

## **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**

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

**Monday, October 27, 2014**

### **MINUTES**

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, October 27, 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, Lori Johnston, Peter Stuursma, Anthony Morey, Craig Weigel, Caroline Breault-Cannon

#### Meeting Called to Order

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

Acknowledgment of Guests – President Rabideau announced that Brian Coles and Mark Hessler, EGRPS board candidates, were in attendance.

#### Public Comments

Brian Coles – 1606 Andover, announced that he is running for the EGRPS school board trustee position as a write-in candidate and appreciates the community's votes and support.

Mark Hessler – 2223 Estelle Dr SE, announced that he is running for the 2-year partial term for the EGRPS Board of Education and appreciates the community's votes and support.

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

- The Board received communication from Dr. Peter and Mrs. Lynne Kuhl regarding the incident that occurred on August 15, 2014, at the high school, requesting that the district not file charges against the former students.
- The Board sent communications to Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Gotch, Tyler Gotch, and the East Vision newspaper regarding the incident that occurred on August 15, 2014, at the high school, in response to their public questions and concerns.
- The Board received a Thank You from Kyle Noakes, Manager of Information Systems, for the Schuler gift card on the birth of his son, Trevor.
- The Board received a Thank You from Stacey Goodman, Wealthy Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. Teacher, for the Schuler gift card on the birth of her daughter, Clara Jane.
- The Board received a Thank You from Mrs. Linda Kehm on her retirement gift and appreciation of her many years of service.

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

Blake Driscoll, Senior Class President, reported that Homecoming was filled with fun activities for students. Plans are being considered for holding a Reverse Powder Puff game, known as Macho Ball, possibly to take place in December or during Kabookie Week in February. Funds would be donated to the Travis Manion Foundation, which is similar to Wounded Warriors. A Food Drive is planned for December with a lot of student involvement where students donate food items and deliver to families in the community.

## **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 6 through 8.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 09/22/2014 (Enclosure #6)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 09/22/2014 (Enclosure #7)

Approval of Payment of Bills – September 2014 (Enclosure #8)

Member Edison moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 6-8. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

## **OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of Resolution to Authorize Refunding of 2006 School Building and Site Bond - Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #9)

**Background:** The district has a potential opportunity to advance refund \$14.4 million in bonds that were originally sold in 2006. Market conditions are currently favorable for the advance refunding, 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 Philipps, Assistant Superintendent of Business, provided an overview of the resolution in Enclosure #9.

Member Levine moved to approve the Resolution to Authorize Refunding of 2006 School Building and Site Bond as presented in Enclosure #9. Member Wolford seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Resolution to Authorize Refunding of School Bond Loan Fund/School Loan Revolving Fund Balance – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #10)

**Background:** The district has a potential opportunity to refund the current outstanding balances in the School Bond Loan and Revolving Funds by retiring that debt through the sale of general obligation bonds. \$19.955 million in bonds would be sold to pay off the outstanding balance in the School Bond Loan and Revolving funds. This would allow the district to retire variable rate debt with fixed rate debt at historically low interest rates. Projected savings are theoretical based on future assumptions for the interest rate the School Bond Loan and Revolving Fund will charge as well as future taxable value growth in the district. 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.

Philipps provided an overview of the resolution in Enclosure #10.

Member Bernecker moved to approve the Resolution to Authorize Refunding of School Bond Loan Fund/School Loan Revolving Fund Balance as presented in Enclosure #10. Member Levine seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Design Development for Elementary Main Entrances and Learning Commons - Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #11)

**Background:** Administration has been working with district architects and construction management to further detail plans for the elementary main entrances and learning commons. GMB will present the design development drawings for the elementary main entrances and learning commons. Following the GMB presentation, Owen Ames Kimball (OAK) will present the cost estimates based on those design drawings and discuss any variations from the original budget.

**Recommendation:** The Facilities Committee and Superintendent have reviewed the design drawings and cost estimates and recommend acceptance.

Member Milanowski moved to approve the Design Development as presented in Enclosure #11. Member Edison seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0.

Acceptance of 2013-2014 Audit Report – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #12)

**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 2013-2014 Audit Report.

**Recommendation:** Motion to receive the 2013-2014 Audit Report as presented and recommended by the Board Finance Committee and Superintendent.

Philipps presented the findings of the 2013-2014 audit report and commended the staff in the Business Office for their work all year long in accomplishing the tasks that led to such a positive audit.

Member Levine moved to accept the 2013-2014 Audit Report as reviewed by the Board Finance Committee and presented in Enclosure #12. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. The board commended Philipps on his leadership in the Business Office and the accuracies consistently in place. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Proposed Amended Budget for 2014-2015 – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #13)

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 2014-2015 budget as listed in Enclosure #13.

