

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, October 28, 2013

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, October 28, 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, Elizabeth Welch Lykins, Bob Wolford

Absent: None

Administration: Sara Magaña Shubel, Ph.D., Jeanne Glowicki, Kevin Philipps, Kathy Wisniewski, Doug Jenkins, Jenny Fee, Craig Weigel, Lori Johnston, Peter Stuursma, 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 – None

Public Comments

- Member Ellis announced his resignation as Vice President/Trustee of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education. He reported that he needs to direct his time and attention to his campaign for Congress. Ellis shared that he feels such pride in our teaching staff and in our administrators in EGRPS with the incredible job they do every day. He reported that we have a total team effort with teachers focused on students in the classroom, and a team of administrators and community supporting the teachers. Ellis also conveyed his appreciation and delights in working with each and every board member through the years and wished to especially recognize Dr. Shubel for her outstanding leadership and strengthening the team while taking our district to higher levels. Ellis expressed his sincere desire to represent the district and EGR community in another capacity in the future.

President Rabideau announced that the recognition of Member Ellis' service will be recognized independently, as a simple thank you is not sufficient. Dr. Shubel thanked Ellis for his years of service on the board and publicly read a personal letter of gratitude. Each board member thanked Ellis and shared their sentiments about him, reporting that he is the reason that many of the current members are serving on the board, recognizing his leadership, foresight, credible guidance, problem solving, passion, and vision for the district as the many ways he has served the East Grand Rapids community.

Member Ellis graciously accepted the sentiments from board members and thanked everyone for their comments. Following Member Ellis' resignation, he left the meeting as he is no longer eligible to serve in the capacity of board member.

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

- The Board received communication from Larry Fisher on the proposed naming of the high school pool.
- The Board received communication from Brian Ellis on his resignation as Vice President and Trustee of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education.

High School Student Council President's Report

Sally Marsh, Senior Class President, reported that the Student Council recently held homecoming and Hearts of Gold activities which made it an exciting time to be a member of the high school community. She shared that there were several nice articles on MLive about our EGR community. Student Council will focus on the Arts and Crafts Show fundraiser in November, as well as the Food Drive in December.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Recognition of East Grand Rapids Commended Students in the 2013 Merit Scholarship Competition (Enclosure #6)

Lori Johnston, Director of Guidance, and Jenny Fee, High School Principal, introduced the commended students in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Competition: Sydney Brougham, Laura Donohue, Sally Marsh, Patrick Nowak, and Olivia Paschall. The board and administration congratulated the students on their accomplishments and each commended student was presented with a certificate of recognition from the board.

First Reading of New and Revised Policies (Enclosure #7)

Dr. Shubel provided an explanation of the new and revised policies as listed in Enclosure #7. A discussion was held among the board. President Rabideau reported that this is an extremely comprehensive review of all of these policies and is a role of our Board of Education to ensure that our policies are up to date. The second and final reading will be brought forth at the next board meeting.

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 8-9.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 9/23/2013 (Enclosure #8)

Approval of Payment of Bills – September 2013 (Enclosure #9)

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

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

2012-2013 Audit Report (Enclosure #10) – Kevin Philipps

Background: The audit was completed by Maner Costerisan this fall. The Board Finance Committee reviewed the report and recommends that the Board of Education receive the 2012-2013 Audit Report.

Recommendation: Motion to receive the 2012-2013 Audit Report as presented and recommended by the Board Finance Committee and Superintendent.

Kevin Philipps presented the findings of the 2012-2013 audit report. Member Wolford, on behalf of the Finance Committee, recognized Philipps for his efforts, not only in the audit process, but in the whole budget process. Member Levine reported that the auditor commented on our budget numbers tying in very closely to our actual numbers and that our transparency is commendable. The auditor also commented on how we are “lean and mean” and called our audit “boring,” which is the highest compliment an organization can receive. Member Edison asked if there were any concerns about losing the ability of having the proper people in place for checks and balances. Philipps reported that the auditors are well aware of the budget restraints on school districts and does not have recommendations for making further reductions in this area.

