

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

Monday, October 23, 2017

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, October 23, 2017, in the High School Little Auditorium, 2211 Lake Drive SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Present: Robert Wolford, Elizabeth Welch, Natalie Bernecker, Mark Hessler, Brian Coles, Brad Laackman

Absent: Beth Milanowski

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

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

The board received communication from Angela Walters, on behalf of herself and several community members as listed in her letter, on racism education in our schools.

Student Council President's Report

Tomer Andegeko, Student Council President, reported that recent Homecoming activities were successful and students worked together to organize Spirit Week, the dance, and the parade. Student Council partnered with the Key Club to raise funds for Hurricane Harvey Relief, specifically in support of Bellaire High School in Houston, Texas. Veteran's Day activities are being organized for November.

Member Milanowski arrived at 6:04 p.m.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Recognition of National Merit Semi-Finalists (Enclosure #5)

Lori Johnston and Craig Weigel recognized Madeline Meyer, Leo Schneider, James Van Dokkumburg, and Sara Vargo on their accomplishments in becoming a National Merit Semi-Finalist. These students were congratulated by the board and presented with a certificate of recognition.

Diversity Presentation – Enclosure #6

Jenny Fee, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; Anthony Morey, Middle School Principal; and Carlye Allen, Wealthy Elementary Principal, shared an in-depth presentation on diversity education in our schools. Fee described the district's mission, learner outcomes, and our Strategic Plan which reflects our beliefs. She reported that the district's mission drives our curriculum and goals. Fee reported on the district's Cross-Cultural Competency Standards (CCC) taught K-12. She provided examples of the diversity in our curriculum throughout the district in various subjects.

Carlye Allen presented on the elementary building initiatives, shared building level themes, building level diversity teams, and lessons with the school social worker. Community partnerships, service learning opportunities, author and artist visits, Spanish curriculum, Mix It Up opportunities, and purposeful read alouds were described.

Anthony Morey presented on the middle school and high school building initiatives. He explained that there is no greater topic of importance and our teachers understand our work, which is very teacher-driven and teacher-led. Morey described the district's Champions of Diversity committee which includes a dedicated team of teachers and teacher leaders who regularly meet on diversity topics. He shared the goals of departmental leadership. Morey reported on the LINKS Program at the secondary level which involves all students in service learning projects. Student clubs and activities were described. Information on student leadership opportunities was shared.

Fee reported on districtwide efforts on supporting diversity initiatives. Examples of staff development on diversity training were shared including GRCC's Institute for Healing Racism in which 87% of our district staff has been trained, implicit bias training through Grand Rapids Urban League, Restorative Justice training, International Baccalaureate training, and hiring practices. Fee explained the district's commitment to developing cultural competence of staff and students, fostering cultural inclusiveness, and being culturally responsive. Examples of opportunities for parent-school-community partnerships were provided. A discussion was held among the board.

Public Comments

The following community members commented on diversity and racism education:

Claudine Duncan, 1621 Amberley Court
Sandra Walker, 461 Lakeside Drive
Tina Murua, 1031 Lakeside Drive
Gretchen Galbraith, 329 Rosewood Ave
Marie Penny, 1707 Asbury
Ellen Schendel, 429 Briarwood
Samantha Cornell, 311 Rosewood
Angie Walters, 1039 Pinecrest

Kate Zell
Elizabeth Arnold, 1757 Asbury
Marni Vyn, 1330 Cornell
Rev. Jason Hubbard, 2205 Heather
Laurie Blanchard, 956 Maxwell
Amy Vanfossen, 1863 Adams
Sue Keil, 1701 Amberley Ct.
Carrie Greenway, 2647 Hall Street

Member Milanowski left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

President Wolford thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting and for sharing their comments and personal experiences. He assured the community that the board supports everyone's ability to communicate safely, positively, and without repercussions. Wolford explained that this is not solely a school board issue, and everyone needs to continue to share information communitywide.

