

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, December 2, 2013

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, December 2, 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, Beth Milanowski, Susan Levine, Steve Edison, 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, Peter Stuursma, Bill Behrendt, Anthony Morey, Caroline Breault-Cannon

Meeting Called to Order

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

Acknowledgment of Guests – None

High School Student Council President's Report

Sally Marsh, Senior Class President, reported that November was an exciting month with state championships awarded to the Girls' Swim/Dive Team and the Girls' Volleyball Team. The annual Arts and Crafts show raised money which will be utilized for next week's food drive. Everyone is encouraged all to bring canned goods and nonperishable food items to school throughout next week. Food deliveries will take place on Saturday for families in need of a nice holiday meal. It is an exciting time of year with the holiday season full of performances including band, orchestra, and choir. Sally was congratulated by the board and presented with a certificate of recognition as a member of the swimming team.

President Rabideau welcomed newly appointed board trustee, Natalie Bernecker, to her first official board meeting. Bernecker shared that she is excited to be a member of the board and to serve the school district and community in this capacity.

Public Comments - None

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

- The Board sent communication to EGRPS families announcing Natalie Bernecker's appointment to the EGRPS Board of Education.
- The Board received communication from the College Board recognizing East Grand Rapids Public Schools for being named to the 4th Annual AP District Honor Roll.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Recognition of Girls Swim and Dive Team State Championship

Timothy Johnston, Director of Athletics announced the district's 122nd State Championship and congratulated the Girls' Swim and Dive Team on this honor. Johnston also recognized all fall athletic teams on their accomplishments this past fall season. Butch Briggs, the long-time coach for the swim team, was also recognized as *2013 Coach of the Year* by the Michigan Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association. All coaches and members of the team were congratulated by the board and presented with certificates of recognition.

Recognition of Girls Volleyball Team State Championship

Timothy Johnston, Director Athletics, announced the district's 123rd State Championship and congratulated all members and coaches of the volleyball team their conference, regional, and state championships. This is the first volleyball state championship in EGRPS history. All coaches and members of the team were congratulated by the board and presented with certificates of recognition.

Proposed Bond Issue (Enclosure #8)

Kevin Philipps, Assistant Superintendent of Business, presented information on a proposed bond issue. In an effort to seek ways to improve our finances with the continued cuts from the state, the board is asked to consider a bond program to support three areas: Safety/Security, Technology, and Facility Efficiency. Details of the bond proposal and the millage impact were outlined as presented in Enclosure #8.

A discussion was held among the board. Member Edison reported that the Facilities Committee met and supports the ability to have a long-term strategic plan of integrating technology into curriculum. Member Milanowski shared that a discussion was held during Finance Committee on how we can continue to equip our elementaries and assure they are ready to step into what is currently happening in the middle and high schools. Currently some individual classroom technology requests are presented to the EGR Schools Foundation, and this bond issue would allow the Foundation to fund other projects. Edison shared that it is vital to allow funds to remain in classrooms instead of using general funds for infrastructure needs. Member Wolford expressed that the current level of safety and security issues could not have been considered with previous bond requests. The technology piece is a critical component of educating students going forward. He also reported that the district's current boilers have a 30-year lifespan, and we are trying to maintain them at their current 40-50 years of age.

Member Welch Lykins reported that voter education is imperative. She also pointed out that the *EGR Now!* campaign typically takes place at the same time of year when the bond issue would be on the ballot. President Rabideau also shared that voter education is vital and feels we should consider looking at the timing of our partnership with the Foundation as well. Dr. Shubel suggested that, if the board decides to move forward with the millage proposal, it would make sense to review the timing of the *EGR Now!* campaign. Rabideau shared that conversations will be held with the City of EGR and the EGR Schools Foundation regarding a bond issue.

Philipps reported that prior to the January 27, 2014, board meeting, we will work hard to put a formal plan together, focusing on the three categories and determine actual financial needs. An architectural firm will put together a package for preliminary qualifications. Another conversation will take place at the January 27 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 9-13.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 10/28/2013 (Enclosure #9)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 11/11/2013 (Enclosure #10)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 11/14/2013 (Enclosure #11)

Approval of Payment of Bills – October 2013 (Enclosure #12)

Second Reading and Approval of Policies (Enclosure #13)

Member Milanowski moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 9-13. Member Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of Board of Education Vice President

President Rabideau announced the need to appoint a board member to the position of Vice President due to the vacancy created with Brian Ellis' resignation as Vice President. Rabideau called for a nomination to fill the role of Vice President.

Member Levine moved to nominate Steve Edison to fill the role of Vice President of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education. Member Welch Lykins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. Member Edison shared that he will continue to do his best to continue supporting the board and EGR community.

Approval of Sabbatical - Winona Tinholt (Enclosure #15)

Dr. Shubel introduced Winona Tinholt who was present at tonight's meeting to provide information on her request for approval of a sabbatical leave due to her application for a Fulbright Scholarship. Dr. Shubel shared that this is a huge award and a lengthy application process. She applauded Ms. Tinholt for her willingness to apply for this award and recognized the knowledge that she would bring back to the students of EGRPS. The board's decision is based on the financial aspects relating to a sabbatical leave as outlined in the EGREA contract. Ms. Tinholt provided a brief overview of her request and feels this is a natural progression for her on a global aspect. She desires to make global connections and bring back these experiences to the district and to our cultural ambassador's group. A discussion was held among the board and all board members were in support of Ms. Tinholt's sabbatical request.

