports

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Y5-K Transition – Mrs. Glowicki reported that there were two meetings for parents last week – one in the morning and one in the evening. She said it was exciting that so many first time parents attended. She noted that currently the numbers look strong.

Board Representative Report

Adjournment

Mr. Ellis adjourned the meeting at 9:28 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-04/28/09