

## **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, January 26, 2015**

### **MINUTES**

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, January 26, 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, Mark Hessler, Brian Coles

Absent: Robert Wolford

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

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

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

#### **Election of Officers**

##### **President**

Member Bernecker moved that Member Rabideau serve as President for one year with the term ending December 31, 2015. Member Hessler seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed 6-0.

Member Wolford arrived at 6:03 p.m.

##### **Vice President**

Member Milanowski moved that Member Welch Lykins serve as Vice President for one year with the term ending December 31, 2015. Member Bernecker seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed 7-0.

##### **Secretary**

Member Welch Lykins moved that Member Milanowski serve as Secretary for one year with the term ending December 31, 2015. Member Coles seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed 7-0.

##### **Treasurer**

Member Hessler moved that Member Wolford serve as Treasurer for one year with the term ending December 31, 2015. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed 7-0.

President Rabideau thanked all board members for their service to the Board of Education.

**Acknowledgment of Guests** – None.

**Public Comments** – President Rabideau explained the ground rules and then opened the floor for public comments.

Jodi Blanchard – 750 San Jose, commented on Special Education website information.

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

- The Board received a Thank You from Bridget Rieth, Breton Downs 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, for the Staff Holiday Breakfast held in December.
- The Board received a Thank You from Tommy Kawel, high school teacher, for the Schuler gift card he received on the birth of his son, Raymond.

- The Board received a Thank You from Matt Harold, high school teacher, for the Schuler gift card he received on the birth of his daughter, Katherine Jane.
- The Board received a Thank You from Brian Ellis, former EGRPS board member, for the brick dedicated in his honor at Memorial Field in recognition of his many years of service on the board.
- The Board received a Thank You from Steve Edison, former EGRPS board member, for the East sweater and sports pass that he received in recognition of his service on the board.
- The Board received communication from Bob and Jodi Blanchard on special education.

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

Blake Driscoll, Senior Class President, was not available to provide reports this evening. Steve Wojciechowski, High School Assistant Principal, reported that the Student Council is in the process of organizing the annual Blood Drive, and preparations are underway for the upcoming Kabookie Week of activities for students.

### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

#### Recognition of East Grand Rapids Board of Education Members for *School Board Recognition Month January 2015* – Dr. Shubel

Dr. Shubel recognized and thanked the board members for their dedication and all of the work they do on behalf of our community, students, and staff. An Amazon gift card for a book purchase was presented to the board members as a gift of appreciation.

#### Special Education Review – Dr. Cindi Smith (Enclosure #8)

President Rabideau provided background information on the Special Education Review which Dr. Cindi Smith will be presenting this evening. Rabideau shared that she is very pleased that the board was providing this review as promised. Dr. Shubel reiterated President Rabideau's comments and welcomed Dr. Cindi Smith.

Dr. Cindi Smith provided an overview of her extensive background in Special Education. She expressed her passion and advocacy for children with disabilities.

In response to concerns that parents expressed last spring, Dr. Smith commended the board and administration for taking parent concerns very seriously and addressing their concerns. Dr. Smith shared the background of the Special Education Review including a review of public documents and data, a review of parent letters documenting concerns, and analysis of data collected through parent interviews, staff focus groups, and a parent survey. She reported that there were no issues or concerns with special education compliance (local, state, and federal) in any area; thus, the review focused on parents' perceptions. Dr. Smith thoroughly reviewed parent letters, analyzed the letters, and was able to summarize parent concerns to five areas: communication between parents and district staff, IEP meetings, professional development opportunities for special education staff, allocation of district resources, and programming options for high school students with IEPs.

Dr. Smith shared that the next step in the review process was to interview parents. The purpose was to gather information on parents' perceptions of special education in the district. She reported that she heard so many positive things. Interview transcripts were analyzed for themes.

Dr. Smith toured buildings and met with staff focus groups comprised of special education teachers, itinerant staff, and secondary and elementary administrators to get a good sense of what special education looks like in EGRPS.

A Parent Survey was distributed, through the GVSU Statistical Consulting Center, to 164 households with 68 respondents (41%). All responses were totally anonymous which makes it very reliable information. Dr. Smith felt the survey respondents were a fair representation of the student population served, and she explained the percentages of disabilities versus the MI School Data and parent responses.

