

Our Mission

East Grand Rapids Public Schools, in partnership with students, parents, and community, will ensure that each student acquires the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to reach his or her full potential, and become a productive citizen.

EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Kent County, Michigan

REGULAR Meeting of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education

Woodcliff Center Community Board Room, 2915 Hall Street, SE.,
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Monday, December 15, 2003

MINUTES

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 15, 2003 in the Community Board Room, Woodcliff Center, 2915 Hall St., SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Board of Education:

Present: Mrs. Beth Lent, Mrs. Natalie Kuras, Mr. Brian Ellis, Mr. Charlie Denton, Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler, and Mr. Joe Camp

Absent: Mrs. Rosalie Stein

Administration: Dr. James Morse, Mrs. Christine Vettese, Mr. Doug Derks, Dr. Ty Wessell, Mrs. Jeanne Glowicki, Mrs. Linda Kehm, Mr. Doug Jenkins, Mrs. Kathy Wisniewski, Mr. Pat Cwayna, Mr. Mark Tompkins, and Mr. Jerry Fouch

Meeting Called to Order

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Recognition of the East Grand Rapids High School MHSAA Division III 2003 State Championship Football Team - Woodcliff Gym

Mr. Fouch congratulated the players and coaches for a great year. He stated that not only is Mr. Stuursma is a great role model for the kids and runs a good program, but also he does this in the right way. Dr. James Morse, Mrs. Trierweiler and Mrs. Lent presented certificates to the following:

Varsity Coaches: Peter Stuursma, Head Coach; Brian Clay; Don Gerken; Rob Hurt; Jeff Keller; Matt Putnam; Will Sanders; John Van Gessel; and Jim Voss.

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JV Coaches: David Evans and Andy Keller.

Freshman Coaches: Dave Mehney; Matt Fouch; and Jack Shimko.

Trainer: Chad Smith

Manager: Casey Cwayna

Student Managers: Stephanie Baker; Becky Brown; Kaitlin Hondorp; and Hannah Rohn.

Varsity Football Team:

Luke Antvelink, William Armstrong, Benjamin Barber, Wade Begrow, Todd Boynton, Adam Brant, Frederick Bratschie, Sean Cates McDonald, Daniel Catzere, Nicholas Cisler, Kyle Cunningham, Andrew Deaver, Joseph Goeb, Kevin Grady, Kresten Green, Trenton Hartwig, Maxwell Horn, Robert Huff, Chris Idema, Alex Jandernoa, John Kotwick, Matthew Kruer, Joshua Lineberger, Andrew Martin, Colin McAleenan, Ryan McAleenan, Benjamin Nimphie, Steven Norton, John Oh, Courtney Partee, Joseph Powers, Douglass Price, Drew Russell,

Joseph Scheltema, Paul Scheltema, Kevin Snyder, John Sprague, Spencer Sterling, Adam Stotts, Bradley Takens, Victor Teeple, Nick Thompson, Justin VandeVoren, Nathan Vanderploeg and William Wismer

J.V. Football Team:

Max Bissell, Carlos Catlin, Hunter Chism, Alexander Cisler, Troy Colegrove, Grant Eldersveld, Michael Ellis, Tristan Green, Matthew Horton, Shane Howard, Graeme Jarrell, Benjamin Kruer, Matthew Kutsche, Patrick LaVoie, Caylan Laufer, Eric Lessens, Zachary Lewis, William Ludlow, Ryan Maloney, Stephen Mason, John Masterson, Ryan Mire, Joseph Nowak, Brock O'Mara, Jonathan Ruyle, Patrick Tipton, Christopher Vulpetti and Duncan Wierengo

Acknowledgement of Guests - None

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Public Comments - None

Communications to and from the Board

There will be a Board Workshop on January 12, 2004 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The March 22, 2004 Board Meeting has been changed to March 29, 2004. The time will remain the same, 7:30 p.m.

The May 10, 2004 Board Meeting has been changed to May 24, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

High School Student Council President's Report - Ms. Steffie Kabat

No report.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Cynthia Bischoff

Mrs. Bischoff stated that the EGREA had a nice party last week Friday. She also said that teachers are working with building Principals on suggestions for containing costs. Each building is doing something during the holiday for those in need.

