

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, September 23, 2013

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, September 23, 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, Steve Edison, Bob Wolford

Absent: Elizabeth Welch Lykins

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

Meeting Called to Order

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

Acknowledgment of Guests – President Rabideau welcomed State Representative Winnie Brinks, and President Rabideau's father, Rod Parmley, who was in Grand Rapids visiting family.

Public Comments – None

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

- The Board received a Thank You from Erika Iannuzzi for the Schuler gift card on the birth of her son, Dominic James.
- The Board received communication from Anne Risch on school suspensions.
- The Board received an article shared by Peter Ruppert on American Education.

Elizabeth Welch Lykins arrived at 6:02 p.m.

High School Student Council President's Report

Sally Marsh, Senior Class President, reported that the Student Council is involved in Homecoming preparations. Seniors will vote on the homecoming court, and spirit days will take place. Classes are building floats for the parade and everyone is looking forward to the football game. This year's Homecoming theme is *Wonders of the World*.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Recognition of Former Board Member, Robert Minnema

President Rabideau recognized former board member, Robert Minnema, for his five years of service to the East Grand Rapids Board of Education. Rabideau shared the sentiments of fellow board members that describe Minnema which summarized his dedication and true passion and commitment for every student. Rabideau thanked Minnema for his service as a board member and continued commitment to East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Dr. Shubel also recognized Minnema and thanked him for his service. Member Ellis also recognized Minnema for his sound advice, his incredible contributions to the board, and wished to publicly thank him.

Recognition of Top ACT Score – Nick Emery

Lori Johnston, High School Guidance Director, and Jenny Fee, High School Principal, recognized Nick Emery for his accomplishments in earning a perfect ACT score. Nick was congratulated by the board and presented with a certificate of recognition.

Recognition of National Merit Semi-Finalists

Lori Johnston and Jenny Fee recognized Sam Adams, Anna Bair, Olivia Brinks, Sam Forstner, Max Paluska, and Emma Vargo for their accomplishments in becoming National Merit Semi-Finalists. These students were congratulated by the board and presented with a certificate of recognition.

Recognition of Girls Lacrosse 2013 MHSAA Division 2 State Championship

The board and administration recognized the Girls Lacrosse Spring 2013 MHSAA Division 2 State Championship team for their accomplishments. Certificates of recognition will be provided to Tim Johnston, Director of Athletics, to send to the athletes. This is the 121st State Championship for East Grand Rapids.

Safety/Security Presentation

Chief Mark Herald, EGR Department of Public Safety, presented on safety and security as an ongoing process in our schools and reported on where we are in the planning process, as well as the work in progress. Working in conjunction with the East Grand Rapids Public Schools and East Grand Rapids Department of Public Safety, active shooter training was conducted in one of our school buildings. Chief Herald noted that dealing with this topic is tough, and a balance is necessary to keep our students and community safe. He commended our administration on their efforts in maintaining and improving safety/security measures for students and staff and on their willingness to promote such a great relationship with the public safety department. Captain Chuck Lark, and Captain Brian Williams were also present.

A discussion was held among the board. Member Ellis complimented administration and the East Grand Rapids Department of Public Safety for the collaborative efforts in coming up with a reasonable balance. Dr. Shubel reported on the focus of keeping our staff and students safe and appreciates the discussions about what is appropriate for a school setting and coming to terms with what is best for East Grand Rapids as we move forward. Dr. Shubel recognized the collaborative efforts and the work involved over the summer to move forward with our safety and security measures.

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 10-11.

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 9/10/2013 (Enclosure #10)

Delegate Representatives to MASB Fall Conference Delegate Assembly--President Rabideau

The Michigan Association of School Boards' 2013 Delegate Assembly is meeting for the annual 2013 Fall Conference at the Lansing Center on October 24, 2013. Three delegates may be appointed to represent the East Grand Rapids Board of Education. Due to schedule unavailability, EGRPS has chosen not to elect a board member as a delegate at the MASB 2013 Delegate Assembly.

Member Edison moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 10-11. Member Levine seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Superintendent Goals for 2013-2014 (Enclosure #12)

Background: The Superintendent Goals for 2013-2014 are presented.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the finalized Superintendent's Goals for 2013-2014 per Enclosure #12.

