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*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, December 7, 2015

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, December 7, 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, Bob Wolford, Natalie Bernecker, Mark Hessler, Brian Coles

Absent: Beth Milanowski

Administration: Dr. Sara Magaña Shubel, Jeanne Glowicki, Kevin Philipps, Bill Behrendt, Jenny Fee, Steve Wojciechowski, Peter Stuursma, 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

Member Milanowski arrived at 6:01 p.m.

Board Secretary's Report: Communications to and from the Board – None

High School Student Council President's Report – Matthew Levitt, Student Council President, reported on the Food Drive which helped support 30 local families. He also shared that the junior class is working on prom activities.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Special Education Update – Bill Behrendt, Director of Special Education, provided an overview of his transition in the special education department, current staffing and services at all levels, and goals for the 2015-2016 school year. Behrendt reported on the transition services, communication, professional development, and current issues in special education, as well as parent resources. A discussion was held among 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 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 7-9.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 10/26/2015 (Enclosure #7)

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 11/13/2015 (Enclosure #8)

Approval of Payment of Bills – October/November 2015 (Enclosure #9)

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

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Proposed Amended Budget for 2015-2016 – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #10)

Background: Each fall, the Board Finance Committee recommends a Budget Amendment to the Board of Education. The Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed amendment.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the amendment for the 2015-2016 budget as listed in Enclosure #10.

Kevin Philipps, Assistant Superintendent of Business, provided an overview of the Proposed Amended Budget for 2015-2016. He provided a summary of changes since the June 2015 Adopted Budget, an analysis of future years' budget assumptions, the budget forecast for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, a budget forecast sensitivity analysis, as well as financial trends/ratios. A discussion was held among the board.

Member Coles moved to approve the amendment for the 2015-2016 budget as listed in Enclosure #10. Member Bernecker seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Resolution to Call March 8, 2016, Election for Non-Homestead and Sinking Fund Renewals - Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #11)

Background: The district's non-homestead and sinking fund millages expire at the end of the 2015 tax year. Both millages have been Headlee reduced over the last few years. The proposed election would renew the non-homestead millage for three (3) years and the sinking fund millage for ten (10) years. The proposed election would also restore the millages to their original levy, 18 mills annually for non-homestead and 0.5 mills annually for sinking fund. The Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed resolution and recommends approval.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the resolution to call the March 8, 2016, election as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Philipps provided an overview of the March 8, 2016, Election for Non-Homestead and Sinking Fund Renewals. A discussion was held among the board and it was stressed that it will be important to communicate to voters that this is a millage renewal, not a new millage.

Member Milanowski moved to approve the Resolution to Call a March 8, 2016, Election for Non-Homestead and Sinking Fund Renewals as presented in Enclosure #11. Member Wolford seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Early Resignation Incentive Resolution – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #12)

Background: As part of the new collective bargaining agreement with the East Grand Rapids Education Association (EGREA), it was agreed a one-time early resignation incentive effective the end of the 2015-2016 school year would be offered. The incentive window would begin on December 17, 2015, and close on February 5, 2016. The seven (7) day revocation window would end on February 12, 2016. A minimum of six EGREA members must elect the incentive for the incentive to take effect. The Finance Committee has reviewed the resolution and recommends approval.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the resolution to offer an early resignation program to members of the East Grand Rapids Education Association (EGREA) as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Philipps provided an overview of the Early Resignation Incentive Plan as presented in Enclosure #12.

Member Hessler moved to approve the Early Resignation Incentive Resolution as presented in Enclosure #12 and recommended by the Finance Committee. A discussion was held among the board. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0.

Election of 2016 Board Member Officer Positions – Michelle Rabideau provided background information on the election of board member officers and commended the board on their commitment and dedication as evidenced by their willingness to serve in leadership positions on the board. Rabideau reported that the board officer terms are from January 1 thru December 31, 2016.

