

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, May 13, 2019

MINUTES

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, May 13, 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, Joanne Platt, 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 Bernecker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comments – None

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

Student Council President's Report

Will Marsh, Student Council Executive Board President, reported that Student Council elections were held. He announced that Anna Knuble is next year's president, and she will be introduced to the board at the June 10 meeting. Teacher Appreciation Week provided an opportunity for students to show their appreciation to staff through care packages, coffee and donuts, etc. Graduation planning continues.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

Recognition of We The People State Championship – Dr. Kattula and Craig Weigel, High School Principal, announced that the high school *We The People* team won the State Championship competition and subsequently competed in the national competition in Washington, D.C. in April. Adam Horos, high school social studies teacher and *We The People* coach, credited the students on performing at an extremely high level and was so proud of them. He thanked the board for their support of the program. The board commended the team and coaches who worked so hard and recognized them for their accomplishments. The team was presented with certificates of recognition from the board.

Recognition of Vision Newspaper ([Enclosure #6](#))

Craig Weigel reported that the high school East Vision has been designated a 2019 School Newspapers Online (SNO) Distinguished Site. The board commended Katie Michell, East Vision advisor, and students, Katherine Lykins, Halsey Smith, and Lauren Vanden Bosch, and recognized them for their accomplishments. They were presented with certificates of recognition from the board.

Recognition of ACT Perfect Scores

Craig Weigel and Lori Johnston, High School Director of Guidance, announced that two high school students received a Top Score of 36 on the ACT assessment. The board commended Elijah Becker and Sophie Forstner, for their accomplishments. They were presented with certificates of recognition from the board.

Gone Boarding Elective Proposal ([Enclosure #8](#))

Jenny Fee, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; and Terry Szpieg, high school art teacher, presented on the proposed high school Gone Boarding elective course. The background and a detailed overview were provided as described in Enclosure #8. A discussion was held among the board. The proposal will be presented to the board for approval at the June 10 board meeting.

AP Computer Science Elective Proposals ([Enclosure #9](#))

Jenny Fee presented on the proposed AP Computer Science Elective proposals. The background and a detailed overview were provided as described in Enclosure #9. A discussion was held among the board. The proposal will be presented to the board for approval at the June 10 board meeting.

KCTC Presentation ([Enclosure #10](#))

Lori Johnston provided an overview of the variety of KCTC programs at Kent ISD. She shared statistics on the number of participants from EGRHS, as well as high school and college credit opportunities for students. She shared student experiences at KCTC. The board thanked Johnston for the presentation and for sharing information on these opportunities for students.

First Read of Board Policies (Enclosure #11)

Dr. Kattula presented the policies that were reviewed by the Policy Review Committee. A discussion was held among the board and these policies will be presented for approval at the June 10 board 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 12-16.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 04/15/2019 ([Enclosure #12](#))

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 04/16/2019 ([Enclosure #13](#))

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 04/30/2019 ([Enclosure #14](#))

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of 05/08/2019 ([Enclosure #15](#))

Approval of Payment of Bills – April 2019 ([Enclosure #16](#))

Member Laackman moved to approve Consent Agenda items 12-16. Member Milanowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Resolution of Kent ISD School Board Election (Enclosure #17)

President Bernecker explained that, under Section 614(2) of the Revised School Code, the board adopts the resolution of the Kent ISD School Board Election for the purpose of designating a voting delegate and alternate from each constituent district as described in Enclosure #17.

President Bernecker moved to pass a resolution designating Steve Wojciechowski as its representative, and Shelly Schram as an alternate representative, for the electoral body of the Kent Intermediate School District School Board, which body will elect three candidates to the vacancies on the Kent ISD School Board on Monday, June 3, 2019. Member Hessler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

President Bernecker shared the names of the candidates running for the Kent ISD School Board, and moved to select three candidates, David Drake to 6-year term (2019-2025), Bill Joseph to 6-year term (2019-2025), and Eric-John Szczepaniak to partial term (2019-2021), that the EGRPS school board will elect to the vacancies on the Kent ISD School Board on June 3, 2019. Member Laackman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of KISD Budget for 2019-2020 – Kevin Philipps (Enclosure #18)

Background: The State of Michigan requires that local school boards review their ISD's proposed budget and act in support or non-support of the budget. The Finance Committee has discussed the KISD 2019-2020 budget and recommends support.

