

## **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, May 20, 2013**

### **MINUTES**

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, May 20, 2013, 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: Michelle Rabideau, Brian Ellis, Beth Milanowski, Susan Levine, Bob Minnema, Steve Edison, Elizabeth Welch Lykins

Absent: None

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

### **Meeting Called to Order**

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

### **Acknowledgment of Guests – None**

**Public Comments** – President Rabideau explained the ground rules and then opened the floor for public comments.

- Caroline Potteiger -1220 Woodshire Ave, Breton Downs student, commented on proposed budget reductions and provided students' artwork to the board.
- Phillip Blackport - 4646 Morningside – commented on proposed budget reductions.
- Jenny Frazier – 1750 Creekwood, Department Chair of World Languages, commented on proposed budget reductions.
- Steve Brinks - Middle school teacher, commented on proposed budget reductions.
- Kassiah Potter - high school senior, commented on proposed budget reductions.

### **Board Secretary's Report: Communications to and from the Board** – Beth Milanowski

- The Board sent communication to the EGR Community on current district budget issues.
- The Board received communication from the following persons on the proposed budget reductions and current district budget issues:
  - Susanne Albaitis
  - Kathleen Bruinsma
  - Lucia Falek
  - Jenny Frazier & K-12 World Language Team
  - Kindergarten Teachers
  - Angie Horjus
  - Holly Lampen
  - Patrick O'Connor
  - Sue Reahm
  - Richard Russo
  - Matthew Schroeder
  - Prof. Jo-Ann VanReeuwijk
  - Betsy Wilson

### **High School Student Council President's Report**

Karl Schneider, Senior Class President, thanked the board for welcoming his reports during the school year. He reported that prom was held last weekend, was well planned, and students had a great time. Everyone is looking forward to Baccalaureate and Graduation. Sally Marsh was introduced as the Executive President for the 2013-2014 school year. Schneider plans to attend MSU and will always remember EGR as the place he grew up and thanked the administrators and teachers for their work throughout the year.

Craig Weigel recognized Schneider for his leadership in helping to create a positive climate and culture in the high school. Weigel welcomed Sally Marsh in her new position.

President Rabideau thanked Schneider for his service and leadership.

President Rabideau congratulated Elizabeth Welch Lykins for being named PTA Council Member of the Year and publicly recognized her for her contributions to the EGRPS community.

### **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**

Recognition of Katie McIntosh - Dr. Shubel and Linda Kehm congratulated Katie McIntosh, Lakeside kindergarten teacher, on her recent selection in April as the Channel 17 *Teacher of the Week*. A certificate of recognition was presented to McIntosh on behalf of the board.

Recognition of Jill Fouch - Dr. Shubel and Peter Stuursma congratulated Jill Fouch, middle school special education teacher, on being named the Downs Syndrome Association of West Michigan *Teacher of the Year*. A certificate of recognition was presented to Fouch on behalf of the board.

Recognition of Dr. James Borst – Dr. Shubel and Jenny Fee congratulated Dr. James Borst, high school music teacher, on receiving the *John P. Varineau Outstanding Music Educator Award*. A certificate of recognition was presented to Borst on behalf of the board.

Recognition of Top ACT Scores: Anna Bair and Sam Forstner – Dr. Shubel and Jenny Fee congratulated Anna Bair and Sam Forstner on receiving a perfect ACT score of 36 and recognized their extracurricular activities and involvement.

#### Recognition of Wealthy Odyssey of the Mind State Championship

Dr. Shubel and Anthony Morey recognized the Wealthy Odyssey of the Mind students for their first place championship in the state competition. The students will compete in the national competition at Michigan State University.

#### Recognition of Lakeside 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Online Math Championship

Dr. Shubel and Linda Kehm recognized Kaitlin Ronda, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, and Lakeside's 4<sup>th</sup> grade online math team on their national championship.

Safety and Security Update – Anthony Morey and Jeff Crawford co-chaired the Safety and Security Committee. The committee's mission was presented. A history of ongoing safety practices was detailed and a comprehensive safety and security review process was outlined. Recommendations for implementation of additional safety measures were presented. Areas of focus include infrastructure, technology, procedures, and partnerships. Notable events throughout the process were explained, with a future meeting to be held with Mike Moll, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Dr. Shubel reported that the committee was charged with reviewing current practices, researching and providing both short and long term recommendations to the board. .

A discussion was held among 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 13-16.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 4/15/2013 (Enclosure #13)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 4/23/2013 – Supt. Evaluation (Enclosure #14)

Approval of Payment of Bills for April 2013 (Enclosure #15)

Approval of Proposed Social Studies and Integration of Common Core (Enclosure #16)

Member Milanowski moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 13-16. Member Welch Lykins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### **OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of KIASB Proposed Bylaw Changes (Enclosure #17)

Background: The KIASB Board of Directors requests approval on the proposed bylaw changes as presented in Enclosure #17.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the KIASB bylaw changes as presented in Enclosure #17.

Member Minnema moved to approve the KIASB Board of Directors Proposed Bylaw Changes as presented in Enclosure #17. Member Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Resolution of Kent ISD School Board Election (Enclosure #18)

President Rabideau provided background information regarding the Kent ISD School Board Election. Under Section 614(2) of the Revised School Code, the Board adopts the resolution of the Kent ISD School Board Election for the purpose of designating a voting delegate and alternate from each constituent district as described in Enclosure #18.

