

*Our Mission*  
*Educating and inspiring each student*  
*to navigate successfully in a global community.*

**REGULAR Meeting of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education**

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

**Monday, June 7, 2004**

**5:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, June 7, 2004 in the Community Board Room, Woodcliff Center, 2915 Hall Street SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

**Board of Education:**

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

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

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**Acknowledgment of Guests** - None

Public Comments - None

**Communications to and from the Board**

Consent Agenda items go through item #15 not #10 as on agenda. Luann Lis and Cynthia Bischoff representing the EGREA reported that they just came from a meeting where the EGREA approved a tentative contract.

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*Information Items*

Middle School Mentorship Program - Dr. Ty Wessell, Mrs. Linda Leiter and Ms. Hillary Bok

Dr. Wessell, Mrs. Linda Leiter and Mrs. Tia Carmichael summarized the mentorship program and introduced Hillary Bok who described her experience this spring at Seventeen magazine as a job shadow.

Budget Hearing: 2004-05 General Fund Budget - Mr. Doug Derks

Dr. Morse explained that the budget is a process. Mr. Derks presented to the public the information on the 2004-05 general fund budget. 85% of total costs relate to people. The Board and public asked questions and a discussion followed.

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 considered 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 items in the Consent Agenda Numbers 7 through 15.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 5/24/04 (Enclosure #7)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of May 27, 2004 and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Unpaid Medical/Childcare Leave of Absence - Mrs. Kristen E. Borak (Enclosure #8)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the recommendation to grant Mrs. Mrs. Kristen E. Boark a medical/childcare leave of absence upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a PAC and PASE Committee Member (Enclosure #9)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve Mrs. Patricia Stemmler as the PAC/PASE Representative from East Grand Rapids for the 2004-2007 term. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a Non-Corporate Resolution for Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc. (Enclosure #10)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the resolution for Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc., in Enclosure #10. Motion passed 7-0.

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Approval of a Foreign Exchange Student from Finland (Enclosure #11)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the recommendation by the administration that Ms. Solja Sulkunen from Finland be enrolled at East Grand Rapids High School for the 2004-05 school year. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a Foreign Exchange Student from France (Enclosure #12)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the recommendation by the administration that Ms. Marion Joubert from France be enrolled at East Grand Rapids High School for the 2004-05 school year. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a Foreign Exchange Student from Taiwan (Enclosure #13)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the recommendation by the administration that Ms. Yu-Chun Chen from Taiwan be enrolled at East Grand Rapids High School for the 2004-05 school year. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a Foreign Exchange Student from Taiwan (Enclosure #14)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the recommendation by the administration that Ms. Ya-Shuo Chin from Taiwan be enrolled at East Grand Rapids High School for the 2004-05 school year. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a Foreign Exchange Student from Brazil (Enclosure #15)

Mrs. Trierweiler moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the recommendation by the administration that Mr. Guido Ribeiro from Brazil be enrolled at East Grand Rapids High School for the 2004-05 school year. Motion passed 7-0.

*Other Action Items*

Approval of O.K. Conference Membership Resolution (Enclosure #16)

Every two years, the OK Conference realigns the districts based on high school numbers. The Administration recommends approval of this realignment.

Mr. Denton moved and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to approve the 2005-2007 realignment for the OK Conference. Discussion by the Board of this resolution. Motion passed 7-0.

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### Approval of a 2-Year Contract with the East Grand Rapids Education Association (EGREA) (Enclosure #16A)

The East Grand Rapids Education Association (EGREA) and the administration have negotiated a 2-year agreement which reduced the increase in health care costs and provides a modest salary increase.

Mr. Camp moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve a 2-year contract with the East Grand Rapids Education Association (EGREA) upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion Passed 7-0.

The Board members expressed their appreciation for the teachers and thanked them for their willingness to work with the administration and Board during this challenging financial time.

### Approval of a 2-Year Contract with the East Grand Rapids Association of Support Employees (EGRASE) (Enclosure #16B)

The East Grand Rapids Association of Support Employees (EGRASE) and the administration have negotiated a 2-year agreement with reductions in health insurance costs and a modest increase on the hourly rate.

Mrs. Kuras moved and Mr. Camp seconded the motion to approve a 2-year contract with the East Grand Rapids Association of Support Employees (EGRASE) upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and thanked the support staff employees. Motion passed 7-0.

### *Administrative Reports*

#### Superintendent

Tenure Acknowledgement (Enclosure #17A)

Dr. Morse explained that under the new policy, he approves tenure and informs the Board. The Board no longer votes on tenure.

Teacher Resignation (Enclosure #17B)

Mrs. Bert Elliott submitted her resignation. Dr. Morse accepted her resignation and thanked her for her years of service to the District.

Proposed Superintendent's Goals for 2004-05 (Enclosure #17C)

Following the discussion at the last Board meeting, Dr. Morse presented a draft with five goals. He tied his goals into the new Strategic Plan. The Board may provide feedback over the next several weeks, and the final approval will be voted on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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### Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

#### Update on Science and Art Curriculums

Review of both the K-8 Science and Art Curriculums. Mrs. Vettese expressed her thanks for the strong leadership of the teachers in this area. The K-8 Science Curriculum Committee accomplished the subject realignment and is deferring it's Middle School textbook request for future consideration. The Art Curriculum Committee, which was scheduled to work during the 2003-2004 school year, has been deferred to the 2004-2005 school year due to special circumstances by key staff members.

#### 2004-2005 Differentiation

Currently there are 30 teachers signed up differentiation training for next year.

#### Summer Curriculum Projects

Mrs. Vettese will bring the list of projects to the next meeting. As of today there are requests for over \$33,000 in projects.

### Board Representative Report

#### Legislative - Mr. Denton

Mr. Denton reviewed the purpose of the Legislative Committee and the work they do. He publicly acknowledged and thanked Rita Maddox for all of her efforts on this committee.

Mr. Denton reminded everyone that the EGR Foundation is presenting the Ridenour Cup Golf Outing on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and he urged everyone to participate.

### Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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.

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