Member Levine moved to approve the Superintendent's Goals for 2013-2014 per Enclosure #12. Member Welch Lykins seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Member Edison asked if a facilities fiscal plan should be in place as a separate item in the goals. Dr. Shubel indicated that the facilities fiscal plan is inclusive in the Strategic Planning goal. Member Levine reported that MDE mandates are not listed separately in the goals but wanted to recognize that Dr. Shubel and the administrative team do a tremendous job of keeping up with MDE mandates and recommendations which consumes a great deal of time. Levine reported that we are always on top of these policies and mandates and properly responsive. Member Edison expressed how impressed he is with the IB program. He also reported that Dr. Shubel's goals are not just reactive to what is happening in Lansing; rather the focus remains on our long-term goals for our students and ways to improve and raise the bar in spite of the financial condition of our state. Motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

- 2013-2014 School Year (HS Staff Appreciation Video)

A video was shared with the board that was coordinated by Jenny Fee, High School Principal, and Craig Weigel, High School Assistant Principal. Weigel thanked Dave McKenzie for his time and talent in producing the video. Dr. Shubel commented that the sentiments from the video regarding the high school teachers could be replicated throughout every one of our school buildings.

- **ASCD Hong Kong Study Tour**

Dr. Shubel expressed her gratitude to the board for their support of her participation in this opportunity to grow and learn and bring the information back to EGRPS through the ASCD study tour. Dr. Shubel shared that, through this tour, it affirmed the work that we have been doing here in EGRPS for the past 10 years to get us where we are now. It is hard work but it is preparing our students to be global citizens. Our staff is well prepared to help our students succeed. Several schools were visited, from schools with high achieving students to schools with at risk students. The technology they are using is similar to EGRPS. Curriculum, assessments, accountability systems, and teacher evaluations are topics being addressed in Hong Kong similarly to our schools. As educators, we not only need to consider what we might learn from other teachers and leaders in other countries but also the social and economical comparisons, looking at the entire picture. The more we take advantage of opportunities to learn alongside others who have very different perspectives will allow us to become further educated. With the advancements in technology in such a short span of time, we have all become virtual next door neighbors. We see this in our classroom with the influence of technology and how this has significantly changed how we interact and work with people, how we are preparing our students for a rapidly changing future and how are we preparing our teachers.

President Rabideau acknowledged what an honor it is for our district to be represented by our superintendent through ASCD, allowing her to share the practices that we can learn from in global education systems. ASCD covered all expenses for this study tour.

Assistant Superintendent of Business

- None

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

- None

Board Member Reports

- President Rabideau reported that an ad hoc Communications Committee was formed. The board heard from the community on how we can improve the extensive communications that we already put out to the community. We will be looking for community members to serve as representatives on this committee and will form a communications plan to supplement what we are already doing.
- President Rabideau explained that board representatives to committees will present committee reports at upcoming meetings.

Facilities Committee- Member Edison reported that the Facilities Committee has not met yet this year but the focus will be on the long-term use of the Sinking Fund and making sure that we have that built into our current budget and in the coming years.

Finance Committee – Member Levine reported that the Finance Committee met last week and they have an agenda established for the full year. We are doing a superior job of managing our cash flow and financial opportunities. The expectation is that our revenues will be a little bit down and expenses will be down also. The fund balance is holding at 10% and the longer we can hold onto that fund balance, the stronger position we are in for the future. A lot of work was done in the spring and summer. As board treasurer, Levine was interviewed by the district’s auditors per common practice. During the conversation, the auditor complimented our district and our transparency. The auditor mentioned that if the auditors have numbers that do not mesh with ours, they question their own numbers for accuracy before questioning the district because of the district’s outstanding records and accuracy.

Joint Facilities Committee- President Rabideau reported that the Joint Facilities Committee approved proposed renovations of Remington Park, which will be known as Rusty Swaney Field. Funds of \$57,000 will come from the Joint Facilities while the community put forth \$170,000.

Legislative Liaison Committee – Member Edison reported that the Legislative Committee has moved away from having a large community event in the fall and is looking to have smaller groups and build some ground swell for what is needed in the spring. An upcoming meeting is scheduled and he will provide an update at the October board meeting.

Personnel Committee – President Rabideau reported there has not been a Personnel Committee meeting since early September in preparation of the September board meeting where a vote was held on contracts. She thanked all employee groups.

Policy Review Committee – President Rabideau reported that there has not been a meeting yet this school year.

LYD – Member Milanowski reported that LYD is a self-sustaining group that is moving forward with interns and parent volunteers. This group has been busy planning activities, and Milanowski is excited about the offerings made available to our students.

PASE – Member Welch Lykins reported that Kathy Wisniewski, Director of Special Education, presented an overview of PASE. Kent ISD holds meetings and funnels to district meetings.

President Rabideau announced the next meeting to be held on Monday, October 28, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Milanowski". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

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.

jmm 9/24/2013