Philipps provided an overview of the Proposed Amended Budget for 2014-2015. He provided details on the adjustments made from the June 2014 Adopted Budget to the Amended Budget. The biggest change in revenues was due to a decrease in per pupil funding and a decrease in our student count. Other adjustments were due to revenue losses from Section 145 retirement funding, Joint Facilities moved to a separate fund, IDEA Federal Special Education, and County Act 18 funding. Changes in expenses were reviewed. Philipps shared the Future Years Financial Forecast, as well as Prior Forecasts. He provided Budget Assumptions: State Funding, Enrollment, Salaries, Health Care, and Retirement. Philipps discussed the Structural Balance and Fund Balance Target. He shared the 2015-2016 Budget Development Process.

A discussion was held among the board.

Member Edison moved to approve the Amendment for the 2014-2015 budget as presented in Enclosure #13. Member Levine seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Board Member Attendance at NSBA Conference – President Rabideau (Enclosure #14)

Background: That National School Board Association (NSBA) Advocacy Institute will be held in Washington, D.C. February 1-3, 2015. Member Welch Lykins has indicated a willingness to attend the conference on behalf of EGRPS.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the payment of the NSBA Conference travel expenses for Member Welch Lykins to attend the conference on behalf of EGRPS.

President Rabideau shared background information on the NSBA conference and the benefits the district is afforded by having a board member attend the conference. Member Welch Lykins shared the knowledge she gained from attending last year's conference and appreciates the board's support of her attendance at the NSBA conference. Member Edison clarified that the expenses are not meant to pay for any specific board member but rather to bring the benefits back to the whole board by approving of travel expenses paid by the board.

Member Edison moved to approve the payment of the NSBA Conference travel expenses for Member Welch Lykins to attend the conference on behalf of EGRPS. Member Bernecker seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Board of Education Goals for 2014-2015 – President Rabideau (Enclosure #15)

Background: During the board work session held on September 22, 2014, the Board of Education developed Board Goals related to three areas as described in Enclosure #15.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the Board Goals as described in Enclosure #15.

Member Bernecker moved to approve the Board Goals as described in Enclosure #15. Member Welch Lykins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Superintendent

Dr. Shubel announced that Caroline Breault-Cannon, Breton Downs Principal, received her Ph.D. this month and congratulated her on this accomplishment.

Assistant Superintendent of Business

None

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Jeanne Glowicki reported that the district continues to stay on the cutting edge thanks to the support from administration in allowing teachers to attend meetings, and they are ready to learn and have such passion to continue on the path of being the best educators. She shared that IB consultants will be in the district in November. Glowicki also reported that she and Dr. Shubel attended a day and a half in Lansing to learn about the teacher and administrator evaluation systems that are being recommended by the state and considering the costs involved.

Board Member Reports

*Communications Committee* – Member Rabideau reported that the Natalie Bernecker will serve as the Chair of the Communications Committee, with Members Wolford and Milanowski serving on the committee.

*Facilities Committee* – Kevin Philipps reported that one of the high school boilers is installed and functioning. He shared that there was an issue with water leakage in the PAC lobby during construction and that has been resolved.

*Finance Committee* – No reports.

*Joint Facilities Committee* – No reports.

*Legislative Liaison Committee* – Member Welch Lykins reported that we anticipate a lot of prior bills will be revisited during the Lamé Duck session. She shared that the committee will be asking parents to gear up in November to contact legislators in support of public education.

*Personnel Committee* – No reports.

*Policy Review Committee* – President Rabideau reported that the committee is in the process of setting up a meeting in November.

Liaisons

*EGR Schools Foundation* – Member Bernecker announced that the Community Service and Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner will be held at JW Marriott on November 17 at 6:00 p.m., honoring Community Service Recipient, Kim Rossi; and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Ph.D., Alumni Recipient Class of 1965. Bernecker shared that Foundation Grant Applications are due on November 1<sup>st</sup>. HURRAH! will take place on March 14, 2015, at the Cheney Place.

*Community Action Council* – Member Levine shared that Kim Rossi has been a very active volunteer in the community and EGRPS and is a great choice for the Community Service Award.

*PTO Council* – No reports.

*Parks & Recreation* – Member Edison announced that Lakeside Drive is open again following construction. There is a project that needs community funding which is the expansion of the pedestrian bridge by Remington Field that connects Reeds Lake with Fisk Lake. Design work and fundraising will take place.

*Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC)* – Member Wolford reported that the SAC meeting focused on technology and the Engage 1:1 program.

*Leadership & Youth Development (LYD)* – No reports.

*Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE)* – Member Welch Lykins reported that an update on the IEP process was discussed. The next meeting will be held on November 11 with school psychologists and speech pathologists, focusing on eligibility. The meeting at the ISD level was held on October 13 on assistive technology.

Member Edison congratulated Peter Stuursma and the football team for their successes in making it to the playoffs. The first playoff game is scheduled for Friday, October 31, 7:00 p.m. at Lowell High School.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, December 8, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 7:50 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.