#### Results of Parent Survey:

Satisfaction with Child's Program – recurring response was that there seems to be a very positive community feeling about children with disabilities.

Development and Implementation of IEP - more parents are satisfied than dissatisfied.

Programming for Secondary Students - this is the major area of concern that came out of the survey.

Child's Participation: Opportunity & Equality - extremely positive. District and families should be very proud of this result.

Closing Remarks – Dr. Smith reported that there were more satisfied parents than not with the exception of transitions for students beyond high school. She shared that this review and the data presented will lead to some reflection by the district and allow for an opportunity to improve upon the areas of concern. Overall, Dr. Smith shared that EGRPS has something pretty incredible with regard to special education.

President Rabideau thanked Dr. Smith for conducting a comprehensive review of special education in the district. Dr. Smith affirmed and expressed that the district was very respectful in the response to parent concerns and reported that the district validated the concerns. A discussion was held among the board.

Dr. Shubel thanked Dr. Smith and appreciates the way the review was handled and in determining the areas of growth. Dr. Shubel reported that the district had already been making improvements internally prior to the review based on parent feedback. Communications have been enhanced through our special education website, and work on secondary transition planning has also been worked on. Special education staff will present on Transition Options at the March board meeting. As a district, effectiveness and strength is built on collaboration and we will continue to work on improvements.

### **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 9 through 12.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 12/8/2014 (Enclosure #9)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 1/12/2015-Budget Work Session (Enclosure #10)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 1/12/2015-Board Development Work Session (Enclosure #11)

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

Member Milanowski moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 9-12. Member Welch Lykins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### **OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of Elementary and Woodcliff Construction Bids from the 2014 Construction Program

Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #13)

**Background:** Administration in collaboration with its architectural and construction management partners, have requested bids for the construction projects being completed at the elementary buildings and early childhood center at Woodcliff. Bids were received, and after reviewing all of the bids, administration is requesting approval of the bids being presented. The total amount of the bids is \$3,011,007, which is \$772,196 less than budget. The bids have been reviewed the Facilities Committee and Superintendent, and they recommend accepting the bids.

**Recommendation:** Motion to approve the bids for the elementary and Woodcliff construction totaling \$3,011,007 as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent.

Kevin Philipps, Assistant Superintendent, provided background information on the process of requesting bids for construction projects and he welcomed Nicole Haglund from OAK who presented a summary of the recommended bids which total \$772,196 less than budget.

Member Wolford moved to approve the bids for the elementary and Woodcliff construction totaling \$3,011,007 as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Desktop Computer Bid from the 2014 Construction Program

Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #14)

**Background:** The district requested bids to replace desktop computers throughout the district. Computers will be replaced in the classroom technology carts, the middle and high school computer labs, and for support staff employees. Bids were received and after reviewing the bids, administration is requesting approval of the bids being presented. The total amount of the bids is \$543,787.23, which is \$15,812.77 less than budget. The bids have been reviewed by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent and they recommend accepting the bids.

**Recommendation:** Motion to approve the bids for desktop computers totaling \$543,787.23 as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent.

Philipps provided an overview of the Desktop Computer Bids. Doug Jenkins, Director of Technology and Assessments, shared that the district is happy with the result of the bids totaling \$15,812.77 less than budget.

Member Coles moved to approve the bids for desktop computers totaling \$543,787.23 as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent. Member Hessler seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Schools of Choice Resolutions for 2015-2016—Dr. Shubel (Enclosure #15a-c)

East Grand Rapids Public Schools has participated in the Kent Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program since its inception in the 1996-97 school year.

President Rabideau and Dr. Shubel provided background information on the Schools of Choice process and the resolutions that need to be approved by the board.

a. Approval of a Resolution to Opt Out of Section 105

Background: East Grand Rapids Public Schools has opted out of the State Choice Plan since the inception of the KISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Plan in the 1996-97 school year.

Recommendation: Motion to pass a resolution to exercise the option permitted by Section 105 of the State School Aid Act of 1979, as amended by Public Act 300 of 1996, to not accept Section 105 applications of non-resident students from outside our district, for purposes of operating an intermediate school district-wide schools of choice program in accordance with Section 105 for the 2015-2016 school year.

