

## **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, March 16, 2015**

### **MINUTES**

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, March 16, 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, Elizabeth Welch Lykins, Beth Milanowski, Robert Wolford, Natalie Bernecker, Mark Hessler, Brian Coles

Absent: None

Administration: Dr. Sara Magaña Shubel, Jeanne Glowicki, Kevin Philipps, Kathy Wisniewski, Doug Jenkins, Jenny Fee, Steve Wojciechowski, 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.

Acknowledgment of Guests – None.

Public Comments – None.

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

- None

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

Blake Driscoll, Senior Class President, reported that Student Council activities are winding down at this time of year. A retirement luncheon in honor of long time high school custodian, Eddie Michalec, will be held for all staff on Thursday, March 19. Peter Stuursma announced that Blake received All State Academic Honors in football and that Blake will be attending the Naval Academy after graduation. The board congratulated Blake on his accomplishments.

#### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

##### International Baccalaureate Update (Enclosure #6)

Jeanne Glowicki, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; Jenny Fee, High School Principal; and Heather McKinney-Rewa, High School Language Arts Teacher and IB Coordinator, presented information on the status of the district's IB application process. Fee reported that we are in year two of a three-year application process. She shared the various student, parent, and faculty communications. IB work included curriculum development by staff and attendance at multiple professional development sessions related to the IB Diploma Programme. Fee thanked the EGR Schools Foundation for provided funding for these sessions. Community outreach and other communications included presentations to various groups. The next steps include submitting the Application for Authorization by April 1, 2015, with the anticipation of receiving authorization as an Official IB World School by Winter 2015/Spring 2016, and to begin Year One of the IB Diploma Programme at EGRHS in Fall 2016. McKinney-Rewa presented details of the Class of 2018 Student Outreach which included providing students with an overview of the IB Diploma Programme, an Interest Inventory Survey, Q&A Lunches, and a Post Assessment Survey. She shared the results of the Post Assessment Survey, and it was determined that 108 students from the current 9<sup>th</sup> grade class are interested in learning more, with 80 students claiming they would choose the IB DP today. Glowicki affirmed the importance of having infrastructure in place and the investment from all teachers to complete the IB-recognized training through professional development. She provided information on the financial considerations of the IB Diploma Programme, and financial revenue considerations were shared. Glowicki thanked Dr. Shubel for her guidance and patience on this journey and thanked Jenny Fee and the teachers for their work as well. A discussion was held among the board.

Special Education High School Transition Plan (Enclosure #7)

Kathy Wisniewski, Director of Special Education, and several high school special education staff members (Andrea Adams, Sandy Brooks, Kara Green, Steve Seth), as well as Bill Behrendt, Middle School Assistant Principal, presented information on Transition Plans for special education students. Also in attendance was Jill Fouch representing the middle school ASD program. This report was a direct response to questions, comments, and concerns brought forth by parents at the June 2014 board meeting and in follow-up to the Special Education Review. An overview of the transition process, services, and planning was provided. Transition assessments were detailed. An outline of what EGRPS has done this year was presented which included staff professional development, transition assessments, site visits for students, group and individual meetings with students and parents, and communications and meetings for families. The role of high school special education teachers in the transition process was explained. Wisniewski summarized the presentation by explaining that Transition is not a program; it is a service which is individualized for each student. In reviewing transition, we determined that our students are participating in those transition services, and we will continue to work toward making transition options the most relevant for our students and families and communicate this information, as we continually strive to improve on our services and communications.

**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 8 through 10.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 2/23/2015 (Enclosure #8)

Approval of Payment of Bills – February 2015 (Enclosure #9)

Approval of Proposed KIDZ Have Rights Program (Enclosure #10)

Member Wolford moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 8-10. Member Bernecker seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of Numbers for the 2015-2016 Schools of Choice Program (Enclosure #11)

Background: 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. The Finance Committee and Superintendent are recommending that we accept 55 students through the 2015-2016 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.

Recommendation: Motion to accept 55 students through the 2015-2016 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.

Dr. Shubel reviewed the Schools of Choice process and how recommended numbers are determined. She explained that kindergarten numbers always fluctuate, and historically we have had increases in enrollment at the middle and high schools.

