

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, April 15, 2019

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, April 15, 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, Steve Wojciechowski, Lori 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 – None

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

The board received communication from Matthew Rettig on his candidacy for the KISD School Board.

Student Council President's Report

Will Marsh, Student Council Executive Board President, reported on the upcoming blood drive, as well as graduation planning. Student Council will hold signup week for campaigns.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

Recognition of Tad VandenBrink, 2019 Outstanding Teacher of American History for DAR (Enclosure #5)

Dr. Kattula and Craig Weigel, High School Principal, announced that Tad VandenBrink, high school social studies teacher, was named Outstanding Teacher of American History by the local Daughters of the American Revolution. He was congratulated by the board and presented with a certificate of recognition.

Read by Third Grade/Literacy Coaching (Enclosure #6)

Jenny Fee, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; Carlye Allen, Wealthy Elementary Principal; and Katie McIntosh, Literacy Coach, presented on Read by Third Grade/Literacy Coaching. The background and a detailed overview were provided as described in Enclosure #6. A discussion was held among the board.

Recognition of Teacher and Staff Appreciation: May 6-10, 2019

Dr. Kattula announced that Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is May 6-10, 2019, and she thanked our teachers and support staff for their dedication and commitment to our students. President Bernecker expressed her appreciation and thanked all staff members on behalf of the board.

Kent ISD School Board Election Resolution Review (Enclosure #8)

President Bernecker provided background information regarding the Kent ISD School Board Election. She explained that this is an information item at this meeting, and she invited board members to express their availability and willingness to serve as representatives for the electoral body for the upcoming Kent ISD School Board Election. The resolution designating the representatives will be presented at the May 13, 2019, regular board meeting. 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 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 9-12.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 03/18/2019 (Enclosure #9) Approval of Payment of Bills – March 2019 (Enclosure #10)

Approval of Middle and High School Science Curriculum (Enclosure #11)

Acceptance of Grants from the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation (Enclosure #12)

Member Hessler moved to approve Consent Agenda items 9-12. Member Welch seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Kattula reported that she is looking forward to supporting our high school students at the *We The People* National Competition in Washington, D.C. this month and will keep the board updated on their progress. She also reported that a special event is scheduled on April 24 where the Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court will bring their Court Community Connections Program to EGRHS. She shared an overview of this upcoming event.

Assistant Superintendent of Business

Kevin Philipps reported on the health care rates for the 2018-2019 school year. The 2020 state cap numbers were released and the cap will increase by 2%. He shared that the majority of employees are in the MESSA group. The 2020 MESSA rate increases are unknown at this time. WMHIP rates for 2020 overall are going up by 2.9%; within that is rate banding based on claim experience. The EGRPS WMHIP increase was only 0.65% due to the rate banding which keeps us at approximately \$700 below the state cap on a family premium; whereas, MESSA rates are \$2,500 above the state cap for a family plan. Philipps shared that approximately 190 staff members elect insurance through MESSA (145-150 teachers) with the remaining teachers electing for cash in lieu of insurance coverage. Approximately 30 support staff members are on the MESSA plan. Approximately 25 employees are with WMHIP.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

No additional reports.

Board Member Reports

Communications Committee – No reports. *Facilities Committee* – No reports. *Finance Committee* – No reports.

Joint Facilities Committee – No reports.

Personnel Committee – Member Bernecker reported that a meeting is scheduled for May.

Policy Review Committee – Member Welch reported that a meeting is planned for May.

Liaisons

Community Action Council – No reports.

EGR Schools Foundation – Member Laackman reported that Sip & Support raised approximately \$30K during the fundraising event. Nominations for Excellence in Teaching are accepted through May 1. Applications for Foundation board members are accepted through May 1. Gerken Open will take place on June 12. STAR awards are available as a means to recognize teachers and staff.

Legislative Liaison Committee – Member Welch reported the committee is working on outreach with newer parents, especially at the elementary level.

Parks & Recreation – No reports.

PTO Council – Member Bernecker reported on discussions relating to the May 7 Election with the Non-Homestead ballot initiative. The FAQ provides an explanation to common questions.

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

Leadership & Youth Development (LYD) – Member Milanowski reported that discussions were held regarding future efforts with LYD. Eighteen students were elected to the advisory board. Students will have input on program planning and help guide us on how we can work with elementary and middle school students. Senior Retreat and Freshman Connection will continue. New board members are being sought.

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

ADJOURNMENT

President Bernecker adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.



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.