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*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, December 8, 2014

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, December 8, 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

Absent: None

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

Meeting Called to Order

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

President Rabideau explained the process that took place in the November 2014 school board election. Due to Brian Ellis' resignation from the school board in October 2013, the board appointed Natalie Bernecker to fill the remainder of Ellis' term ending December 31, 2016. However, if a school board election takes place during a partial term, the community must elect a candidate. In the November 2014 election, Bernecker chose to run for a 4-year open seat, giving up her partial seat. This vacancy was filled by a newly elected candidate, Mark Hessler, who officially resumes the trustee position at the first board meeting following the election. Bernecker will reassume her position on the board in January 2015. We are thrilled to welcome Mark Hessler to the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education.

Administration of Oath to Newly Elected Board Member, Mark Hessler

Judie Malec, Secretary to the Board and Superintendent, administered the Oath of Office to Mark Hessler. Hessler will serve as a member of the Board of Education for East Grand Rapids Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan. Hessler's term will run through December 31, 2016.

Recognition of Girls Swim and Dive Team State Championship – Tim Johnston

Timothy Johnston, Director of Athletics, announced the district's 125th State Championship and congratulated the Girls' Swim and Dive Team on this honor. Johnston also individually recognized Mr. Butch Briggs for his 40 years of coaching the student athletes in the EGRPS swim community. Briggs will also be recognized on January 3, 2015, as the high school pool will be renamed in his honor. All swim coaches and members of the team were congratulated by the board and presented with certificates of recognition.

Dr. Shubel congratulated Janice Yates, high school teacher, and her students on their 1st place win in the *We The People* districts competition. The team will be competing in the state finals in Lansing on Friday, January 9, 2015.

Acknowledgment of Guests – President Rabideau announced that Mark Hessler's family and friends were in attendance to witness his Oath of Office. Hessler introduced his family and friends and thanked them for their support.

Public Comments – None.

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

The Board received a Thank You from Dr. Caroline Breault-Cannon, Breton Downs Principal, for the novel she received in recognition of earning her doctorate degree.

High School Student Council President's Report – None.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Approval of Refunding of 2006 Bonds – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #8)

Background: The district has the opportunity to refund \$14.4 million in bonds from the 2006 bond sale. In September, the Board of Education granted approval to administration to refund bonds as long as at least 3% Net Present Value savings were realized. Administration chose to refund the \$14.4 million in bonds, realizing \$1,060,061, or 7.37% in net present value savings. To finalize this refunding, the Board is asked to support a ratification resolution. The Superintendent and Finance Committee have reviewed the refunding results and recommend supporting the resolution.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the ratification resolution as presented.

Kevin Philipps, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, provided an overview of the refunding of bonds as presented in Enclosure #8. Jeff Soles, attorney with Thrun Law Firm, was in attendance to provide a detailed explanation of the resolution and to answer any questions from the board.

Member Edison moved to approve the ratification resolution as presented in Enclosure #8. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Refunding of School Bond Loan Fund Balance – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #9)

Background: The district has the opportunity to retire the existing \$20.0 million balance in the School Bond Loan Fund by selling General Obligation taxable bonds. In September, the Board of Education granted approval to administration to refund the School Bond Loan Fund balance as long as at least 2% Net Present Value savings were realized. Administration chose to sell bonds to retire the \$20.0 million bonds, which will lower the current annual variable interest rate of 3.46% to an all-in interest cost of 2.75%. The estimated savings of this transaction are \$1,483,929, or 7.49% on a net present value basis. To finalize this refunding, the Board is asked to support a ratification resolution. The Superintendent and Finance Committee have reviewed the refunding results and recommend supporting the resolution.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the ratification resolution as presented.

Kevin Philipps provided an overview of the refunding of the School Bond Loan Fund Balance as presented in Enclosure #9. Jeff Soles, attorney with Thrun Law Firm was in attendance to provide a detailed explanation of the resolution and to answer any questions from the board. A discussion was held among the board.

Member Edison moved to approve the ratification resolution as presented in Enclosure #9. Member Levine seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

The board took a brief recess to provide the board secretary with an opportunity to sign the approved resolutions in Enclosures 8 and 9.

First Reading of New and Revised Policies – Dr. Shubel (Enclosure #10)

Dr. Shubel provided an explanation of the new and revised policies as presented in Enclosure #10. A discussion was held among the board. 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 items in the Consent Agenda, Numbers 11 through 13.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 10/27/2014 (Enclosure #11)

Approval of Payment of Bills – September 2014 (Enclosure #12)

Approval of Naming of High School Pool (Enclosure #13)

Member Edison moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 11-13. Member Welch Lykins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Best Practices Resolution – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #14)

Background: The State School Aid Act for the 2014-2015 fiscal year includes a one-time incentive grant of \$50 per pupil if a local district complies with at least seven of nine “Best Practices” that were defined by the Legislature. The District is in a position to certify that it has met seven of nine best practices, therefore, qualifying for the grant. To apply for the grant, the Board of Education must pass the Best Practices resolution being presented by administration. The Finance Committee and Superintendent have reviewed the resolution and recommend approval of the resolution.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the Best Practices Grant Incentive resolution as recommended by the Finance Committee and Superintendent.

