



REGULAR Meeting of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education

Woodcliff Center Community Board Room, 2915 Hall Street SE,
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.
For Information -Phone 616-235-3535.

Monday, January 26, 2004

MINUTES

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2004 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, Mrs. Rosalie Stein, Mr. Charlie Denton, Mrs. Stacy Trierweiler, and Mr. Joe Camp

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. Peter Stuursma

Meeting Called to Order

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm

Communications to and from the Board

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2004

Page 2

Mrs. Lent informed everyone that the laptops in front of the Board members are borrowed for the evening from the Middle School. These are laptops that are used by students at the Middle School during the school day and are on-loan to the Board this evening. Beginning with this meeting we are using increased technology, i.e. the laptops. Also, Board agendas and notices will now be e-mailed to participants and will be available on the updated website. Mr. Jenkins will explain these items during his presentation. There has been an addition to the agenda this evening. The Board will be recognizing Mrs. Mary Hillyard.

Mrs. Stein reported that thank you cards were received from Mary Hillyard (Orchestra Teacher) for the book in the MS Library in memory of her father; Jeannine Kemp (Gifted and Talented Teacher) for the goodie basket following her surgery and Doug Derks (Assistant Superintendent of Business) for the goodie basket following his recent surgery.

Recognition of East Grand Rapids "We the People" 2003 State Champions

Mr. Cwayna praised the students and coaches for the hard work and dedication they bring to this program. Mrs. Rocque explained the program and competition and passed out sample questions the students receive at competition. She then showed a tape of last year's class in competition. Dr. Morse and Mrs. Lent congratulated and presented certificates to the following:

Janice Rocque, Head Coach; Pierre Sirois, Assistant Coach; Mary E. Blauw; Caitlin Carmody; Kaitlyn Day; Agot Aleer Deng; Kaaren Fehsenfeld; Brian D. Flynn; Kathleen M. Hooks; Christopher Khorey; Christopher J. Knape; Sarah Lent; Elizabeth Mann; Andrew Martin; Patricia Francia Mears; Teresa Monticello; Derek Nelson; Leyton Nelson; John Oh; Catherine M. Pease; Page D. Redford; Drew T. Russell; Molly M. Ryan; Irene Setchfield; Nicole M. Sherwood; Ari Siegel; Mia Siegrist; Karl U. Stark; Rebekah Stevens; Benjamin R. Tompkins; and Katherine Wiseman.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2004

Page 3

Recognition of Mary Hillyard – Orchestra and Band Teacher of the Year in Michigan

Paul Kline introduced Mary and stated that she does a great job with the students. He also was the person who nominated her. Her colleagues voted her as Orchestra and Band Teacher of the Year 2004. Dr. Wessell also spoke very highly of her talents. Dr. Morse and Mrs. Lent presented Mary with a certificate.

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments -

Katelin McCahill – 110 Mercer – Presented to the Board a letter, signed by nine team members, in support of Colleen Lamoreaux-Tate.

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

Ms. Kabat reported that the December food drive brought in food, which was distributed, to 63 families. A donation of \$200 was made to Meal on Wheels. A blood drive will be held on Wednesday, January 28th. They have had many students sign up and adults are welcome to come and donate. February 2nd will kick off Kabookie Week. This is done each year to remember and honor Jimmy Gerken. Each grade participates to remember Jimmy. Ms. Kabat then presented gifts to the School Board members.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Cynthia Bischoff

Mrs. Bischoff thanked School Board members for their work. She gave each member a sheet made by her class, which showed what the students think Board members do, and the sheet also gave Board members suggestions for how they could balance the budget.

Recognition of:

East Grand Rapids Board of Education Members for School Board Recognition Month January 2004 - Dr. Morse

Dr. Morse thanked each of the Board members for their work. He presented them with certificates and a small gift of appreciation. Each of the Principal's from the schools thanked the Board members. Elementary Principal's gave the members thank you cards from children in their buildings. Emily Shuart, Middle School Student Council President, presented the Board Members with Starbucks gift cards.

