

Our Mission

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

EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kent County, Michigan

REGULAR/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education

High School Little Auditorium
2211 Lake Dr. SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Monday, June 15, 2015

MINUTES

The **REGULAR/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, June 15, 2015, in the High School Little Auditorium, 2211 Lake Dr. SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Present: Michelle Rabideau, Elizabeth Welch, Beth Milanowski, Bob 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, Craig Weigel, Peter Stuursma, Bill Behrendt, Lori Johnston, 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 – President Rabideau welcomed State Representative Chris Afendoulis who reported that he was looking forward to hearing what will be outlined regarding the district's 2015-2016 budget. He shared that he knows difficult decisions need to be made and he appreciates the board's service to the community. He also shared that he will be in the lobby following the initial presentation to meet with community members.

President Rabideau reported that many community members voiced their concerns and shared suggestions relating to the district budget. She announced that Public Comments will be held following the budget presentation.

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

The Board received communications from the following persons on proposed budget reductions:

Lucinda Bender	Heather Lewis	Kathryn Stieler
Susanne Buchau	Britt O'Malley	Abby and Meg Strand
Beth Chappus	Tina Murua	Lisa Tesch
Melissa Conway and Matt Mahoney	Charles and Maureen Paluska	Vikki Tuuk
Samantha Cornell	John Pellegrini	Glorianna Zimdar
Michelle Day	Stephen Rockwell	
Sara Edleman	Ellen Schendel	
Stephanie Hoekstra	Sally Scripps	
Lauren Jacoby	Lucinda Shair	
Rob and Julie Kowalewski		

The Board received a Thank You from Nancy Bylenga and Evon Roberts for the retirement clock received on their retirement.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Recognition of Chris LaMange. Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame Inductee – Tim Johnston

Tim Johnston, Director of Athletics, recognized Mr. Chris LaMange, for his induction into the Michigan Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame tomorrow. This is LaMange's 20th year of coaching baseball in EGR, and under his leadership the teams have won several regional and state championships. Johnston presented LaMange with a certificate of recognition and congratulated him on behalf of the board.

Recognition of Girls Lacrosse 2015 MHSAA Division 2 State Championship – Tim Johnston

Tim Johnston recognized the girls lacrosse team on their 2015 MHSAA Division 2 State Championship, the 126th championship for EGRPS. Team members and coaches were presented with certificates of recognition and congratulated the team on behalf of the board.

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, Numbers 6-26.

Approval of Minutes of BUDGET HEARING of 06/08/2015 (Enclosure #6)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 06/12/2015 (Enclosure #7)

Appointment of Legal Counsel (Enclosure #8)

Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Business to Transfer Budget Line Funds (Enclosure #9)

Designation of Depositories (Enclosure #10)

Authorize the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent of Business, and Board Treasurer to Sign Checks (Enclosure #11)

Authorize the Superintendent of Schools or his/her Designee to Hire, Accept Resignations, Approve Leaves of Absence, and to Terminate Employment for Certificated Staff (Enclosure #12)

Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Business to Hire, Accept Resignations, Approve Leaves of Absence, and to Terminate, When Necessary, Support Personnel (Enclosure #13)

Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Business to Invest Funds (Enclosure #14)

Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Business to Transfer Funds (Enclosure #15)

Authorize District to Utilize Electronic Transactions of Funds (Enclosure #16)

Authorize the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Business to Transfer Funds from the General Fund to the Food Service Fund, Athletic Fund, Millage Fund, or Student Activity Fund, and to Make Fund Modifications as Necessary (Enclosure #17)

Authorizations for Signatures on Checking Accounts (Enclosure #18)

Appointment of Auditors (Enclosure #19)

Adoption of the Summer Tax Collection (Enclosure #20)

Background: The Board of Education needs to renew authorization of a summer tax collection.

Recommendation: Motion to authorize a summer tax collection as presented in Enclosure #20.

Authorization to Approve Letters of Agreement with EGREA and EGRASE (Enclosure #21)

Background: The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Business, request that they have authorization to approve Letters of Agreement with EGREA and EGRASE.

Recommendation: Motion to approve authorization for the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Business to approve Letters of Agreement with EGREA and EGRASE.

Resolution for Membership in Michigan High School Athletic Association (Enclosure #22)

Background: The Board of Education is asked to approve District Membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the 2015-2016 school year.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the Resolution to voluntarily join the Michigan High School Athletic Association from August 1, 2015, through July 31, 2016.

Approval of Board of Education Memberships and Dues

Background: The Board asked to have all memberships in organizations reviewed on an annual basis.

Recommendation: Motion to renew institutional memberships and pay the dues required.

