

Our Mission

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

EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kent County, Michigan

BUDGET HEARING/REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education

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

Monday, June 2, 2014

MINUTES

The **BUDGET HEARING/REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, June 2, 2014, 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, Steve Edison, Beth Milanowski, Susan Levine, Elizabeth Welch Lykins, Bob Wolford, Natalie Bernecker

Absent: None

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

Meeting Called to Order

President Rabideau called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Acknowledgment of Guests – None

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

- The Board received communication from Peter & Gayle Knibbe on special education.
- Member Rabideau shared that each board member received a comprehensive response to special education concerns.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Recognition of *We The People* – Unit 6 Participants

Jenny Fee recognized the Unit 6 *We The People* participants for placing first in the nation on the first two days of competition. They also had the highest score on Top Ten Day in the National *We The People* Competition in Washington, D.C. Members of Unit 6 included: Symphoene Montgomery, Ian Berkelaar, Poshita Nigam, Olivia Paschall, Jack Conway, and Clare Schneider. Student coaches for Unit 6 were also recognized: Sally Marsh, Allison Birkbeck, Tim Blewett, and Olivia Kallil.

Budget Hearing: 2014-2015 General Fund Budget

Kevin Philipps presented on the Final Proposed Budget Amendment which is scheduled for a vote by the board at the June 10 board meeting. The 2014-2015 Budget Proposals were presented, as well as Other Budget Assumptions. A comparison of 2014-2015 projected revenues as compared to 2013-2014 was shared. Philipps shared the Future Years Forecast through 2016-2017. He provided a history of State Funding and Personnel Expense Trends.

At 6:02 p.m., as additional students arrived for the *We The People* recognition, the board paused from the Budget Hearing and congratulated the Unit 6 participants.

Philipps continued with the budget presentation, reporting on the history of Budget Reductions and the Use of Fund Balance, Bulletin 1014 3-Year Trend, and Key Variables for the future were discussed.

A discussion was held among the board. Member Wolford shared that the district will experience utilities cost savings if the high school boiler is installed this upcoming school year. Member Edison expressed his concern for the 2015-2016 school year due to the lack of state funding. He reported that the community needs to encourage candidates running for election in the state of Michigan to re-energize funding for local school districts.

Philipps shared that the district's credit rating came in today and reflected a downgrade from AA to AA-, which may influence interest rates this week. Member Edison requested information on the projected cost to the district.

President Rabideau shared that it is a relief to not be considering budget cuts in the district as compared to the past several years.

Public Comments

Bob Wolford, current EGRPS Board of Education trustee, publicly announced his candidacy for a retained board seat in the November school board election. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve with the current board and to represent the community.

Natalie Bernecker, current EGRPS Board of Education trustee, publicly announced her candidate for a retrained board seat in the November school board election. She expressed her appreciation and enjoyment in serving on the board and looks forward to continued learning and representing the community.

Board of Education Discussion

President Rabideau announced that four seats will be open on the EGRPS Board of Education in the upcoming November election. Three 4-year terms, and one 2-year term will be filled. Applications for Candidacy are due July 22, 2014.

Member Milanowski left the meeting at 6:34 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 item in the Consent Agenda, Numbers 8 through 9.

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 05/14/2014 (Enclosure #8)

Approval of Proposed AP Physics C (Enclosure #9)

Member Edison moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 8-9. Member Welch Lykins seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Authority Levels for 2014 Bond Program – Kevin Philipps

Background: During our last bond programs in 2006 and 2007, the Board and Administration developed a hierarchy of authority levels to approve purchases and change orders for those bond programs. In 2006 and 2007, administration had the authority to spend up to \$50,000, the Facilities Committee had the authority to approve expenditures between \$50,000 and \$150,000, and anything over \$150,000 had to be approved by the full Board of Education. Administration is requesting the Board to set authority levels for the 2014 Bond Program.

Recommendation: Motion to confirm the authority levels that were utilized for the 2006/2007 Bond Programs is implemented for the 2014 Bond Program as recommended by the Facilities Committee.

Kevin Philipps provided background information on the Approval of Authority Levels for the 2014 Bond Program.

Member Edison moved to confirm the authority levels for the 2014 Bond Program as recommended by the Facilities Committee. Member Levine seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Member Wolford shared that the Facilities Committee discussed considering raising the authority levels considering inflation from 2006 and 2007. Edison moved to amend the motion to increase administrative changes on authority levels to \$75,000, and hold \$150,000 as the administrative cap for expenditures. Motion passed 6-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Shubel shared reflections and celebrations of the school year. Mike Reid was present in the audience this evening, and Dr. Shubel shared that he participated with her at the IB Conference in an amazing learning opportunity.

Assistant Superintendent of Business

None.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

None.

Board Member Reports

Communications Committee – No reports.

Facilities Committee – Member Edison reported on the construction taking place at the Canepa tennis courts. The committee met to discuss the bond projects with architects and the construction team last week and put together a plan and talked about accelerating the installation of the boiler at the high school. Phase I conceptual drawings will be completed by the end of November to receive pricing and bids. Edison shared that Doug Jenkins went through the initial round of technology purchases and explained what can be implemented prior to next school year.

Finance Committee – No reports.

Joint Facilities Committee – No reports.

Legislative Liaison Committee – Member Welch Lykins announced the date of a Candidate Forum to be held on June 17 at Kent ISD for all candidates running in the primary election in November.

Personnel Committee – President Rabideau reported that the committee met to discuss possible scenarios for the 2014-2015 school year.

Policy Review Committee – No reports.

Liaisons

EGR Schools Foundation – Member Bernecker reported that the Foundation raised \$139,000 and will continue to hold the fundraiser through the end of this week. She encouraged everyone to go online to donate, and any amount is appreciated.

Community Action Council – No reports.

PTO Council – No reports.

Parks & Recreation – No reports.

Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC) – No reports.

Leadership & Youth Development (LYD) – No reports.

Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE) – No reports.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the High School Little Auditorium.

ADJOURNMENT

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 6:45 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.