Member Milanowski moved to approve the KISD Budget for 2019-2020 as presented. Member Welch seconded the motion. A discussion was held among the board. Motion passed 7-0.

Member Milanowski left at 7:37 p.m.

Approval of the Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract Extension

President Bernecker reported that the board complied with the state mandate to conduct the annual evaluation of Dr. Kattula on April 16, and April 30, 2019, utilizing the MASB evaluation rubric. After a very thorough review of Dr. Kattula's progress versus goals collaboratively established and adopted with the Board of Education as presented, the board deemed Dr. Kattula to be highly effective. The board commended Dr. Kattula on her leadership and accomplishments in her first year as superintendent of EGRPS. A discussion was held among the board. The board is recommending to extend Dr. Kattula's contract by one year to June 30, 2022.

President Bernecker moved to approve the Superintendent's Evaluation and extend her contract by one year to June 30, 2022. Member Hessler seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Resolution in Support of Adequately Funding Michigan Schools (Enclosure #20)

President Bernecker reported that the School Finance Research Collaborative (SFRC) conducted an adequacy study to provide lawmakers and the public with the best, most accurate and reliable information on what it truly costs to educate ALL Michigan students. The SFRC report and other research clearly demonstrate the need to increase funding for our schools and target education funding more effectively. It is recommended that the East Grand Rapids Public Schools approve the resolution as presented in Enclosure #20 and calls upon the Michigan Legislature to fulfill its commitment to maintain and support a system of free public elementary and secondary schools with the resources recommended in the SFRC report to enable each child to achieve proficiency on Michigan standards.

Member Laackman moved to approve the resolution as presented in Enclosure #20. A discussion was held among the board. Member Yates seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Kattula announced that there are four staff members in the district who will receive tenure as presented in [Enclosure #21](#).

Dr. Kattula announced the upcoming dates of:

IB Recognition Ceremony – May 19 at 3:00 p.m.

High School Graduation Ceremony – Thursday, May 23 at Memorial Field

Staff Retirement Breakfast – Thursday, May 30 at 8:00 a.m. at Rose's

Dr. Kattula shared that she attended a Meet & Greet this morning hosted by a district parent. She enjoyed getting to know more community members and receiving feedback and ideas from parents.

Assistant Supt. of Business

Kevin Philipps reported that discussions among legislators are moving slowly in Lansing. The May Revenue Conference will be held this Friday. At this time, there is no proposed budget from the House. We do not expect to see a finalized State Aid Budget by June which means the district will need to submit an estimated budget based on current state proposals.

Assistant Supt. of Instruction

Jenny Fee shared a Summer Learning update. Summer Learning for staff will occur in June with all opportunities aligned with our district and school improvement plans. She shared that further learning opportunities are offered in August prior to the start of the school year.

Board Member Reports

Communications Committee – Member Milanowski will attend a communications conference at MASB this week.

Facilities Committee – No reports

Finance Committee – No additional reports

Joint Facilities Committee – No reports

Personnel Committee – President Bernecker reported that a meeting is scheduled next week.

Policy Review Committee – No additional reports

Liaisons

Community Action Council – Member Yates reported that CAC is looking to host a similar program to Tall Cop. Nominations for the CAC Class Citizenship Award are being accepted. A luncheon is scheduled for May 20.

EGR Schools Foundation – Member Laackman reported that Gerken Open signups are available for the June 12 Thousand Oaks golf outing. Continued trainings on EGRNow&Forever are taking place.

Legislative Liaison – Member Welch reported on continuing efforts to engage elementary parents in legislative issues.

Parks & Recreation – Hessler meeting tonight

PTO Council – President Bernecker reported that the annual luncheon will be held on May 20 at 11:30 at the Wealthy Elementary Learning Commons.

Parent Advocates for Special Education (PASE) – Member Reid reported on changes to Center Based Programs. He is enjoying being a part of this group.

Leadership & Youth Development (LYD) – Member Milanowski reported on student board positions and further developments with middle school and elementary students.

Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC) – No reports

ADJOURNMENT

President Bernecker adjourned the meeting at 7:50 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.