Approval for Board of Education Members to attend any or all MASB, MASA, or KIASB conferences and activities

Background: Pre-approval is needed to attend MASB, MASA and KIASB conferences, workshops, and activities.

Recommendation: Motion to approve Board of Education members' attendance at MASB, MASA, and KIASB conferences, workshops, and activities.

Official Meeting Dates for the 2015-2016 School Year (Enclosure #25)

Background: See Enclosure #25.

Recommendation: Motion to authorize Board Meetings as listed in Enclosure #25.

Periodicals for the Board of Education

Background: The Board has previously received *Phi Delta Kappan*, *Educational Leadership (ASCD)*, *American School Board Journal*, and *Education Week*. The administration would like approval to order periodicals to be ordered for 2015-2016.

Recommendation: Board approval requested.

Member Milanowski moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 6-26. Member Hessler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

President Rabideau reported that the 2015-2016 budget will be recommended for board approval this evening. She explained that every possible option was reviewed and brought forward, and she restated that this has been a long process and has been going on since 2009, engaged the community, and the district has been extremely transparent. During this time, the district has received minimal per-pupil funding and even decreases from the state level. Despite significant budget reductions of 3.7 million and fund balance use of 3 million, the district is still experiencing a deficit. Rabideau reported that our priority has been to develop a structurally balanced budget without any additional fund balance being used. Unfortunately this is the year that really tough cuts need to be made. Rabideau thanked fellow board members and administration for their tireless efforts to revise a budget recommendation that puts our students first. While doing this work, our administrative team has taken the hit over and over. She shared that we have an extremely lean administrative team and a very effective one, which is why our overall organizational structure runs so well. Since 2009 administrators have always been the first group to experience cuts in salaries and benefits. Rabideau publicly thanked our community for their engagement and seeking to better understand the complexities of public school funding, voicing concerns, and offering support. Rabideau invited Member Wolford to offer additional remarks before the budget presentation.

Member Wolford reported that the board members are elected to be stewards of the district and this requires tough decisions. Our principal goal as stewards is to be committed to developing a sustainable operating budget. To achieve that goal, all stakeholders need to participate. The community has stepped up to levels that we could never have imagined through EGRNow! and participation in our schools. Wolford shared that the board worked very hard and cannot thank the community enough and the entire administrative team for their leadership to ensure that administrators were leaders in this area of minimizing the impact to our children. Through across the board wage concessions and administrative restructuring, the administration will have contributed \$120,000 in terms of a positive impact to this budget for next year. He shared that two other stakeholders can help to minimize the impact; state government, and the Teacher and Support Staff Associations. He thanked Representative Afendoulis for demonstrating that he is committed to understanding these issues and making sure our voice is heard in Lansing and hopes it leads to better results for public education in the future. Wolford reported that the board heard the request from the Teacher Association last week that the board attend the negotiations sessions. Wolford took them up on that offer last Friday and participated in a meeting for purposes of wanting to make sure that we had an open dialogue and to make sure we heard any ideas they had, but also to make sure they understood the need to sustain an operating budget going forward. It is important that they participate in that on some level. The board is extremely committed to obtain that type of agreement within those parameters through any means necessary. We need to ensure that we can continue to provide the level of programming and type of education to all our kids and maintain a sustainable working environment. Wolford shared that he is hopeful that productive discussions over the summer will lead to a resolution that everyone shares in the sacrifices. We also realize that cuts remain necessary and were made on an equitable level throughout the district. Reductions will be equitably administered throughout the buildings and levels but also to the programming. We wanted to ensure that every program was reviewed. Wolford thanked fellow board members and administrators for the time put in over this last year and specifically last week. He shared that he is proud of what we are about to present this evening.

Approval of 2015-2016 General Fund Budget (Enclosure #27a-c)

Kevin Philipps presented a revised list of recommendations for the 2015-2016 budget. He reported that a change in administrative compensation is recommended with a total compensation reduction of 2% for all administrators. He also reported on the recommendation to eliminate the Intervention Specialist position. Philipps reported that all EGRNow! funds will be dedicated to maintaining the current level of elementary art, music, physical education, and Spanish programs for the next fiscal year. The proposed budget also requires a small use of fund balance to maintain the programming for the 2015-2016 school year. Philipps reported that all budget figures are inclusive of IB, and unreserved fund balance includes the IB reserve going forward.

The 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Forecasts were presented, and no funds from EGRNow! are budgeted for these two years. These figures also include the projected School Aid Fund growth of \$100 per pupil each year. A 1% total compensation increase is budgeted for each of these two years.

