

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 14, 2016

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, March 14, 2016, 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: Robert Wolford, Elizabeth Welch, Natalie Bernecker, Michelle Rabideau, Mark Hessler, Brian Coles

Absent: Beth Milanowski

Administration: Dr. Shubel, Jeanne Glowicki, Kevin Philipps, Doug Jenkins, Steve Wojciechowski, Tim Johnston, Craig Weigel, Anthony Morey, Caroline Breault-Cannon

Meeting Called to Order

President Wolford 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

The board received a Thank You from Andrea Haidle, former EGRPS board member, for the reception/information session that was held in February for former board members.

High School Student Council President's Report – Steve Wojciechowski, High School Assistant Principal, reported that students are preparing for prom and graduation.

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 considered 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 items in the Consent Agenda Numbers 6-7.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 2/22/2016 (Enclosure #6)

Approval of Payment of Bills – February 2016 (Enclosure #7)

Member Milanowski arrived at 6:03 p.m.

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

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Numbers for the 2016-2017 Schools of Choice Program – Dr. Shubel (Enclosure #8)

Background: East Grand Rapids Public Schools has participated in the Kent Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program since its inception in the 1996-1997 school year. The Finance Committee and Superintendent are recommending that we accept 24 students through the 2016-2017 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.

Recommendation: Motion to accept 24 students through the 2016-2017 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.

Dr. Shubel reviewed the Schools of Choice process and how recommended numbers are determined. A discussion was held among the board.

Member Coles moved to accept 24 students through the 2016-2017 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program. Member Rabideau seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Authority to Enter Into Agreement for Sale of Cell Tower Leases of Ground Space (Enclosure #9)

Background: Administration has been working with a site management company interested in purchasing three ground leases the district owns related to the cell tower at the high school. In exchange for the rights to the leases, Unison Site Management will make a one-time payment of \$726,942. Unison would then receive the annual rent payments from the cellular providers going forward. The Finance Committee has discussed the proposed sale and recommends granting administration the authority to enter into an agreement with Unison.

Recommendation: Motion to approve to authorize the administration to enter into an agreement with Unison Site Management to sell three ground spaces leases for a one-time payment of \$726,942 as recommended by the Finance Committee and Superintendent.

Kevin Philipps, Assistant Superintendent of Business, provided an overview of the sale of the cell tower leases as discussed in previous board meetings and Finance Committee meetings. He is recommending that the board authorize the administration to enter into an agreement with Unison Site Management to sell three ground spaces leases for a one-time payment of \$726,942 as presented. A discussion was held among the board.

Member Bernecker moved to authorize the administration to enter into an agreement with Unison Site Management to sell three ground space leases for a one-time payment of \$726,942 as recommended by the Finance Committee and Superintendent. Member Hessler seconded the motion. Motion passes 7-0.

Approval of Resolution to Provide Authority to Advance Refund 2007 and 2008 Bonds – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #10)

Background: The district has an opportunity to lower interest costs on its 2007 and 2008 Bonds through an advance refunding of those bonds. The 2007 and 2008 Bonds have 10 year call provisions, but the district can issue new bonds and place those bonds into an escrow account until the proceeds are used to retire the 2007 Bonds in 2017, and the 2008 Bonds in 2018. The reduction in interest on the new bonds is projected to exceed the costs of carrying two sets of bonds for 1-2 years. The first step in the process of refunding bonds is for the Board of Education to support a resolution authorizing the Administration to move forward and execute the refunding of the bonds. The resolution does not obligate the Board to refund the bonds, and administration will work with the Finance Committee up until the date of sale to communicate projected savings and whether the district should move forward with the refunding. The Finance Committee has discussed the proposed resolution and recommends approval of the resolution.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the resolution authorizing the administration to enter into a refunding of the 2007 and 2008 Bonds as recommended by the Finance Committee and Superintendent.

Kevin Philipps provided background information on the potential opportunity to refund the 2007 and 2008 bonds with the reduction in interest rates. Locking in at a lower interest rate could result in projected savings of 8-11% of present value, approximately \$900,000 to \$1.1 million in savings if bonds are refunded. Philipps recommends approval of the resolution as presented. A discussion was held among the board.