President

Member Bernecker moved that Member Wolford serve as President beginning in January 2016. Member Hessler seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed 7-0.

Vice President

Member Wolford moved that Member Welch serve as Vice President beginning January 2016. Member Bernecker seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed 7-0.

Treasurer

Member Milanowski moved that Member Bernecker serve as Treasurer beginning in January 2016. Member Wolford seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed 7-0.

Secretary

Member Coles moved that Member Milanowski serve as Secretary beginning in January 2016. Member Hessler seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Pre-Labor Day Start Waiver – Dr. Shubel (Enclosure #14)

Background: Kent County's Common Calendar Committee has asked districts to consider options in the school calendar for a pre-Labor Day start of school for students. Kent County superintendents are requesting a pre-Labor Day start waiver from the State of Michigan where students would start back to school on the Monday of the week prior to Labor Day for the 2016-2017 school year. All break periods will remain unchanged from the previous Kent County Common Calendar and still reflects the required 180 student days.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the request to submit a Pre-Labor Day Start Waiver to the State of Michigan as recommended by the superintendent.

Dr. Shubel provided background information on the discussion of EGRPS submitting a Pre-Labor Start Waiver along with the other Kent County school districts. The impact of not following the potential change in the Kent County Common Calendar is that EGRPS' calendar would not match up with KCTC programs, special education county-wide center-based programs, dual enrollment classes, etc.

Member Hessler moved to approve the Pre-Labor Day Start Waiver as presented in Enclosure #14. Member Bernecker seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Shubel announced that the EGR Schools Foundation awarded \$30,000 in grants during the fall grant cycle to our staff and thanked the Foundation for their work and ongoing support of our staff and students.

Dr. Shubel shared that the Curriculum Workshop will be held on January 11, 2016.

Dr. Shubel announced that district office receptionist, Bev Headworth, will retire at the end of December and shared that she will be greatly missed. She shared that central office administration plans to look at ways to internally restructure the district office functions.

Dr. Shubel shared that Linda Kehm's Memorial Service will be held on April 17, 2016. She thanked the board members for their support at Lakeside when the news of Kehm's death was shared with staff.

Dr. Shubel reported that the *We the People* State Competition will be held in Lansing on January 8, 2016.

Assistant Supt. of Business

Kevin Philipps reported that the updated 2015 Community Budget Guide will be distributed next week via Skyward with a message from the board.

Assistant Supt. of Instruction

None

Board Member Reports

President Rabideau shared that board member committee assignments will be shared and will begin in January 2016.

Communications Committee – Member Bernecker reported that they are discussing ideas to address focusing on sharing school funding information with kindergarten parents.

Facilities Committee – No reports.

Finance Committee – No reports.

Joint Facilities Committee – No reports.

Legislative Liaison Committee – Member Welch reported that the third grade reading bill is still being discussed. She shared that Kevin Philipps educated the committee on the budget impact of Detroit Schools, Medicare Tax, and Road Funding. The potential for a town hall meeting with legislators is being considered.

Personnel Committee – No reports.

Policy Review Committee – Member Rabideau reported that the committee will meet in January to review policies.

Liaisons

EGR Schools Foundation – Member Bernecker provided an update on foundation grants that were awarded. Giving Tuesday received a \$25K match. Work continues on EGRNow!

Community Action Council – No reports.

PTO Council – No reports.

Parks & Recreation – No reports.

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

Leadership & Youth Development (LYD) – Member Milanowski reported that the new intern is making great strides with STEP, TATU, and TEAM programs expanding it to the middle school. The timing of Healthy High is being evaluated. Senior Retreat is planned for next year. The group continues to look for new board members.

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

Member Coles shared that he had a wonderful experience while helping out on Lakeside's playground. He reported that he attended the MASB Delegate Assembly in October and shared experiences from that event.

Member Welch thanked President Rabideau for her committed service on the board.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Rabideau adjourned the meeting at 8:01 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.