Member Welch Lykins moved to approve a Sabbatical Leave for Winona Tinholt as presented in Enclosure #15. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of 2013-2014 Amended Budget (Enclosure #16)

Background: Each fall, the Board Finance Committee recommends a Budget Amendment to the Board of Education. The Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed amendment.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the amendment for the 2013-2014 budget as listed in Enclosure #16.

Kevin Philipps presented an overview of the proposed General Fund Budget Amendments. A Budget History of the past six years was provided, and Budget Assumptions were shared, as well as various future scenarios. Philipps presented the 2014-2015 Budget Development Process. The 2013-2014 Amended Sinking Fund was shared with a \$43,204 change in fund balance, as well as the Long-Term Sinking Fund Plan.

A discussion was held among the board. Member Edison shared historical information on community feedback and reiterated that the Sinking Fund is set up to maintain structural needs.

Member Levine moved to approve the 2013-2014 Amended Budget as presented in Enclosure #16. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Shubel thanked the EGR Schools Foundation for their approval of the fall cycle of grants. She shared that we are fortunate to have a Schools Foundation that has been in existence for 30 years, and the Foundation board takes their due diligence very seriously when awarding these grants through a variety of areas including technology, athletics, drama department, etc. Dr. Shubel thanked the Foundation and their board for their efforts.

Dr. Shubel announced the following upcoming events:

- Hurrah! - Saturday, March 22, 2014, at the UICA. Everyone is encouraged to attend and watch for further details.
- Curriculum Work Session and Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation- January 13, 2014
Dr. Shubel announced that administrators will be present at the January 13 meeting to present goals in the Strategic Plan process.
- All Staff Holiday Breakfast – Thursday, December 19, 2013
Dr. Shubel reported that the annual holiday breakfast provides the staff with a festive social opportunity before they head off for the holidays.
- *We the People* State Competition in Lansing – Friday, January 10, 2014
Dr. Shubel announced that the high school *We The People* team won the county level competition and is moving on to the state competition in January. She shared that it is a phenomenal opportunity to see the students in action while representing our district and their peers. She looks forward to seeing them compete at the state level. President Rabideau will be joining Dr. Shubel at the state competition.

Dr. Shubel reported that East Grand Rapids Public Schools was awarded the 4th Annual AP District Honor Roll for having achieved increases in access to Advanced Placement courses for a broader number of students and also maintained or improved the rate at which their AP students earned scores of 3 or higher on an AP Exam. Jenny Fee, High School Principal, announced that we were acknowledged by College Board for the fourth year in a row to the AP Honor Roll. Fee also shared that the Kabookie coins presented to the board this evening were designed to maintain the memory and character of Jimmy Gerken. One thousand coins were produced and are awarded to students and staff who are recognized for displaying the spirit of Jimmy Gerken. The coins can be kept or submitted for free admission to athletic or drama events.

Assistant Superintendent of Business

- None

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

- Jeanne Glowicki reported that planning for February Professional Development Days will be held February 17-19, 2013, for staff and board members. Planning is well underway and the planning committee is excited about this year's initiatives.
- Jeanne Glowicki also reported that another year of enriching activities for students are being planned in honor of Martin Luther King Day. Events and themes continue throughout the school year.

Board Member Reports

Communications Committee – President Rabideau reported that the Communications Committee plans to meet in December to continue their work on enhancing district communications.

Facilities Committee – Member Edison reported that a potential bond issue was discussed at the Facilities Committee meeting.

Finance Committee – No reports.

Joint Facilities Committee – No reports.

Legislative Liaison Committee – Member Welch Lykins reported that several proposed bills are moving forward: Third grade retention, English Language Learners, and the switch from Color Coding to Letter Grades for school districts.

Personnel Committee – No reports.

Policy Review Committee – No reports.

Liaisons

EGR Schools Foundation – Member Bernecker reported that the Foundation board members are proactively making sure that Foundation funds are allocated appropriately through their work on the Grant Process. Having served on the Foundation Committee in the past, Bernecker reported that the grant process affects so many different areas across the district.

Community Action Council – No reports.

PTO Council – No reports.

Parks & Recreation – Member Edison reported that races and events were approved, and initial feedback was received on the Parks & Recreation Department's request for state funding. A high ranking was received and we are awaiting the decision on actual state funding.

Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC) – Member Wolford reported that the SAC held its second meeting and had a timely report on the status of the Engage 1:1 initiative with where it stands at both the middle and high schools. Doug Jenkins, Director of Technology; Jenny Fee, High School Principal; and Peter Stuursma, Middle School Principal, along with staff members, presented on the aspects of 1:1 learning. The next SAC meeting will focus on the potential bond issue and how it will affect community.

Leadership & Youth Development (LYD) – No reports.

Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE) – Member Welch Lykins reported that a brown bag meeting was held on November 12 which was a great informational meeting about the number of students in the district who qualify for special education services, as well as the ways we cooperate with other districts. Kathy Wisniewski, Director of Special Education, provided information on behavioral intervention and supports.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 7:33 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.