Discussion Items:

Preview of Updated East Grand Rapids Public Schools Website– Mr. Doug Jenkins, Mrs. Peggy Howard and Ms. Rebecca Firlik

Dr. Morse thanked Mrs. Vettese and Mr. Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins stated some of the people involved who deserve credit are: Peg Howard, Rebecca Firlik (our webmaster), Nancy

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2004

Page 4

Walton, and Jeff Crawford. Mrs. Howard took us through the website. The updated site has a new look and improved features that make it a stronger marketing tool for the district, and a better information conduit for everyone in our school community. The site is planned to go live on Tuesday, January 27th. Various Board members thanked the team for the work involved and stated the updated site is a great change. Mrs. Stein questioned putting student names and phone numbers on pages. (Enclosure #8)

Development of a Middle School Restructuring Plan for a 6-Period Day for the 2004-2005 School Year

Following State of Michigan revenue reductions, it is recommended that the Middle School Administration and staff be directed to plan for a 6-period day for the 2004-2005 school year. A report will be brought to the March meeting. Mrs. Kuras questioned if this will be on the agenda at the March meeting for approval. Dr. Morse indicated it would be approved in March. Mrs. Kuras also asked for an update of budget reductions for this year and the outcome and what will be looked at for next year. This information will come through the Finance Committee.

Recommendation of Timeline and Numbers for 2004-05 Choice Program

A timeline and projected choice numbers were presented with a request for Board approval at the February 17, 2004 regular meeting. It is being recommended that we offer 33 Schools of Choice positions with the option to also take in 0-10 siblings of current Choice students. If we have space available we could add a few more students through Section 6. Mr. Denton asked if we could accept more students at the 4th and 6th grade levels if we have additional capacity? Dr. Morse said, "Yes". A vote will be taken on this recommendation at the February meeting. (Enclosure #10)

Action Items - Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 12/15/03 (Enclosure #11)

Mr. Camp moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of December 15, 2003 and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Minutes of SPECIAL MEETING on 1/12/04 (enclosure #12)

Mr. Camp moved to approve the minutes of the Special meeting of January 12, 2004 and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Payment of Bills for December 2003. (Enclosure #13)

Mr. Camp moved to approve the payment of bills for December 2003 and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2004

Page 5

Approval of a Maternity and Unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence for Mrs. Katherine McIntosh (Kindergarten-Breton Downs)

Mr. Camp moved to approve a maternity leave of absence and an unpaid child-care leave for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year as requested by Mrs. Katherine McIntosh and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a Maternity and Unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence for Mrs. Sara Mervenne-Edleman (English - High School)

Mr. Camp moved to approve a maternity leave of absence and unpaid child-care leave for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year as requested by Mrs. Sara Mervenne-Edleman and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items:

Approval of Resolution to Appoint Election Inspectors for the Special Education Millage Election

The Board of Education must pass a resolution to appoint Election Inspectors for the Special Education Millage Election on Tuesday, February 24, 2004. (Enclosure #16)

Mrs. Kuras moved and Mr. Ellis seconded the motion to approve the appointment of the Election Inspectors listed in Enclosure #16 for the Special Education Millage Election on February 24, 2004. The motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Revision to 2004-2005 Countywide School Year Calendar

The KISD informed all schools that the countywide calendar approved by this Board at the regular meeting on December 15, 2003, has a revision in the month of January, 2005. (Enclosure #17)

Mrs. Stein moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the revised 2004-2005 school year calendar as listed in Enclosure #17. The motion passed 7-0.

Approval of the Schools of Choice Resolutions for 2004-2005

East Grand Rapids Public Schools has participated in the Kent Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program since its inception in the 1996-97 school year.

