

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

## **EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Kent County, Michigan

### **SPECIAL MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education**

Community Board Room at the James E. Morse Administration Center at Woodcliff, 2915 Hall Street SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**Tuesday, April 26, 2011**

### **MINUTES**

The **SPECIAL MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, in the Community Board Room of the James E. Morse Administration Center at Woodcliff, 2915 Hall St., SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Present: Brian Ellis, Steve Edison, Stacy Trierweiler, Michelle Rabideau, Peter Ruppert, Robert Minnema

Absent: Julie Ridenour

Administration: Dr. Sara Magaña Shubel, Jeanne Glowicki, Kevin Philipps, Kathy Wisniewski, Doug Jenkins, Jenny Fee, Craig Weigel, Peter Stuursma, Anthony Morey, Caroline Breault-Cannon, Heidi Sunderhaft

#### Meeting Called to Order

President Ellis called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Acknowledgment of Guests – None

Public Comments – None

#### **ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA**

##### Acceptance of Grants from the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation (Enclosure #4)

Dr. Shubel reported that over \$80,000 in grants were awarded this school year, with over \$40,000 for the spring cycle. Much support was provided in the area of technology, with iPads granted for high school, Smartboards, music grants, and various others. In addition to the projected funds to be awarded through the Foundation, there was an additional \$20,000 available through funds raised during *Hurrah!* The District is appreciative of the support from the Foundation.

Member Edison moved to accept grants from the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation as described in Enclosure #4. Member Minnema seconded the motion.

Member Rabideau arrived at 5:05 p.m.

A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board.

Motion passed 6-0.

#### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

##### Budget Work Session

Kevin Philipps presented the 2011-2012 Budget Update & Budget Reduction Recommendations. In following our Strategic Plan and Mission Statement as we develop a budget, we are doing our best to maintain our vision. With the Governor's proposed projection, EGRPS is facing a \$2 million budget deficit for 2011-2012. Key assumptions were described. Philipps reported on the Governor's Proposal vs. House/Senate, with unknown budget variables including health insurance. The guiding principles for budget reduction recommendations were to maximize efficiencies and cost reductions that do not result in the loss of programs and opportunities for students. Recommendations were prioritized and segmented into four groups of approximately \$250,000 each.

Group 1 Reductions include: Accounting Supervisor reduced to 1/3 position, elimination of Energy Manager, a 20% health benefit contribution by administration, increasing high school Pay-to-Play fees, reducing regional/state athletic tournament expenses, Director of Guidance retirement replaced with counselor, savings with occupational therapist retirement, and a reduction in high school special education staff by 1.0 FTE.

Group 2 Reductions include: Elimination of district-wide media center specialist, elimination of building technology coordinators, 20% reduction in PAC management costs, combining male and female choir at the middle school, and a reduction of elementary reading support from 4.0 to 3.0.

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Group 3 Reductions include: Building budget reductions, a reduction of elementary resource room teaching staff from 3.0 to 2.0, elimination of middle school athletics subsidy, discontinue funding support for Youth Development.

Group 4 Reductions include: Elimination of elementary classroom paraeducators, elimination of media center paraeducators, reduction of Technology Director to 0.7 FTE with assessment duties to Asst Supt of Instruction, and reduction of technology staff by 1.0 FTE.

Projected budgets at each group with fund balance percentage contributions were reviewed. Kevin summarized the budget reduction recommendations brought forward include maximizing the available efficiencies that avoid cuts to programs, the use of the fund balance being at a higher level than has been considered in a long time. All reductions are painful and disappointing to have to consider as a result of the decisions in Lansing. Despite the continued reductions, once again, an excellent educational program will be maintained next year for our students.

A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board. Board members commented on the legislative issues that need to be addressed and commended the administration for their efforts in making decisions to minimize the impact on students in our district.

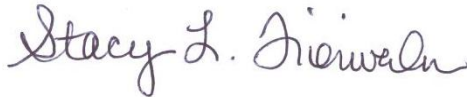
President Ellis announced that Dr. Shubel's Superintendent Evaluation will be held in closed session this evening.

Dr. Shubel reminded everyone to vote in the School Board Election on Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Ellis adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Trierweiler, Secretary  
East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education

\* Minutes for this meeting will be available in the Superintendent's Office at 2915 Hall St. SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.  
The phone number is 235-3535.

\*\* 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.