Member Ellis moved to elect Member Edison to approve the Kent ISD School Board Election Resolution designating Member Edison as a representative as described in Enclosure #18. An alternate was not designated. A discussion was held among the board. Member Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of KISD Budget for 2013-2014 (Enclosure #19)

The State of Michigan requires that local school boards review their ISD's proposed budget and act in support or non-support of the budget. The Finance Committee has discussed the KISD 2013-2014 budget and recommends support.

Member Levine moved to support the KISD 2013-2014 budget as presented in Enclosure #19. Member Edison seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the Board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of the Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract Extension

The board conducted the annual evaluation of Dr. Shubel on April 23, 2013. After a very thorough review, the board deemed Dr. Shubel to be highly effective. While everyone recognizes that this is a very difficult financial environment, Dr. Shubel is still able to move our district forward with her team. Based on those factors, the board is recommending that we extend Dr. Shubel's contract by one year to June 30, 2016.

President Edison moved to approve the Superintendent's Evaluation and extend her contract by one year to June 30, 2016. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Superintendent

Dr. Shubel announced that there are nine staff members in the district who will be receiving tenure this year as listed in Enclosure #21.

Dr. Shubel announced upcoming dates of:

- Baccalaureate - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at Fountain Street Church
- High School Graduation Ceremony – Thursday, May 23, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Field

Dr. Shubel shared that a complaint was filed with the Michigan Department of Education regarding the district's special education program. The complaint was filed by East Grand Rapids resident, Mr. Galen De Young. The special education allegations were investigated by the MDE and KISD and all allegations were dismissed. Mr. De Young then filed an appeal which was also denied. Two evolutions of recourse have transpired and no actions or directives were appointed by the MDE for our district. The MDE Office of Special Education has taken the necessary steps to officially close this case. Special education is a program that is extremely regulated at the federal, state, and county level and sometimes this can be perplexing to individuals who are not involved in the special education arena. As a district, we are held liable for providing services for *all* students and we take that very seriously. We are obligated to follow strict laws and guidelines with regard to special education. Dr. Shubel reported that she is confident that we are providing the appropriate services to our students. We have processes and procedures in place, student study teams at all levels, general education interventions, and special education programs and services, all of which focus on what is best for the students' development. Dr. Shubel thanked the teachers and administration for taking pride in providing a wonderful learning environment for our students. A discussion was held among the board.

Dr. Shubel shared background information on school rankings, local, state, and national rankings and what they all mean. With most of these rankings, there has been no prior knowledge of the criteria used in the ranking. The lists can be as diverse as the MDE *Top to Bottom* list, *GR Magazine* ranking districts in West Michigan, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, etc. Our rankings on these lists have varied from year to year. In general, our rankings have remained strong. As a result of the multiple rankings, we are always cautious of and mindful to not define our successes solely from one perspective. We believe these publications, whether local, state, or national provide us with opportunities for reflection, comparison, and exploration as we continually seek new pathways to improve the teaching and learning experiences for our students and staff. A discussion was held among the board.

Dr. Shubel shared that she has been invited to attend an ASCD Study Tour in September 2013 to Hong Kong. ASCD will cover all expenses connected to this study tour. The intent is to learn about the policies and practices of their educational systems. Dr. Shubel provided background information on ASCD. A discussion was held among the board, and the board shared that they appreciate what Dr. Shubel brings to EGRPS through this organization and support her in this opportunity.

Dr. Shubel reported that the School News Network, [www.schoolnewsnetwork.org](http://www.schoolnewsnetwork.org), is a site which will be updated regularly with educational stories of interest occurring in all Kent County schools. In particular, we are excited to be able to share stories showcasing East Grand Rapids Public Schools which highlight the multiple teaching and learning opportunities our students and staff are engaged in on a regular basis throughout the school year.

Dr. Shubel announced that the PTA Luncheon was held today with a roomful of parents who have dedicated their entire year running school events, meetings, and fundraisers, and she expressed her gratitude for the continued commitment and support the schools receive from this group.

#### Assistant Supt. of Business

Kevin Philipps provided an overview of the State Budget Update. May Revenue Conference information was detailed. The state school aid budget could be wrapped up this week. Further information will be shared at the Budget Hearing on June 3, 2013.

Philipps shared that six teachers have elected to participate in the Early Retirement Incentive: Canny Gould, Maureen Hart, Kathy Cragwall, Mary Follett, Becky Schmidt, and Stephanie Perl. These retirements will result in a savings of \$225,000 through the 2013-2014 school year. A similar retirement incentive offer was considered for administrative personnel, and the Finance Committee has recommended that we do not move forward with an Early Retirement Incentive for administration.

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

Philipps announced the Budget Hearing to be held on June 3, 2013, at 5:30 p.m., with final budget adoption at the regular meeting on June 10, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.

#### Assistant Supt. of Instruction

Jeanne Glowicki provided an update on Summer Learning, to be held June 17-28, with staff members participating in learning opportunities. This is an extension of their learning, and opportunities through federal title funds will allow for some staff members to attend national conferences.

#### Board Representative Reports

Member Ellis provided an explanation of the KIASB Board of Directors election. Each board member received a ballot. Ellis has served on the KIASB board with Tim Detweiler and Andrea Haidle and feel they are knowledgeable on legislative and other issues. Jim Turner from Lowell is also known by Member Ellis, and he advised members to vote for incumbent. Board members may sign a ballot and return it to Judie Malec for submission to KISD.

President Rabideau announced the Budget Hearing, to be held on June 3, 2013, at 5:30 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Milanowski, 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.