Approval of a Resolution to Opt Out of Section 105 State of Michigan Choice Plan

East Grand Rapids Public Schools has opted out of the State Choice Plan since the inception of the KISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Plan in the 1996-97 school year.

Mr. Denton moved and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to pass a resolution to opt out of Section 105 of the State School Aid Act of 1979, as amended by Public Act 300 of 1996, of the State of Michigan Schools of Choice Program for the 2004-2005 school year,

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2004

Page 6

for the purpose of participating in an intermediate school district-wide schools of choice program. (Enclosure #18A) The motion passed 7-0

Approval of a Resolution to Participate in the 2004-05 Kent Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program

This is the fourth year of the new Choice Program.

Mr. Camp moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to pass a resolution to participate in the Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for the 2004-05 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. (Enclosure #18 B) The motion passed 7-0

Approval of a Resolution to Opt Out of Section 105c of the State 2004-05 Schools of Choice Plan

In accordance with Section 105c as permitted in the State School Aid Act, Public Act 119 of 1999, as amended by Public Act 297 of 2000, it is recommended that East Grand Rapids Public Schools not accept applications for School of Choice enrollment from residents of contiguous intermediate school districts for the 2004-05 school year.

Mrs. Kuras moved and Mrs. Stein seconded the motion to pass a resolution to opt out of Section 105c as recommended by the Superintendent. (Enclosure #18 C.) The motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports

Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent

Strategic Plan Update – The committee is working very hard and Dr. Morse and all members are very pleased. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 27th from 4-7:30 p.m.

B. Assistant Superintendent for Business

1. Budget Update and Communication Plan – Mr. Derks presented an overview of what is happening with the State of Michigan currently. He presented a presentation from the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, which is an independent agency, and not for profit. What we are experiencing currently is not only state problem but also a national problem. Overall, things do not look good for the immediate future. The Citizens Research Council is predicting that an increase in retirement rates are almost certain, health insurance rates will continue to spiral, and they predict another year of austerity and retrenchment.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2004

Page 7

Communication Plan - Dr. Morse, Mrs. Derks and Mrs. Vettese have been and will continue to meet with staff, PTA's, booster groups and Associations in Jan/Feb/March. They will also meet with the same groups regarding the February 24th Special Education millage election. In April Mr. Derks will present preliminary budget recommendations to the Board. In April and May town meetings with the community will be scheduled to discuss the recommendations and receive feedback. Administrators will meet with the Board to discuss the community feedback. In June we will have the Board budget hearing and by State law must adopt a budget no later than June 30th.

2. West Michigan Health Insurance Pool - The State Attorney General has given a positive opinion related to school districts operating self funded insurance. Our application is sitting in the Office of Insurance and Mr. Derks is working with Senator Sikkema and others to get a time frame for approval. He is hoping to be operational by July 1st, but we are at their mercy.

C. Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

1. Department of Education Report Card should be received by Friday at 3:00 p.m. It is based on MEAP, No Child Left Behind and other items. We expect our district to be one of the top in the state.

2. Dialogue on Diversity continues - March 1, 2004 - Mrs. Vettese reviewed for the Board the activities that the children of our schools participated in celebrating Martin Luther King Day. She passed out a handout. Three of our schools went downtown and marched and participated in the daily celebration. The Champions of Diversity are a great group and they have new people coming on board.

Board Representative Report -

Mrs. Lent stated we need a Board Representative to the K-8 Science Committee. Mrs. Trierweiler will be that representative. Mrs. Lent will represent the Board on the Middle School Committee. She also indicated that Joint Facilities had a meeting and that is going very well.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2004

Page 8

Rosalie Stein, Secretary
East Grand Rapids Board of Education

* Minutes for this meeting will be available in the Superintendent's Office at 2915 Hall Street SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

** If you plan to attend and have a special need and require accommodation to attend this meeting, please contact Dr. James Morse, Superintendent, at 235-3535.

Superintendent's Office - 01/29/04