

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

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

Monday, January 9, 2012

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, January 9, 2012, 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: Brian Ellis, Steve Edison, Bob Minnema, Peter Ruppert, Beth Milanowski, Susan Levine

Absent: Michelle Rabideau

Administration: Dr. Sara Magaña Shubel, Jeanne Glowicki, Kevin Philipps, Kathy Wisniewski, Doug Jenkins, Jenny Fee, Craig Weigel, Lori Johnston, Peter Stuursma, Bill Behrendt, Caroline Breault-Cannon, Linda Kehm, Anthony Morey

Meeting Called to Order

President Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Acknowledgment of Guests – None.

Public Comments – None.

Board Secretary's Report: Communications to and from the Board – Steve Edison

The Board received a thank you from Alisha Myers for the Schuler gift card on the birth of her daughter, Adalyn. The Board received communication from Charles and Maureen Paluska on technology.

Member Rabideau arrived at 6:03 p.m.

High School Student Council President's Report

Ian Kelly, Senior Class President, reported that the Student Council completed a successful Food Drive, providing food to 63 families, with the largest amount of food collected this year in relation to the past few years. Student Council is working towards reinstating Kabookie Week, the week of February 6. The Blood Drive is planned for February 9, 2012.

ACTION ITEM

Approval of Refunding of Bonds – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #6)

Background: The district has the opportunity to refund \$13 million in bonds from the 2001 bond sale. In October, the Board of Education granted approval to administration to refund bonds as long as at least 3% Net Present Value savings were realized. Administration chose to refund the \$13 million in bonds, realizing a little over 14% in Net Present Value Savings. To finalize this refunding, the Board is asked to approve a ratification resolution. The Finance Committee and Superintendent have reviewed the refunding results and recommend supporting the resolution.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the ratification resolution as presented by the Finance Committee and Superintendent.

Kevin Phillips introduced Jeff Zylstra from Fifth Third Securities and Jeff Soles from Thrun Law Firm who provided detailed information and an explanation of the refunding of bonds. A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board.

Member Minnema moved to approve the ratification resolution as presented by the Finance Committee, Thrun, and 5/3 Bank. Member Rabideau seconded the motion. A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board.

Roll Call Vote: Ellis-Yes, Minnema-Yes, Edison-Yes, Rabideau-Yes, Ruppert-Yes, Milanowski-Yes, Levine-Yes. Motion passed 7-0.

The Board took a brief recess for a full board group photo to be taken by the high school yearbook staff.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

Recognition of Former East Grand Rapids Board of Education Member, Julie Ridenour – Brian Ellis and Dr. Shubel
Julie Ridenour, former board member, was recognized for her past six years of service to the Board. Julie was not able to attend tonight's meeting; therefore, President Ellis stated that he and Dr. Shubel will meet with Julie individually to present her with a gift of appreciation.

Recognition of East Grand Rapids Board of Education Members for *School Board Recognition Month* January 2012
Dr. Shubel (Enclosure #8)

Dr. Shubel recognized and thanked the board members for their dedication and all of the work they do on behalf of our community, students, and staff. A book was presented to the board members as a gift of appreciation.

Budget Survey – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #9)

Kevin Philipps presented an overview of the budget process, providing results from the online budget survey. Community and staff priority rankings indicating the support and areas of importance of programs and staffing were detailed as can be seen in Enclosure #9. The overall satisfaction ranking by the community and staff in the likelihood of recommending EGRPS to a colleague or friend represented an overwhelming positive result.

Philipps detailed feedback received from the eight focus groups that were hosted by the district. Feedback on the strengths and suggested areas of improvement of the district were provided, as well as ideas to resolve the budget deficit. In summary, the results represented tremendous pride and appreciation for the district and the education it provides students, and an overall satisfaction with EGRPS schools. Administration and the Board believe there is an improved awareness in the community of the critical decisions that need to be made as the budget is developed.

