

## **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**

The James E. Morse Administration Center at Woodcliff  
2915 Hall Street SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**Monday, March 12, 2018**

### **MINUTES**

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, March 12, 2018, in Community Board Room at the James E. Morse Administration Center, 2915 Hall Street SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Present: Natalie Bernecker, Elizabeth Welch, Beth Milanowski, Robert Wolford, Brian Coles, Brad Laackman

Absent: Mark Hessler

Administration: Dr. Sara Magaña Shubel, Jenny Fee, Kevin Philipps, Doug Jenkins, Craig Weigel, Steve Wojciechowski, Tim Johnston, Anthony Morey, Shelly Schram, Carlye Allen, Caroline Breault-Cannon, Stephanie Thelen

#### Meeting Called to Order

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

Public Comments – President Bernecker explained the ground rules and opened the floor for public comment.

Sue Keil, 1701 Amberley Ct – commented on the pre-Labor Day school start date and provided the board with a petition to reconsider

Sherry Sharrard, 2405 Maplewood – commented on the pre-Labor Day school start date

Lucinda Shair, 2135 Wilshire Dr – commented on gun violence prevention and mental health care personnel in schools

President Bernecker shared that there are pros and cons to establishing the school calendar and explained the Kent ISD's waiver from the state. She shared that the district calendar is set and confirmed that the district will move forward with the 2-week pre-Labor Day start date. She also shared that calendar dates are published on the district website. Member Welch also reiterated that notification was sent to the community in February 2017 regarding the school start date and the future calendars have been posted on the district's website for over a year, as feedback from the community has been to publish calendar dates in advance whenever possible.

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

Student Council President's Report – Tomer Andegeko, High School Student Council President, reported that student council elections will be held. He shared preparations for prom have begun, as well as plans for senior graduation.

### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### Recognition of Top ACT Scores

Dr. Shubel and Craig Weigel, High School Principal, reported that Ben Forstner, Andrew Gadbois, and Anton Ludwig received a perfect ACT score of 36 and recognized their extra-curricular activities and involvement. The board congratulated the students and a certificate of recognition was presented.

#### Elementary Science Curriculum Proposal (Enclosure #6)

Jenny Fee, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, along with elementary science teachers; Kaelynn Benham, Jenny Bergstrom, Stacey Goodman, Cheryl Radecki, Hannah Tobin, and Jodi Westgate, presented on the Elementary Science Curriculum Proposal. The background for the proposal was shared. A detailed overview was provided as described in Enclosure #6. A discussion was held among the board. The proposal will be presented to the board for approval at the April 16 meeting.

## **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 7-8.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 2/12/2018 (Enclosure #7)

Approval of Payment of Bills – February 2018 (Enclosure #8)

Member Welch moved to approve Consent Agenda items 7-8. Member Coles seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

## **OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of Numbers for the 2018-2019 Schools of Choice Programs – Dr. Shubel (Enclosure #9)

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 16 students through the 2018-2019 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.

Recommendation: Motion to accept 16 students through the 2018-2019 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.

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

Member Coles moved to accept 16 students through the Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program. Member Wolford seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of School Day Proposal for Middle School (Enclosure #10)

Member Laackman moved to approve of the School Day Proposal for Middle School as presented in Enclosure #11. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### Superintendent

Dr. Shubel reported on the staffing process that takes place annually with district administrators. We are reviewing requests received from current staff interested in growth opportunities and moving into different positions within the district. All requests are considered as we look at staffing needs, qualifications, and certification requirements. Our goal is to have all positions filled before the end of the school year. A discussion was held among the board.

Dr. Shubel formally announced her retirement effective at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. She expressed her appreciation to the board, staff, and EGR community for their support over the past 12 years during her tenure as superintendent.

President Bernecker expressed that Dr. Shubel discussed the potential of retiring this school year in the fall with then board president, Robert Wolford, and presented her official retirement plan to the board in early January. The board appreciated the timeframe she provided so the board could plan for the superintendent search process. The board decided at that time it was in the best interest of the search process to wait until the March board meeting to make the announcement. Bernecker expressed the board's sincere appreciation for Dr. Shubel's service and her commitment to public education and to EGRPS. She shared that when she thinks of Dr. Shubel's legacy and the difference she has made in our community she realizes the large task the board has ahead of them. She reported that Dr. Shubel has served EGRPS for 12 years as superintendent, has built trust between the district and community, was a visible member of our school community at PTO meetings and sports activities, and provided transparent communication. She passed a series of bonds that dramatically improved the safety of our students and staff and improved our school facilities. Bernecker further shared that Dr. Shubel has balanced school budgets without any incremental increases since 2008, and after exhaustive research she implemented a successful IB program. Bernecker provided further details on the facilitation of the superintendent search process. Additionally, Member Welch thanked Dr. Shubel for her accessibility to the community and support of all students, staff, and community as a whole.

### **ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEM**

President Bernecker amended this evening's agenda to recommend an additional action item to accept the resignation of the Superintendent, effective June 30, 2018. Member Coles moved, reluctantly, to accept the resignation of Dr. Shubel. Member Welch seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

President Bernecker explained the process to conduct a search for a new superintendent. She shared that a subcommittee has been appointed with Member Welch as subcommittee chair, and Members Coles and Milanowski will serve on the subcommittee as well.

#### Assistant Superintendent of Business

Kevin Philipps reported that the House and Senate will present their proposed 2018-2019 school aid budget this month. He shared that the House and Senate leadership is not pleased with some portions of the Governor's budget proposal and we will know more in the coming weeks.

#### Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

No reports.

#### Board Member Reports

*Communications Committee* – Member Milanowski reported that several communications were discussed with Dr. Shubel.

*Facilities Committee* – No reports.

*Finance Committee* – No reports.

*Joint Facilities Committee* – No reports.

*Personnel Committee* – No reports.

*Policy Review Committee* – No reports.

*Legislative Liaison Committee* – Member Welch reported that the committee will alert the district if support is needed regarding the state budget proposals. She shared information on the school finance adequacy study.

#### Liaisons

*EGR Schools Foundation* – Member Wolford reported that a meeting to review grant requests will be held this month.

*Community Action Council* – No reports.

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

*Parks & Recreation* – No reports.

*PTO Council* – Member Bernecker reported that safety in our schools was discussed at the last meeting.

*Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE)* – Member Laackman reported that he is attending a meeting later this evening.

*Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC)* – Member Milanowski reported that a meeting will be held this week.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, April 16, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Bernecker adjourned the meeting at 7:27 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.