

## **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 18, 2019**

### **MINUTES**

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, March 18, 2019, in the Community Board Room at the James E. Morse Administration Center, 2915 Hall Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Present: Natalie Bernecker, Elizabeth Welch, Beth Milanowski, Brad Laackman, Mark Hessler, Mike Reid, Janice Yates  
Absent: None  
Administration: Dr. Heidi Kattula, Kevin Philipps, Jenny Fee, Doug Jenkins, Craig Weigel, Lori Johnston, Tim Johnston, Anthony Morey, Carlye Allen, Caroline Breault-Cannon

#### Meeting Called to Order

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

#### Public Comments – None

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

The board received a Thank You from Shannon Brady, Lakeside kindergarten teacher, for the Schuler gift card on the birth of her son, Declan.

#### Student Council President's Report

Will Marsh, Student Council Executive Board President, reported that work continues on graduation preparations. Prom will be held at Studio D2D and students are excited about the venue and the event.

President Bernecker reported that the order of tonight's agenda is adjusted to allow for adjustments to the onscreen presentation. Member Yates moved to adjust the agenda. Member Welch seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

#### **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 6-8.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 02/25/2019 (Enclosure #6)

Approval of Payment of Bills – February 2019 (Enclosure #7)

Approval of the High School Mathematics Curriculum (Enclosure #8)

#### **OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of Administrator Contract (Enclosure #9)

Background: Per Board Policy #5430, the Board is responsible for the formal approval of all teacher and administrative contracts.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the administrative contract as outlined in Enclosure #9.

Dr. Kattula provided an overview of the extensive interview process and selection of Mrs. Joanne Platt as the new Special Education Administrator. The board congratulated Platt on her new position. Dr. Kattula reported that Mr. Behrendt will continue to support the district until Mrs. Platt assumes her new role following the processing of paperwork through the Michigan Department of Education.

Member Laackman moved to approve the administrative contract for Joanne Platt pending approval by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Member Welch seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

##### Superintendent

Dr. Kattula reiterated the hiring process for the special education administrator. She shared that she attended the Madagascar musical at Breton Downs Elementary, and she announced that the Melodies in March concert will take place this evening. Dr. Kattula reported that Mrs. Stephanie Thelen, Lakeside Elementary Principal, will return from maternity leave after Spring Break.

Dr. Kattula will attend Capitol Day in Lansing tomorrow to advocate for public education and learn how the House and Senate plan to move forward on their proposed budgets. Current conversations include whether or not the MDE will continue to require students to take the 3-hour ACT WorkKeys exam.

#### Assistant Superintendent of Business

Kevin Philipps shared an overview of the Governor's preliminary budget with a projected increase in the foundation allowance of \$120-180 based on a 1.5x formula; this would result in a per-pupil increase of \$157 for EGRPS. As it relates to schools, Governor Whitmer has incorporated findings from the school finance research study. Various budget proposal items were presented including increases in at-risk funding, special education reimbursement, and Career Tech Ed (CTE) support. With these specific proposals, the estimated allocation for EGRPS would total \$199 per pupil. Retirement rates were discussed, and the MPSERS contribution rate for next year will continue to be a big expense for the district increasing from 26.18% to 27.50%. The Governor has proposed additional funding from the School Aid Fund to offset the increase in expense. The rate increased as a result of the system's assumed rate of return lowering from 8% to 7.05%. Various budget proposal items were presented. Philipps shared that this is the first step in the budget process, as the House and Senate will also present their budget proposals in March.

Another revenue conference will be held in early May. Once we have that target we will know how much money can be allocated toward the state budget. If the legislature is not in agreement by the end of May, we will need to look at the three budget proposals, then estimate a funding amount and adopt a budget for EGRPS.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction - No reports.

### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

#### Middle School and High School Science Curriculum (Enclosure #5)

Jenny Fee, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; and middle school science teachers, Lindsey Lantz, Kevin Vance, Sarah Youngs; and high school teachers, Heather Carlson, Matt Harold, and Bill Trapp, presented on the science curriculum. The background and a detailed overview, as well as the proposed budget were provided as described in Enclosure #5. A discussion was held among the board. The proposal will be presented to the board for approval at the April 15 board meeting.

#### Board Member Reports

*Communications Committee* – Member Milanowski reported on the potential for Foundation alignment in district communications. Social media outlets are continuing to show growth in readership, and a discussion was held on future communication options.

*Facilities Committee* – No reports.

*Finance Committee* – No additional reports.

*Joint Facilities Committee* – Member Bernecker reported that the committee met last week and discussed drainage issues at the softball field at Manhattan Park. Changes will occur after the next season which will allow for more home games. Tennis ball recycling efforts by one of our students resulted in the recycling of approximately 1,100 tennis balls. Efforts are underway to assess and make plans for the playgrounds.

*Personnel Committee* – No additional reports.

*Policy Review Committee* – No reports.

#### Liaisons

*Community Action Council* – No reports.

*EGR Schools Foundation* – Member Laackman announced that the Sip & Support fundraiser will be held this weekend. The Foundation continues to educate the community on EGRNow&Forever.

*Legislative Liaison Committee* – Member Welch reported on the proposed budget and ways to engage parents. The committee is working on ways to educate new parents on school funding.

*Parks & Recreation* – Member Hessler reported that community input will be sought through surveys on parks and recreational updates.

*PTO Council* – Member Bernecker reported that a meeting will be held next week.

*Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE)* – Member Reid reported that the next meeting will be held in April.

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

*Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC)* – Member Milanowski reported that presentations on 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading/Literacy Coach, and a budget update were shared, as well as a presentation on Social Emotional Learning with a focus on anxiety.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Bernecker adjourned the meeting at 7:26 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. Heidi S. Kattula, Ed.D., Superintendent, at 235-3535.

jmm 03/19/2019