A discussion was held with questions and answers from 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 the items in the Consent Agenda, Numbers 10-16.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 12/05/2011 (Enclosure #10)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 12/12/2011 – Curriculum Work Session (Enclosure #11)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 12/12/2011 – Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation (Enclosure #12)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 12/13/2011 – Board Vacancy (Enclosure #13)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 12/14/2011 – Board Vacancy (Enclosure #14)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 12/15/2011 – Swearing In of Board Member (Enclosure #15)

Approval of Payment of Bills for November and December 2011 (Enclosure #16)

Member Edison moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 10-16. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

1:1 Communication Plan (Engage Initiative) – Dr. Shubel (Enclosure #17)

Background: Research into the use of 1:1 technology in classrooms began five years ago, culminating in the addition of 21st Century skills and 1:1 technology access to the district's 2009-2013 Strategic Plan and three years of pilot classrooms. Data supports the success of the initiative in our district.

Recommendation: Motion to implement 1:1 technology in grade 3-12 classrooms throughout the district which will take place in increments through the 2014-2015 school year.

Dr. Shubel provided rationale and support for the 1:1 Engage initiative. She reported that it is fair to say that our students are using technology outside of school; however, it is not accurate to say that they are all using technology at a *high level to perform complex tasks*. By engaging in the 1:1 initiative, we hope to promote the integration of digital devices into the classroom experience as part of the new normal for day-to-day teaching and learning.

Member Minnema moved to implement the technology initiative as described in the resolution in Enclosure #17 in Grades 3-12 throughout the district in phases through the 2014-2015 school year. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board. Board members commended the administration and staff for pushing forward to take the district to a higher level with this initiative. Motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

None.

Assistant Supt. of Business

Kevin Philipps reported on the State Aid Update, reporting that the January Revenue Conference will be held on Friday, January 13. He reported on statements made by the Governor and House Speaker in that they are "hopeful" that no further cuts in base per pupil funding will be required. Both have expressed an interest to tie a portion of per pupil funding to "student growth." Both have discussed making changes to the school retirement system, probably very similar to the changes being made to state employees.

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

Assistant Supt. of Instruction

Jeanne Glowicki shared the excitement in preparation for the Martin Luther King celebration. Dr. Steve Robbins will be the keynote speaker at the celebration. Board members were invited to attend.

A Professional Development update was provided. There are close to 200 offerings, with 149 staff members already registered.

Board Representative Reports

President Ellis reported on the term changes with the Board of Education Election Cycle as presented in Enclosure #21. A decision will need to be made on whether to switch to 6-year terms or remain at 4-year terms. Background information was provided and a discussion was held among the Board. Board members were asked to consider the options and a vote will be taken on the cycle selected. The candidacy filing deadline for 2012 is August 14, 2012, at 4 p.m.

President Ellis welcomed newly appointed board member, Susan Levine, to her first board meeting this evening.

Member Ruppert thanked Administration for the recommendation results from the budget survey and mentioned the book, *The Ultimate Question* on understanding net promoter score and how to capture customer loyalty. He explained the formula for net promoter scores stating that the average company is at approximately a 20% satisfaction rate, and that anything above 50 is really good. The community responses generated a 63 net promoter score, which is really good. The staff recommendation rate represented 81% of staff as highly loyal, equating to a 72 net promoter score. Ruppert commended the leadership of administration and staff.

Member Rabideau reported that the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation held a special meeting prior to the school board meeting to move forward in partnership with the district to launch a campaign called *EGR NOW* in direct response to the community and staff saying, "What can we do to help *now*." Meetings were held, a campaign was initiated, and all EGR community members are asked to voluntarily donate to this campaign.

Member Rabideau provided an update on events of East Grand Rapids Leadership and Youth Development (EGRLYD). Two interns from GVSU officially started last week. An Open House was held, and a kick-off of all programs that were eliminated due to budget cuts was accomplished. The program is strong and continues to move forward.

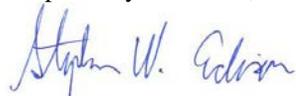
Adjournment

President Ellis announced the next board meeting will be held February 13, 2012, 6:00 p.m., in the Community Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

President Ellis adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen W. Edison, 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.