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 8-10.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 9/18/2017 (Enclosure #8)

Approval of Payment of Bills –September 2017 (Enclosure #9)

Second Reading and Approval of Revised Board Policies (Enclosure #10)

Member Bernecker moved to approve Consent Agenda items 8-10. Member Coles seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Acceptance of 2016-2017 Audit Report – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #11)

Background: The audit was completed by Maner Costerisan this fall. The Board Finance Committee reviewed the report and recommends that the Board of Education receive the 2016-2017 Audit Report.

Recommendation: Motion to receive the 2016-2017 Audit Report as presented and recommended by the Board Finance Committee and Superintendent.

Kevin Philipps, Assistant Superintendent of Business, presented the findings of the 2016-2017 Audit Report. He shared that Bruce Dunn from Maner Costerisan reported audit results to the Finance Committee last week. Overall results reflected the highest opinion in that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities. Dunn acknowledged the district for continuing to run smoothly with such a limited staff and appreciated the continued transparency of administrative staff while working with the district. Philipps commended the business office staff for their work all year long in accomplishing tasks that led to a positive audit.

Member Milanowski returned at 8:01 p.m.

Member Hessler moved to accept the 2016-2017 Audit Report as presented and recommended by the Board Finance Committee and Superintendent. Member Bernecker seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. The Board commended Philipps on his leadership in the Business Office. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Proposed Amended Budget for 2017-2018 – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #12)

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 2017-2018 budget as listed in Enclosure #12.

Kevin Philipps provided an overview of the Proposed 2017-2018 Amended Budget. He provided a summary of changes since the June 2017 Adopted Budget, an analysis of future years' budget assumptions, the budget forecast for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, as well as financial trends/ratios, and areas of importance in the next few years. A discussion was held among the board.

Member Coles moved to approve the amendment for the 2017-2018 budget as listed in Enclosure #12. Member Laackman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of MASB Governance Standards – Robert Wolford (Enclosure #13)

Background: MASB's Board of Education Governance Standards are intended to help support school boards in their efforts to govern responsibly and effectively on behalf of all students.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the resolution to adopt the MASB's Board of Education Governance Standards as presented.

Member Welch provided an overview of the MASB's Board of Education Governance Standards. A discussion was held among the board.

Member Milanowski moved to approve the resolution to adopt the MASB's Board of Education Governance Standards as presented. Member Wolford seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Shubel shared that Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held in November. She thanked the administrative team and recognized them and their staffs for their continual hard work in providing diversity education in our schools and she shared her concern regarding the challenges in keeping our community aware of the breadth of the district's ongoing efforts on this topic.

Assistant Superintendent of Business – None

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction – None

Board Member Reports

Communications Committee – Member Milanowski reported that the committee met and discussed diversity topics.

Facilities Committee – None

Finance Committee – None

Joint Facilities Committee – None

Personnel Committee – None

Policy Review Committee – None

Legislative Liaison Committee – Member Welch reported that the committee is keeping an eye on the enhancement millage bill which passed the Senate and will be going to the House.

Liaisons

EGR Schools Foundation – Member Milanowski reported that Foundation communications are on the website; several reunions are taking place this fall; and Mr. Dave Mehney announced a matching pledge gift up to \$100,000 to the Foundation until December 31. The next grant cycle begins November 1.

Leadership & Youth Development (LYD) – Member Milanowski reported that over 140 students applied to be a part of LYD.

Community Action Council – None

Parks & Recreation – None

PTO Council – Member Wolford announced that a meeting was held today where building discretionary funds were discussed.

Superintendent's Advisory Council – Member Coles reported that the first meeting will be held in November. He commended Anthony Morey and staff on the well-organized cardboard boat Regatta. He thanked Anthony Morey and Carlye Allen for their presentation this evening. He thanked Tim Johnston, High School Athletic Director, for the organization of freshman soccer activities. He also recognized Craig Weigel, High School Principal, for his safety measures in handling a recent accident on the street near the high school.

Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE) – Member Bernecker reported that the committee met in September where a presentation from the assistive technology coordinator highlighted resources available for teachers. Bill Behrendt, Director of Special Education, is attending tonight's PASE meeting. The next meeting will be held on December 4.

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, December 4, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Wolford adjourned the meeting at 8:36 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.