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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

Thursday, June 17, 2004

7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Thursday, June 17, 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, Mrs. Kathy Wisniewski, and Mr. Pat Cwayna

Meeting Called to Order

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Acknowledgment of Guests and Public Comments

Lori Kane, 3160 Hall Street SE - She is an advocate for gifted children. She is concerned that the gifted/talented staff position will be eliminated. She thanked Mrs. Vettese for her work with differentiation and bringing it into the district. It has been great for the students. She gave each Board member a copy of a research article.

Kathleen Burkhart 1435 Woodlawn SE - She expressed concern that Odyssey of the Mind not being offered in the elementary schools. She feels it is a great opportunity for children.

Communications to and from the Board

Mrs. Lent announced that there was an Addendum to the meeting. On behalf of the Board she expressed thanks to Patty Kabat, Gerry Hickey, Diane Bok, and Sherry Blair for their leadership and work on the successful recreation millage campaign. She and Dr. Morse presented gift certificates to Gerry and Diane. Patty and Sherry were unable to attend the meeting and will receive their certificates on a later date. Gerry stated that it is true that, "it

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

June 17, 2004

Page 2

takes a village to raise a child" but it also takes a village to raise a millage. Dr. Morse stated that East Grand Rapids had a 44% voter turnout, the highest in the county. Dr. Morse and other administrators served root beer floats to everyone at the meeting in celebration of the millage passing.

Mrs. Stein reported that thank you notes were received from Mrs. Sharon Pollice for the gift basket following her surgery and from Mrs. Barb Sokolowski for the retirement luncheon and gifts.

EGREA President's Report - Mrs. Cynthia Bischoff

Mrs. Bischoff reported that this has been a fun week working on summer curriculum. She thanked Mrs. Vettese for her leadership and looks forward to continuing the work ahead.

Information Items

We have three Addendum items: Each is a first reading of a revised policy. There is a time constraint, as the administrators want the policies included in the student handbooks for the fall. The Board discussed the changes. There will be a second reading and approval at the July 1st meeting. Administrators were given permission to have the policies put into the handbooks with the following clarification: "pending Board approval".

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 6 through 7.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 6/07/04 (Enclosure #6)

Approval of Payment of Bills for May 2003 (Enclosure #7)

Mrs. Stein moved to approve the above two items in the Consent Agenda and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Other Action Items: Note: All of the following Finance items have been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee, Superintendent and Asst. Supt. For Business

Approval of 2003-2004 General Fund Budget Amendment (Enclosure #8)

The Board of Education is asked to adopt an amendment to the General Fund budget.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

June 17, 2004

Page 3

Mr. Ellis moved and Mr. Denton seconded the motion to approve the 2003-04 General Fund Budget Amendment. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of 2004 Millage Rates for the General Fund Budget, Debt Retirement, and Sinking Fund (Enclosure #9)

The Board of Education is required to annually set millage rates for the General Fund including the recreation millage, Debt Retirement Fund, and Sinking Fund.

Mr. Camp moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to certify the 2004 millage rates per Enclosure #9. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of 2004-2005 General Fund Budget (Enclosure #10)

The Board of Education is required to adopt a budget for the General Fund for 2004-2005 prior to June 30, 2004. Our process has been ongoing since last September. The Finance Committee has reviewed the final document.

Mr. Ellis moved and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to approve the 2004-2005 General Fund Budget as presented. There was discussion of the budget by the Board. Motion passed 6-1 with Mrs. Stein voting no. Mrs. Stein questioned reinstating Schedule B.

Approval of the 2004-2005 Budgets for Food Service and Athletics (Enclosure #11)

The State of Michigan requires individual budgets for Food Service and Athletics.

Mrs. Stein moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the 2004-2005 Budgets for Food Service and Athletics per Enclosure #11. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of the 2004-2005 Budget for Debt Retirement (Enclosure #12)

The State of Michigan requires an individual budget for Debt Retirement.

Mrs. Kuras moved and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to approve the 2004-2005 Budget for Debt Retirement per Enclosure #12. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of the 2004-2005 Budget for the Sinking Fund (Enclosure #13)

The State of Michigan requires an individual budget for the Sinking Fund.

Mr. Camp moved and Mr. Denton seconded the motion to approve the 2004-2005 Budget for the Sinking Fund per Enclosure #13. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a State Aid Loan Resolution (Enclosure #14)

The district borrows annually from the State to ensure positive cash flow in the General Fund. This loan is required due to the fact that district State Aid payments do not begin until October.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

June 17, 2004

Page 4

Mr. Denton moved and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to approve the attached resolution authorizing the district to borrow funds in anticipation of State Aid. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Contracts for Middle School Locker Room Renovation (Enclosure #15)

The Facilities Committee has reviewed bids for the renovation of the Middle School locker rooms.