Discussion Items:

Update on Athletic Department - Mr. Jerry Fouch, Director of Athletics

Dr. Morse introduced Mr. Fouch. Mr. Fouch stated that this is a very large program and he could not do what he does without the help he receives from Sue Seitz, his secretary. He then presented a Power Point presentation of the program. He thanked the Team Boosters for their contributions of time and finances. East has produced 96 state championships. Mr. Cwayna thanked Mr. Fouch and said that the Athletic Director position is thankless job and stated Mr. Fouch and Mrs. Seitz do a great job.

Action Items - Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 11/24/03 (Enclosure #9)

Mr. Denton moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of November 24, 2003 and Mr. Camp seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of November Payment of Bills (Enclosure #10)

Mr. Denton moved to approve the payment of bills for November 2003 and Mr. Camp seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Medical Leave of Absence - Mrs. Shelly S. Schram (Enclosure #11)

Mr. Denton moved to approve the medical leave of absence for approximately six weeks beginning January 26, 2004 through March 9, 2004 as requested by Mrs. Shelly S. Schram and Mr. Camp seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

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Other Action Items:

Approval of an Additional Superintendent's Goal (Enclosure #12)

The Board of Education asked Dr. Morse to add a the following goal to the Superintendent's annual goals: "In order to continue our positive working relationship with our teachers and support staff, the Superintendent will negotiate new teacher and support staff contracts for 2004-2005 by June 30, 2004."

Mrs. Trierweiler moved and Mr. Ellis seconded the motion to add an additional Superintendent's Goal. The motion passed 6-0.

Approval of 2004-2005 School Calendar (Enclosure #13)

A Problem Solving Committee of teachers and administrators met to discuss the 2004-2005 school calendar. The enclosed calendar follows the countywide school calendar.

Mrs. Kuras moved and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to approve the 2004-2005 school calendar as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed 6-0.

Acceptance of Grants from the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation (Enclosure #14)

The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation awarded the fall Grants and Mini Grants at the November 2003 Foundation meeting. Mrs. Suzanne Schriefer, of the Foundation, presented information on the number of grants requested and highlighted a couple of grants they received and accepted. Deadline for next round of grant applications is March 1, 2004.

Mrs. Kuras moved and Mr. Camp seconded the motion to accept the grants as listed in Enclosure #14 totaling \$25,901.81 and to thank the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation for its support of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of a Resolution for a Special Education Millage Election on February 24, 2004 (Enclosure #15)

This proposal will increase the levy by the intermediate school district of special education millage previously approved by electors. All or a portion of the revenues will be distributed to local school districts for special education programs and services.

Mr. Denton moved and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to approve the resolution for a special education millage election on February 24, 2004. Motion passed 6-0.

2003-2004 General Fund Budget Amendment (Enclosure #16)

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Each fall, the Board Finance Committee recommends a Budget Amendment to the Board of Education. The Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed amendment. Mr. Derks presented an overall view of Enclosure #16.

Mr. Ellis moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the amendment for the 2003-04 budget as recommended by the Board Finance Committee. Motion passed 6-0.

Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent

Special Ed. Election – February 24, 2004

A video from the KISD was shown. Dr. Morse stated that we must adhere to federal and state mandates, but we cannot cut special education programs. Therefore, cuts come from general education. With this millage, the money we receive can go back into the regular education fund where the cuts are being made. This will not be a total answer to funding difficulties but it will be a help. Voters must register to vote by the end of January. This millage will be asking for 1 mill across Kent County. Approximately \$370 to \$375 thousand/year will come to East.

The Strategic Planning notebook was handed out to Board members. Information from the surveys and focus groups will become public on January 10, 2004.

B. Assistant Supt. for Business

Financial Update (Enclosure #17B)

Mr. Derks handed out an updated financial update sheet (Enclosure 17B). He reviewed the numbers and stated that everything is tracking well in all programs. He will present this information to the Board on a bi-monthly basis.

C. Assistant Supt. for Instruction

There is only one collaborative planning date on the calendar so far for next school year. All collaborative planning dates will be put on the calendar at a later date, hopefully by early spring or sooner.

The Science curriculum will be adjusted. Mrs. Vettese has been meeting with the teachers and they are ready to begin.

The Champions of Diversity meeting last week was outstanding. The group has two new members. Just a reminder that a continuing dialogue on diversity is scheduled for March 1, 2004. New teachers diversity training went very well.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Natalie Kuras
Board Secretary Pro Tem

Superintendent's Office - 12/15/03