

## Our Mission

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

# EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kent County, Michigan

## BUDGET HEARING of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education

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

Monday, June 6, 2016

### MINUTES

The **BUDGET HEARING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, June 6, 2016, High School Little Auditorium, 2211 Lake Drive SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Present: Robert Wolford, Elizabeth Welch, Beth Milanowski, Natalie Bernecker, Michelle Rabideau, 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, Tim Johnston, Bill Behrendt, Shelly Schram, Caroline Breault-Cannon, Anthony Morey, Craig Weigel

#### Meeting Called to Order

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

#### Acknowledgment of Guests - None

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

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

Agustin Parraguez-Huisman  
Melissa Rounds  
David Mack  
Gayla Fox  
Steven Fox

Annie Meyer-Rasmussen  
Audrey McDonald Philip Picard  
Bill and Jan Lewis  
Kathy Bego

David Baker  
Carole McDonald  
Pam Steers  
Susanne Buchau

### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

#### EGRNow! Check Presentation

Amy Stuursma, Executive Director of EGR Schools Foundation; Abby Sorota, Foundation board member and co-chair for the EGRNow! campaign; and Brian Schwartz, Foundation board member, presented a check to the district resulting in funds raised from the EGRNow! campaign in the amount of \$406,000. Amy thanked Abby and Brian for their efforts with the fundraising campaign and service on the board. President Wolford accepted the check on behalf of the school board and thanked the Foundation for their tremendous efforts and organization on running such a successful campaign.

President Wolford provided an overview of the format for tonight's budget hearing and explained that no decisions have been made regarding budget recommendations and that no decisions will be made this evening. He thanked community members who have expressed their concerns and raised important questions as we continue to work toward a structurally balanced budget for the district. The Board of Education appreciates those who have sought to better understand the complexities of public school funding.

#### Budget Hearing: 2016-2017 General Fund Budget

Kevin Philipps reviewed the General Fund Budget. The 2015-2016 Final Budget Amendments were shared as well as the variances from the amended budget of net operational changes in revenues and expenses. Philipps shared the 2016-2017 Budget Assumptions (State Funding) and presented the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget, as well as Future Year Projections.

Philipps provided a summary of budget recommendations, reporting that the proposed budget for 2016-2017 is structurally balanced. EGRNow! contributions for the 2016-2017 school year totaling \$406,000 will offset the budget reduction recommendations previously in May. Philipps reported that there are continued budget risks due to decreased student enrollment and lack of adequate state funding. Budget Assumptions were detailed for the 2017-2018 Forecast of revenues and expenses. Philipps described the factors involved in maintaining a structurally balanced budget and reported that the proposed 2016-2017 budget is structurally balanced due to the incredible contributions of EGRNow! which is a significant improvement over previous budgets the last two years. The district will continue to work on maintaining structural balance and feels that the 2016-2017 budget provides the best possible educational program for students based on the resources received.

A discussion was held among the board throughout the presentation. Dr. Shubel thanked staff members and the community for their contributions to our schools and asked everyone to be mindful of the board members' decisions and thoughtful considerations while working toward budget approval. She also encouraged everyone to talk to neighbors and friends and direct them to the Community Budget Guide located on our district website which provides a great deal of detailed information and allows for a greater understanding of public school district funding and the EGRPS budget.

President Wolford thanked Philipps, the entire administration and staff, the EGR Schools Foundation, and the whole community for their support of our schools.

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

Tamara Christians – 1111 Idema Drive, commented on Schools of Choice and IB.

Brad Laackman – 3175 Cascade Road, thanked the board and administration and announced his candidacy for the EGRPS Board of Education in the 2016 election.

Beth Milanowski – 2640 Hall Street, announced that she will run for another term on the EGRPS Board of Education in the 2016 election.

Kate Decker – 925 Bellclaire, commented on prior proposed budget reductions and presented a petition to the board.

Gloriana Zimdar – 529 Rosewood, commented on efforts of the board and community, and shared that further knowledge is gained by attending school board meetings.

Debbie Playford – 435 Lakeside Drive, thanked everyone for support of the arts.

President Wolford thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He shared that the engagement from our community is always welcome and would like to see staff and community members in attendance at board meetings all year long. He explained that the board and administration have been working on the budget since the fall and have been addressing reductions for many years. He shared that there are no simple decisions, and the budget process is complex. The board's job is to assure that we are providing the best possible academic programs for our district, and students are first and foremost as we strive to achieve this goal.

### **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 7 through 9.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 5/16/2015 (Enclosure #7)

Approval of Payment of Bills – May 2016 (Enclosure #8)

Approval of Proposed K-12 Music Curriculum Update (Enclosure #9)

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

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Superintendent - None

Assistant Superintendent of Business - None

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction - None

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. at the High School Little Auditorium.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Wolford adjourned the meeting at 7:55 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.