Member Wolford moved to approve the resolution authorizing the administration to enter into a refunding of the 2007 and 2008 Bonds as recommended by the Finance Committee and Superintendent. Member Rabideau seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Wireless RFP Bid – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #11)

Background: A component of the technology plan from the 2014 Bond was to upgrade and increase district wireless capabilities. The Technology team requested and received bids for wireless networking equipment and cabling required to support the wireless equipment. After reviewing the bids for accuracy and completeness, administration recommends accepting the low bids for both categories. Administration proposes accepting CDWG/Extreme Networks wireless networking equipment bid in the amount of \$228,346.13, and Parkway Electric's cabling bid in the amount of \$115,354.00. The two proposed bids total \$343,700.13. The Facilities Committee has reviewed the submitted bids and recommends accepting the bids as presented.

Recommendation: Motion to accept the wireless equipment bids in the amount of \$343,700.13 as presented.

Kevin Philipps reported that, as part of the 2014 technology bond issue, wireless networking and supporting cabling updates are recommended in order to have the most powerful system we can have for the next few years before we need to refresh again. The district received bids, and the recommendation is to take the lowest bids in each category; one is a previous vendor that the district was pleased with on installation of our wired networking. The work will take place this summer. Philipps recommends that the board accept the bids as presented. A discussion was held among the board.

Member Hessler moved to accept the wireless equipment bids in the amount of \$343,700.13 as presented. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Shubel reported that the district submitted a letter to the State Superintendent requesting a waiver from the Kent County Common Calendar adopted at the county level in February 2016. Due to the district's 3-year contract which was ratified in August 2015, ending in June 2018, a waiver is necessary to allow for the district to follow the calendar dates that are not aligned with the Kent County Common Calendar for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years. An approved waiver from the state would allow EGRPS to continue with our December Holiday Breaks as published through the end of our contract, June 2018. Dr. Shubel shared that she will notify the board of the state's decision.

Dr. Shubel also shared that the initial Post-Labor Day start date waiver submitted by all Kent County districts for the 2016-2017 school year was withdrawn. A discussion was held among the board.

Dr. Shubel announced the five teachers who elected to participate in the Early Resignation Incentive:

Marti Chardon - Breton Downs 3rd Grade Teacher
Nancy Gallavin - Wealthy Reading Specialist
Laurie Potter - Middle School Science Teacher
Paulette Karatsinides - High School Spanish Teacher
Jennie Frazier - High School Spanish Teacher

Dr. Shubel will send an email to all teachers informing them of the potential openings created by these resignations.

Assistant Supt. of Business

None

Assistant Supt. of Instruction

Jeanne Glowicki reported on Summer Learning to be held in June offering 25 classes with approximately 100 staff members participating in classes. She also shared that professional development hours are offered in August prior to the start of school and throughout the school year, with 20 designated hours and 10 differentiated hours per staff member.

Board Member Reports

Communications Committee – No reports.

Facilities Committee – No reports.

Finance Committee – No reports.

Joint Facilities Committee – No reports; Lake Drive Construction Project was discussed.

Legislative Liaison Committee – Member Welch reported that the committee is preparing for the Town Hall Meeting on March 23.

Personnel Committee – No reports.

Policy Review Committee – No reports.

Liaisons

EGR Schools Foundation – Member Milanowski announced that the annual Hurrah! fundraiser was held on Saturday, March 12. The EGRNow! campaign is underway.

Community Action Council – Member Hessler met with Kim Rossi and discussed the topics being discussed with parents on substance abuse and addiction.

PTO Council – President Wolford reported that a meeting was held at Breton Downs.

Parks & Recreation – No reports.

Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC) – Member Coles reported that SAC met last week where Michelle Kirk, Lakeside 1st Grade Teacher, presented on Writing Coaches.

Leadership & Youth Development (LYD) – No reports.

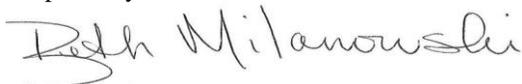
Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE) – Member Bernecker reported that she is attending a meeting this evening.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, April 18, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Wolford adjourned the meeting at 6:49 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.