Member Wolford moved to approve the 2015-2016 General Fund Budget as presented in Enclosure #27a-c. Member Hessler seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of 2015-2016 Budget for the Sinking Fund (Enclosure #27a-c)
Philipps presented the 2015-2016 Budget for the Sinking Fund.

Member Milanowski moved to approve the 2015-2016 Sinking Fund Budget as presented in Enclosure #27a-c. Member Welch Lykins seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of 2015-2016 Budget for Debt Retirement (Enclosure #27a-c)
Kevin Philipps presented the 2015-2016 Budget for Debt Retirement.

Member Bernecker moved to approve the 2015-2016 Debt Retirement Budget as presented in Enclosure #27a-c. Member Hessler seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the Board. Motion passed 7-0.

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

Nancy McSkimming - 3033 Ledgestone Place, Teacher Association President, commented on the budget process and appreciation of collaborative efforts with the board.

Courtney Moskal - 2041 Tenway Dr., thanked the board, administration, and community on the budget process.

Michelle Patterson - 2046 Tenway, commented on budget recommendations and legislative communications.

Steve Edison - 2855 Elmwood Dr., commented on the budget process, the IB program, staff insurance options, and legislative concerns.

Tina Brooks - 145 Morningside Dr., commented on budget reductions, special education, and IB.

Member Welch Lykins reported on the board's work on legislative issues. She shared that the Community Foundation and Legislative Committee were formed due to past funding issues in Lansing. All schools have taken a massive hit with money being transferred from school funds to be used for business tax cuts in Michigan. Another massive hit to school funding was retirement funding in just a short period of time. She shared that we have created alliances across the state to deal with legislative issues. She encouraged community members to join the Legislative Committee to learn and stay involved.

Approval of 2015 Millage Rates for the General Fund Budget, Debt Retirement, Sinking Fund, and Recreation Millage (Enclosure #29)
Philipps presented background information on the 2015 Millage Rates for the General Fund Budget, Debt Retirement, Sinking Fund, and Recreation Millage.

Member Bernecker moved to approve the 2015 Millage Rates as described in Enclosure #29. Member Welch Lykins seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the Board. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of 2014-2015 Final Budget Amendments (Enclosure #30)

Background: The Finance Committee has reviewed the final amendment to the 2014-2015 General Fund, Athletic, Food Service, Sinking Fund, and Debt Retirement Budgets.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the 2014-2015 General Fund Budget Amendments as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Philipps presented the 2014-2015 Final Budget Amendments as presented in Enclosure #30.

Member Hessler moved to approve the 2014-2015 Final Budget Amendments as recommended by the Finance Committee. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of State Aid Loan Resolution (Enclosure #31)
Kevin Philipps presented details of the State Aid Loan Resolution.

Member Milanowski moved to approve the State Aid Loan Resolution as presented in Enclosure #31. Member Coles seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the Board. Motion passed 7-0.

President Rabideau thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting and for sharing their comments.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Shubel provided personnel updates of four staff members receiving official layoff notices tomorrow morning: Lynda Bykerk-Rupke, Jen Harmens, Erin Stirdivant, and Breanna Wagenmaker. Additionally, some staff members who were previously employed full time have been reduced including: Andrea Adams, Kara Green, Casey Longo, Christy Steketee, and Scott Tompkins.

President Rabideau reported that no action is required on these personnel updates. Dr. Shubel shared that changes might take place over the summer which could potentially increase the affected staff members' FTE status.

Assistant Supt. of Business

None

Assistant Supt. of Instruction

None

Board Member Reports

Communications Committee – Member Bernecker reported that a letter will be sent to the community regarding the budget approval.

Facilities Committee – No reports.

Finance Committee – No reports.

Joint Facilities Committee – No reports.

Legislative Liaison Committee – Member Hessler reported that the Legislative Committee is seeking advocates to become involved on the committee.

Personnel Committee – President Rabideau reported that a Voluntary Separation Incentive was offered to EGREA staff and administrators, and the agreement was granted for two staff members: David Ghareeb and Kathy Wisniewski. Rabideau shared that the Interim title was removed from the High School Assistant Principal position, and Steve Wojciechowski was officially appointed to this position; no action required from the board.

Policy Review Committee – No reports.

Liaisons

EGR Schools Foundation – Member Bernecker thanked the 696 supporters of EGRNow! and thanked Anne Petruzzi and her team for organizing the yard sale which not only raised funds but raised awareness and brought the community together to realize the budget challenges in the district are extremely important issues. Bernecker encouraged the community to consider supporting EGRNow! on an annual basis.

Community Action Council – No reports.

PTO Council – No reports.

Parks & Recreation – No reports.

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

Leadership & Youth Development (LYD) – No reports.

Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE) – No reports.

ADJOURNMENT

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 7:38 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.