Kevin Philipps provided background information on the Best Practices resolution as presented in Enclosure #14.

Member Levine moved to approve the Best Practices Grant Incentive resolution as recommended by the Finance Committee and Superintendent. Member Welch Lykins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Transfer of Remaining 2007 Athletic Facility Construction Fund to 2007 Debt Fund-Kevin Philipps

Background: A residual amount of money in the amount of \$38,691 remains in the 2007 athletic facility construction fund. Residual amounts like this are transferred to the corresponding debt retirement fund with the approval of the Board of Education. The Finance Committee recommends this transfer.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the transfer of funds as presented.

Kevin Philipps provided an explanation of the recommendation to approve the transfer of remaining 2007 Athletic Facility Construction Funds to 2007 Debt Fund.

Member Levine moved to approve the transfer of funds as presented. Member Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Shubel reminded board members of the January 12, 2015, Special Board of Education Meetings, a Budget Work Session at 5:00 p.m., and a Board Development Work Session at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Shubel reported that she and Member-Elect Natalie Bernecker attended the EGR Schools Foundation grants meeting. She expressed her appreciation for the commitment of the Foundation and their review and award of the grants. Dr. Shubel asked Bernecker to report on behalf of the Foundation. Bernecker reported that the Foundation met for a thorough review process and awarded approximately \$46,000 in grants to support staff and students in their teaching and learning in the district.

Dr. Shubel announced that the All Staff Holiday Breakfast will be held on Thursday, December 18.

Dr. Shubel recognized and thanked Members Edison and Levine for their service on the board and dedication to the EGRPS community. President Rabideau shared comments from fellow board members. Member Edison shared that he has been serving the EGR community for close to 30 years and it has been an honor and a privilege to serve with his fellow board members for the last 8-1/2 years. Member Levine also shared that she is appreciative of her experiences while serving on the board and thanked everyone for the opportunity to be a part of the process of working toward the board's goals of maintaining financial structural balance. President Rabideau recognized and thanked Members Edison and Levine for their service. A gift of appreciation from the board and administration was presented to Members Edison and Levine.

Assistant Superintendent of Business

None.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Jeanne Glowicki reported that the IB consultant visited the district in November for two days and reviewed everything that we have done so far in the candidacy and authorization phase. The consultant felt we were well ahead of where we needed to be. A session was held with students and parents where the students had great questions in what they wanted to see in their learning process and what this program will do for them. Glowicki reported that she is planning to come back in January or February with a formal IB update to share with the board.

President Rabideau shared her appreciation for the IB consultant's visit and for the detailed information she learned about the program and that it is truly a benefit for the entire district and school community even if your own children are not involved in the IB program.

Board Member Reports

President Rabideau shared that she will seek board members' input on their desired representation on board committees.

President Rabideau reported that all current board members received an in-depth progress report of Dr. Shubel's goals, and the board has accepted the Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation.

President Rabideau announced that each board member received copies of the Community Budget Guide. This is a comprehensive document that was created to help our community understand the complexities of the budget issues in the district.

Communications Committee – Member Rabideau reported that the committee is meeting again in January. Member Edison asked if we should accumulate email addresses of former EGRPS families to allow for the distribution of important district information.

Facilities Committee – No reports.

Finance Committee –No reports.

Joint Facilities Committee – No reports.

Legislative Liaison Committee – Member Edison reported that the committee is gearing up to send email blasts and address the roads bill and gasoline tax. Member Welch Lykins shared that it is not an exaggeration to say that the gas tax bill would destroy public schools. She anticipates 1-2 more alerts to the community. She shared that the retention bill and letter grading bill are also concerns for public education.

Personnel Committee – No reports.

Policy Review Committee – President Rabideau reported that the Policy Review Committee met and reviewed several policies that were presented earlier this evening.

Liaisons

EGR Schools Foundation – No reports.

Community Action Council –No reports.

PTO Council – No reports.

Parks & Recreation – No reports.

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

Leadership & Youth Development (LYD) – Member Milanowski reported that a new intern was hired, Natalie Crowley. Natalie is currently attending Aquinas College and will start in January 2015. LYD added three new board members. A grant was awarded from the EGR Schools Foundation in the amount of \$2,000 to support student programs.

Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE) – Member Welch Lykins reported that the monthly PASE meeting was held, and discipline and behavioral plans were provided by Kent ISD. A brown bag lunch session was held the following day.

Dr. Shubel reported that the outside consultant hired by the Board of Education is continuing her work on the EGRPS Special Education review which will be presented to the board at the January 26, 2015 regular meeting.

Member Welch Lykins reported that she attended the MASB Fall Conference and provided an overview of some of the new mandates which was shared with the board. Welch Lykins also presented at the conference in a Grass Roots session.

Member Edison reported that he also attended the MASB Delegate Assembly and voted down the decision to have all school districts receive the exact same amount of funding.

Member Milanowski announced that she will be attending the *We The People* state competition on January 9, 2015.

Member Hessler reported that he is looking forward to meeting with Kevin Philipps to learn about the budget issues in the district. He commended the administration on the development of the Community Budget Guide which breaks down everything the community needs to know and advocates for our cause in East Grand Rapids. He shared that the guide gives us a tool to have a discussion about where we are as a district, as well as a comparison to other districts.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, January 26, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 7:29 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.