

## **Our Mission**

*Educating and inspiring each student  
to navigate successfully  
in a global community*

## **EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Kent County, Michigan

### **SPECIAL 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, January 12, 2015**

### **MINUTES**

The **SPECIAL MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, January 12, 2015, 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, Elizabeth Welch Lykins, Natalie Bernecker, Robert Wolford, Mark Hessler, Brian Coles

Absent: None

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

#### **Meeting Called to Order**

President Rabideau called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

#### **Administration of Oath to Newly Elected Board Members, Natalie Bernecker, Brian Coles, Robert Wolford**

Judie Malec, Secretary to the Board and Superintendent, administered the Oath of Office to Natalie Bernecker, Brian Coles, and Robert Wolford. Members Bernecker, Coles, and Wolford will serve as members of the Board of Education for East Grand Rapids Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan. Their terms will run through December 31, 2018.

**Acknowledgment of Guests** – President Rabideau announced that several family members of newly elected board members were in attendance to witness the Oath of Office. Members Bernecker and Coles introduced their family members and thanked them for their support.

**Public Comments** - None

#### **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, Number 5.

#### **Second Reading and Approval of Policies (Enclosure #5)**

Member Bernecker moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 5. Member Hessler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

#### **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**

##### **Budget Work Session (Enclosure #6)**

President Rabideau explained that the format of the budget workshop is intended for administration to present an understanding of the state of the budget in the district.

Kevin Philipps, Assistant Superintendent of Business, provided an overview of budget topics including a State Legislative Update, the 2015-2016 Budget Forecast, Structural Balance, and the Budget Process. Budget reduction options within each school building and all areas throughout the district were reviewed. Philipps provided the timeline for the budget process leading to the adoption of the 2015-2016 budget on June 8, 2015.

Dr. Shubel shared background information on why the IB program was not considered as a budget reduction option at this time and where we are in the application process as well as the work and financial investment, and curriculum alignments that have gone into the process. If the district were to put the IB authorization process on hold, we are basically saying that we are going to start the process all over again if we were to look at going through this application process in the future. We are currently trying to show through the authorization process that we meet the requirements, standards, and expectations to become an IB school. Dr. Shubel shared that the decision needs to be whether or not we are going to move forward in completing the authorization process; it is not an option to simply put everything on hold for now and restart where we leave off in the authorization process in the future. Dr. Shubel will share her talking points on the IB program with the board.

President Rabideau encouraged board members to bring forth their questions and suggestions as we work toward developing a budget to be approved in June. Rabideau thanked the administration for their work and thought processes that went into presenting the budget reduction options. Dr. Shubel shared that all the options presented come with significant changes and impacts to our current structure. She shared that the administration's desire is not to present these options as recommendations; however, we understand that, based on budget constraints, there will need to be reductions somewhere. The discussion regarding positions and reductions is not an exercise that can be done in isolation; it is necessary to determine what impact it will have and how we will continue to provide the services. She shared that this process is challenging and things will look different; it is painful; people have a knowledge base that we rely on and we will lose that, but it is a fact when involved in budget cuts and reductions.

A discussion was held among the Board throughout the budget work session.

President Rabideau announced the board committee assignments, as these appointments are made annually. She shared the list of board committee representation as follows:

Communications: Bernecker-Chair, Milanowski, Coles  
Finance: Wolford-Chair, Bernecker, Coles  
Personnel: Rabideau-Chair, Milanowski, Welch Lykins  
Policy Review: Rabideau-Chair, Wolford, Welch Lykins  
Facilities: Wolford-Chair, Bernecker, Coles  
Joint Facilities: Rabideau-Chair, Hessler, Milanowski  
Legislative Liaison: Hessler  
City of EGR Parks & Recreation: Hessler  
EGR Schools Foundation Liaison: Bernecker  
Community Action Council Liaison: Coles  
PTO Council Liaison: Rabideau  
Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC): Hessler  
Leadership & Youth Development (LYD): Milanowski  
PASE Representative: Welch Lykins

President Rabideau shared that the board officer positions will be announced at the January 26, 2015, board meeting.

Dr. Shubel congratulated the *We The People* team on their State Championship and announced that they will be competing in the National Competition in Washington, D.C. in April.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 6:29 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.