Member Milanowski moved to accept 55 students through the 2015-2016 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program. Member Coles seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Classroom Audio Visual Bid Package (Enclosure #12)

Background: The district requested bids to upgrade classroom audio visual technology. The bids include the replacement of current classroom projectors with interactive projectors at the elementary level and enhanced standard projectors at the secondary level. To support the projectors, whiteboard heights will be adjusted at the elementary level and wider screens will be installed at the secondary level. The classroom technology carts will be upgraded to a digital switching system and classroom microphones will be refreshed. Bids were received and after reviewing the bids, administration is requesting approval of Secant Technologies bid totaling \$1,002,053.33. The bids have been reviewed by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent and they recommend accepting the bid from Secant Technologies.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the bid from Secant Technologies for classroom audio visual technology totaling \$1,002,053.33 as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent.

Philipps provided information on the bid for classroom audio visual technology and shared that the technology team worked with Carl VanDerzee of Communications by Design to present the bid from Secant Technologies. Carl was present this evening to address any questions from the board.

Member Bernecker moved to approve the bid from Secant Technologies for classroom audio visual technology totaling \$1,002,053.33 as recommended by the Facilities Committee and Superintendent. Member Hessler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Superintendent - None.

### Assistant Superintendent of Business

Kevin Philipps reported on a potential Tuition Enrollment Program (TEP) in EGRPS. He explained the potential revenues from this program and the legalities involved. Dr. Shubel shared that the administration would like to bring a proposed tuition policy to the board at the April 20 regular meeting, with request for approval at the April 28 special meeting. The plan is to begin advertising in May of this year with enrollment to begin in June. This program is targeted for incoming freshman who are interested in the IB Programme. Dr. Shubel reported that the administrative team has done a lot of research on a tuition program as an opportunity for student enrollment growth.

A discussion was held among the board. President Rabideau thanked the administrative team for their research and putting together a proposed policy to be presented to the board in April.

### Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Jeanne Glowicki provided a Writing Coaches Update reporting that we have had eight writing coaches over the past few years who share in ongoing learning for staff. These coaches applied for Teacher's College which is a great resource. The expenses are funded through federal grants and we hope to send our teachers so that they may come back and share with other staff members.

### Board Member Reports

*Communications Committee* – Member Bernecker reported that the committee met and reviewed Proposal I and put a plan in place to send communications to the EGR community. The committee will also review the proposed MASB Proposal I board resolution.

*Facilities Committee* – Member Wolford reported that the committee received technology and construction updates.

*Finance Committee* – Member Wolford reported that the committee received technology and construction updates.

*Joint Facilities Committee* – No reports.

*Legislative Liaison Committee* – Member Hessler reported that the committee discussed Proposal I and the Governor's Budget. We will continue to push the district's message forward. Hessler also met individually with Senator Dave Hildenbrand this morning and shared that Senator Hildenbrand was receptive to the unique situation in EGRPS and he will research the differences between Kent County districts. The hope is that EGRPS will gain more funding.

*Personnel Committee* – No reports.

*Policy Review Committee* – Member Rabideau reported that the committee will meet on April 16.

### Liaisons

*EGR Schools Foundation* – Member Bernecker reported on another successful Hurrah! event with over 450 attendees. Final number on funds raised will be announced at the April board meeting. She thanked the administration, board, co-chairs and the many volunteers for their efforts. A grants meeting will be held next week and the Foundation will award the remaining funds of \$67,000 to grant recipients. A report on EGRNow! will be shared in April.

*Community Action Council* – Member Coles reported that he met with the chairperson, Kim Rossi. Small group gatherings are underway to discuss what CAC does and how families can interact.

*PTO Council* – No reports.

*Parks & Recreation* – No reports.

*Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC)* – Member Hessler reported that Kevin Philipps facilitated another budget update at last week's meeting, and discussions will continue on budget at the April meeting.

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

*Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE)* – Member Welch Lykins reported that a Brown Bag session was held last week, and Kindy Segovia, Assistive Technology Coordinator from Kent ISD presented.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 8:07 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.  
jmm 3/17/2015