Mrs. Stein moved and Mr. Camp seconded the motion to award contracts in Enclosure #15 for renovation of the Middle School locker rooms to be funded by the Sinking Fund as recommended by the Administration and Facilities Committee. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Joint Facilities Project Bid- Memorial Field Bleachers (Enclosure #16)

The Joint Facilities Committee has reviewed the bids for Memorial Field bleachers. This project has been budgeted in the Joint Facilities budget for work this summer.

Mr. Camp moved and Mr. Ellis seconded the motion to award contracts for the renovations to Memorial Field bleachers to be funded by the Joint Facilities Budget as recommended by the Administration and Joint Facilities Committee. There was discussion of the project by the Board. Motion passed 6-1 with Mrs. Kuras voting no.

Approval of Joint Facilities Project Bid- Breton Downs Tennis Courts

The Joint Facilities Committee has authorized a recommendation to repair the Breton Downs tennis courts. This project has been budgeted in the Joint Facilities budget for work this summer.

Mr. Denton moved and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to award contracts for the repairs to the Breton Downs tennis courts to be funded by the Joint Facilities Budget as recommended by the Administration and Joint Facilities Committee. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of 2004-2005 Non-Union Support Staff and Supervisory Personnel Salaries

The Superintendent recommends and the Personnel Committee supports a 2% increase and MESSA Choices II insurance for Non-Union support Staff and Supervisory Personnel for the 2004-2005 school year.

Mrs. Kuras moved and Mr. Camp seconded the motion to approve a 2% increase and MESSA Choices II insurance for Non-Union Support Staff and Supervisory Personnel as recommended by the Superintendent and supported by the Personnel Committee. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of the 2004-2005 Administrator Salaries and Contracts (Enclosure #19)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

June 17, 2004

Page 5

The Superintendent and the Personnel Committee recommend the salaries, contracts and MESSA Choices II insurance for administrators as presented in Enclosure #19.

Mr. Ellis moved and Mrs. Stein seconded the motion to approve the salary schedule, contracts and MESSA Choices II insurance as recommended by the Superintendent and the Personnel Committee. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Salary for the Superintendent for 2004-2005 (Enclosure #20)

The Personnel Committee is recommending contract and salary provisions for the Superintendent per Enclosure #20.

Mr. Camp moved and Mrs. Kuras seconded the motion to approve the contract and salary provisions for the Superintendent as recommended by the Personnel Committee in Enclosure #20. Motion passed 6-1 with Mr. Denton voting no.

Administrator Reports

Superintendent

Four new staff members have been hired. Two part-time music teachers, one for Lakeside and one for Wealthy as well as a new kindergarten and first grade teacher for Lakeside. Dr. Morse has met with and interviewed each of them. He states they are all highly qualified individuals.

Assistant Supt. for Business

Summer Maintenance Projects

There will be a number of projects completed over the summer: Painting the soffit at Lakeside; the cross walk at the High School will be painted and made handicapped accessible; and all buildings will have the gym floors done as well as a deep cleaning of the buildings.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Summer Curriculum Work (Enclosure #23A)

Mrs. Vettese reports that there is much excitement from the teachers involved in the summer curriculum work. Funding came from Foundation grants, matching federal funds (Title II) and the Instruction Office budget. This is a product driven program, otherwise the money would not be handed out.

Differentiation 2004-2005 (Enclosure #23B)

The District has come so far in this area. Gifted/talented was a limited program and this encompasses a larger group. There has been an outstanding group of educators trained over the last three years. People are excited to learn more, which makes for better teachers.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

June 17, 2004

Page 6

Countywide Diversity Kick-off – August 20, 2004

On August 20, 2004, there will be a diversity rally for all 20 school districts in the county as well as the parochial schools. The rally will be for administrators and staff and Board members are invited to attend as well. The rally will be from 8:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m. There will be a dynamic speaker coming in to address the group. She encouraged all of our Board members to attend.

Board Representative Report

No reports at this time. However, the boy's Lacrosse team won the state championship. The Board will recognize them at the August meeting. The girl's soccer team will play on Saturday for the state title.

Adjournment

Mr. Lent adjourned the meeting at 9:26 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.

Superintendent's Office - 6/23/04