Member Wolford moved to approve the 2012-2013 Audit Report as reviewed by the Board Finance Committee. Member Welch Lykins seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Philipps and board members commended the Business Office staff and administrative team for their continued efforts in achieving another successful audit report. President Rabideau indicated that the audit reports will be posted on the district website. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Resolution to Refinance Bonds, Approval of Underwriter, and Approval of Financial Advisors – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #11)

Background: The district has a potential opportunity to refinance up to \$29.6 million in bonds during the 2014 calendar year. \$12.95 million of those bonds would be a refunding of the 2004 bond sale, and the other \$16.65 million would be an advance refund of the 2006 bond sale. Market conditions are currently favorable for the 2004 bonds, and potentially the 2006 bonds, so Administration is presenting a resolution to provide authorization to refund those bonds. The Finance Committee and Superintendent have reviewed the resolution and recommend approval of the resolution.

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

Kevin provided an overview of the resolution in Enclosure #11.

Member Milanowski moved to approve the Resolution as presented in Enclosure #11. Member Levine seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 6-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

- None

Assistant Superintendent of Business

- None

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

- Jeanne Glowicki reported that the state is on the same agenda regarding Common Core. Senate approval has been received and it is now at the Governor's level.

Board Member Reports

Communications Committee – President Rabideau reported that the Communications Committee conducted a full audit of our communications throughout the district and individual buildings. She applauded the district on the thorough communications that are already in place. Further information regarding district communications will be sent to the community in the hopes of catching everyone's attention with key ways for parents and community members to receive communications. Rabideau shared that this is not anything new for many of us, but rather serves as a reminder of the multitude of communications already in place.

Facilities Committee – Edison reported that new information will be shared once the budget discussions begin.

Finance Committee – Levine - No additional reports.

Joint Facilities Committee – Rabideau - No additional reports.

Legislative Liaison Committee - Welch Lykins reported that a bill is proposed to move away from the "color coding" grading criteria for Michigan schools. She reported that there are deep concerns that the grading criteria will not necessarily be reflective of how schools actually perform.

Personnel Committee – Rabideau – No additional reports.

Policy Review Committee – Rabideau reported that 14 policies were reviewed by the committee, and further approval will be presented at the next board meeting.

Dr. Shubel wished to publicly thank Peter Stuursma for being a great football coach and shared that she had a great time at the *Hearts of Gold* football game celebrating the event with the students. She thanked Stuursma for the work that he does with students, and she also thanked Natalie Bernecker and the *Hearts of Gold* committee for all the efforts involved in holding such a successful event.

Member Rabideau reported on the need to appoint a replacement to the board by November 27, 2013. The board appointment shall run through December 31, 2014. If the person appointed wishes to continue on the board, s/he would need to run for election in 2014. The board vacancy will be posted on the district website tomorrow, with a deadline date of November 5 at noon for applicants to submit their letter of interest to serve on the board. A board meeting is tentatively set for November 20 to appoint a new board member.

Liaisons

EGR Schools Foundation – No additional reports.

Community Action Council – Levine reported that the Community Action Council has not yet met but the group plans to have two meetings this year.

PTO Council – Rabideau – No additional reports.

Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC) – Wolford reported that the SAC held its first meeting with a good discussion on Security and Safety and the intended roll-out with communication to parents. Productive feedback was received at this initial meeting.

Leadership & Youth Development (LYD) – Milanowski reported that LYD met this month and shared that Healthy High was hugely successful. Plans are underway to evaluate Healthy High and put changes in place for next year. The same chairs have committed for two more years. Team TATU and STEP are programs that have opened up to all grade levels this year.

Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE) – Welch Lykins reported that she and Kathy Wisniewski, Director of Special Education, met at Kent ISD this month with presenter, Kindy Segovia, Assistant Technology Coordinator. Time was spent talking about the collaboration with the ISD through their lending library and different technology tools available to our students.

Parks & Recreation – No additional reports.

Member Welch Lykins reported that she recently attended the MASB Conference with over 600 attendees and feels affirmed with how our district is ahead of the curve. She attended several breakout sessions including the Michigan Virtual University with a great speaker with an interesting perspective. When asked about the rigor of the classes, the presenter talked about the option of denying the class if does not meet district rigor standards. Citizens Research Council provided a report on the needs of individual students and how technology can assist with those needs, indicating that the challenge is the funding.

President Rabideau thanked Member Welch Lykins for representing the district at the MASB Conference. She challenged every board member to spread the positive stories of what is happening in our district.

President Rabideau announced the next meeting to be held on Monday, December 2, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 7:00 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.