Member Milanowski moved to approve a resolution to exercise the option permitted by Section 105 of the State School Aid Act of 1979, as amended by Public Act 300 of 1996, to not accept Section 105 applications of non-resident students from outside our district, for purposes of operating an intermediate school district-wide schools of choice program in accordance with Section 105 for the 2015-2016 school year. Member Bernecker seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

b. Approval of a Resolution to Opt In of Section 105c

Background: In accordance with Section 105c as permitted in the State School Aid Act, Public Act 119 of 1999, as amended by Public Act 297 of 2000, it is recommended that East Grand Rapids Public Schools will accept applications for enrollment from residents of contiguous intermediate school districts for the 2015-2016 school year.

Recommendation: Motion to pass a resolution to exercise the option permitted by Section 105c of the State School Aid Act, Public Act 119 of 1999, as amended by Public Act 297 of 2000, to accept applications for enrollment from residents of contiguous intermediate school districts for the 2015-2016 school year.

Member Hessler moved to approve a Resolution to Opt In to Section 105c for the 2015-2016 school year. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

c. Approval of a Resolution to Participate in the 2015-2016 Kent Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program

Background: This is the tenth year of the KISD Schools of Choice Program.

Recommendation: Motion to pass a resolution to participate in the Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for the 2015-2016 school year.

Member Milanowski moved to approve a resolution to participate in the Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for the 2015-2016 school year. Member Coles seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Superintendent

None

Assistant Superintendent of Business

Philipps reported on the January Revenue Conference summarizing the results with a mix of good news and bad news which will lead to state budget uncertainties over the next few months. Revenues for the School Aid Fund were increased slightly for each fiscal year from the May 2014 Revenue Conference. Overall the small increase in school aid revenue continues to support surpluses in the School Aid Fund for each fiscal year. Unfortunately, the state's general fund budget has taken a turn for the worse since May 2014. Due to business tax credits, predicted general fund revenues dropped significantly since the May 2014 Revenue Conference. The general fund at the state level funds all portions of state government beyond education, such as corrections, community health, state police, etc. The state will be required to eliminate the projected deficits of \$330 million for the current fiscal year before it ends September 30. The 2015-16 budget proposal will have to take into account the projected \$383 million deficit and make adjustments to propose a budget that is balanced based on the reduced revenue. Additional information will be available when the Governor presents his proposed budget for 2015-2016, which is currently scheduled for February 11. As we learn more in February, Philipps will provide an update on the proposed budget and what that would mean for the EGRPS budget.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Jeanne Glowicki reported on the "Hour of Code" and shared a brief video of the students' feedback and thoughts on computer coding as a potential elective class at the middle school and the future of computer coding in the workplace.

Glowicki shared that all of our students participated in many wonderful Martin Luther King Day activities in their buildings.

Board Member Reports

*Communications Committee* – Member Bernecker reported that the committee met last week and discussed the Community Budget Guide, Proposal I and how it will affect our school funding and how we will be communicating this information to the community.

*Facilities Committee* – No reports.

*Finance Committee* – No reports.

*Joint Facilities Committee* – No reports.

*Legislative Liaison Committee* – Member Hessler reported that the committee's goals will focus on continuing to advocate for our district and support of Proposal I and how we can communicate this information to the community.

*Personnel Committee* – No reports.

*Policy Review Committee* – No reports.

Liaisons

*EGR Schools Foundation* – Member Bernecker reported that Hurrah! will be held on March 14 at the Cheney Building downtown. EGRNow! is seeking 100% participation with a goal of controlling the uncertainty of our district. Foundation grant requests are due March 1. The Foundation kicked off their social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

*Community Action Council* – No reports.

*PTO Council* – No reports.

*Parks & Recreation* – Member Hessler reported that he met with Fred Bunn at EGR Parks & Rec and learned of his role and expectations as a board liaison. He announced his first meeting will be held on February 9.

*Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC)* – Member Hessler reported that he will attend his first meeting on February 11.

*Leadership & Youth Development (LYD)* – Member Milanowski reported that the continuation of the LYD program is due to the dedication of volunteers. LYD is looking at strategic planning and continuing to offer opportunities for students. Applications and planning for events is underway. The Be Nice program continues to run strong. Milanowski shared that the new LYD intern is doing a great job.

*Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE)* – Member Welch Lykins reported that conversations continue on special education and effective discipline. A PASE meeting was held where Personal Curriculum was discussed.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, February 23, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 8:05 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.