

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, 2915 Hall St. SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Monday, November 24, 2003

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, November 24, 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, 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, Mr. Jerry Fouch, and Mrs. Amy Larson

Meeting Called to Order

Mrs. Lent called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Acknowledgment of Guests - None

Public Comments - None

Communications To and From the Board

Mrs. Lent stated that the next Board of Education meeting has been changed from Monday, December 8, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. to Monday, December 15, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. in order to have time to process any reduction in state revenue.

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

Ms. Frances Kammaraad presented the report. The Arts and Crafts show seemed to go well, no final totals yet. The Penny Wars raised between \$200 & \$300 and with matching donations the total amount donated to Cystic Fibrosis is \$600. The Blood

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Drive and Food Drive have just started. The date for blood donations will be January 28, 2004.

EGREA President's Report

No report given.

Recognition of the East Grand Rapids High School MHSAA Lower Peninsula Girls Division III 2003 State Championship Tennis Team - Dr. James Morse and Mrs. Rosalie Stein presented certificates to the following team members: Coach, Anne Dykstra; Assistant Coach, Brian Cutler; Teri Bowman; Alexandra Buth; Linsey Cutler; Karen Hegstrand; Michelle Mulder; Alexandra Nowak; Courtney Petersen; Mary Rea; Alyssa Titcher; Claire Tornga; Allison Wickman; and Dina Yavich. This is the 4th consecutive championship in a row for this team. Mr. Cwayna and Mr. Fouch congratulated the girls.

Recognition of the East Grand Rapids High School MHSAA Lower Peninsula Girls Division II 2003 State Championship Cross Country Team - Dr. James Morse and Mr. Charlie Denton presented certificates to the following team members: Coach Nick Hopkins; Meredith Brennan; Jessica Brenner; Nichole Brown; Kristina Buschle; Lauren Bye; Alyssa Carlyle; Merle Chaffee; Lauren Cunningham; Erin Cvengros; Rebecca Dean; Kathryn Gallagher; Talitha Haller; Margaret Johnson; Stephanie Kabat; Frances Kammeraad; Jennifer Lohner; Laura Malnor; Ashley Moll; Constance Ridenour; Elizabeth Stanton; Bianca Stubbs; Christiane Stubbs; Mary Tomson; and Susan Wonch. Mr. Fouch stated this is an outstanding program, which has only been developed over last couple of years. Mr. Cwayna stated this is a great achievement especially since it is so hard to win something for the first time.

Presentation:

High School MEAP Scores - Mrs. Christine Vettese and Mr. Doug Jenkins (Enclosure #9)

Mrs. Vettese and Mr. Jenkins presented the data for the High School MEAP scores. The total number of Merit Awards have not been announced by the State yet, and also no award of the Governor's Cup yet. As the State shows a downward trend for testing, East Grand Rapids Public High School scores are strong and even a little higher. Three major reasons for the great scores: 1) Strong building leadership; 2) Content experts at all levels; and, 3) Commitment to student achievement. Mr. Cwayna indicated that this is what we do, this is our mission. He stated that all teachers are to be congratulated for their work with the children. He mentioned that there is no High School in the State with our composite score success. Board members praised the teachers and staff for their commitment to the students and the wonderful scores.

Report on Food Service Program - Mrs. Amy Larson, Food Service Supervisor (Enclosure #10)

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Mr. Derks introduced Amy Larson, Food Service Supervisor. Mrs. Larson presented a power point show, which showed the Food Service accomplishments and goals. The total meals served and total sales are up district wide. High School sales and meals served are also up. Mr. Derks thanked Mrs. Larson for her enthusiasm, her good leadership and her ability to work well with everyone. Page 56 of the Annual Report gives the financial picture for the last year and Food Service is doing very well.

Action Items - Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR MEETING of 10/27/03 (Enclosure #11)

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of October 27, 2003 and Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of October Payment of Bills (Enclosure #12)

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the payment of bills for October 2003 and Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Maternity Leave of Absence (Enclosure #13)

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the maternity leave of absence for the second semester of the 2004-05 school year as requested by Mrs. Susan Stearns and Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Acceptance of a Child-Care Leave of Absence (Enclosure #14)

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve the extension of a part-time, unpaid child-care leave of absence beginning October 27, 2003 until January 5, 2004 as requested by Mrs. Kristine Greiffendorf and Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

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

The High School Administration recommends that foreign exchange student, Mr. Gabriel Azevedo from Brazil, be approved for enrollment at East Grand Rapids High School beginning second semester of the 2003-04 school year.

Mrs. Kuras moved and Mr. Ellis seconded the motion to approve the recommendation by the administration that Mr. Gabriel Azevedo from Brazil be enrolled at East Grand Rapids High School beginning the second semester of the 2003-04 school year.

Other Action Items:

2002-2003 Audit Report (Enclosure #15)

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Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter, P.C. completed the audit this fall. Mr. Derks indicated there are some changes this year due to GASB 34. GASB 34 changes the format of statements and accounts for fixed assets. Mr. Derks reviewed the following items in the audit: Food Service Program on page 56; Athletic Program on page 57; Building and Site Fund on page 60; and in the front of audit Page I - Management Discussion Analysis. According to the audit letter the following are factors bearing on the District's future - Contracts, the State's future, and the Countywide Special Education millage. Our Fund Equity is at 9% of total expenditures. The auditors recommend 10-15%. The District goes through one-third of our fiscal year before seeing any money from state. The District received an unqualified opinion from the auditors and high praise for Business Office staff. Mr. Ellis stated the auditor said East Grand Rapids has one of cleanest set of books he ever came across and there were no disputes between the auditors and the District. The Board Finance Committee reviewed the report and recommends that the Board of Education receive the 2002-2003 Audit Report.

Mrs. Stein moved to approve and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to receive the 2002-2003 Audit Report as presented and recommended by the Board Finance Committee and Superintendent. The motion passed 7-0.

Update on 1999 Bond and Approval of Purchase of Technology Equipment (Enclosure #16)

Mr. Jenkins provided a review of the technology equipment purchased through the 1999 Bond issue and recommended equipment for Wealthy Elementary School and the District technology infrastructure. Dr. Morse thanked Mr. Jenkins for his shrewd work with the bond funds. Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Tompkins presented needs of the District and Wealthy Elementary. Money from the bond can only be used for equipment purchases and nothing else.

Mr. Camp moved to approve and Mr. Denton seconded the motion to approve the purchase of technology equipment for Wealthy Elementary School and the District technology infrastructure as presented in Enclosure #16 as recommended by the Board Finance Committee and Superintendent. The motion passed 7-0.

Second Reading and Approval of Revised Board Policy #8320 - Student Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Enclosure #17)

The Board discussed a few changes at the first reading of Board Policy #8320 - Student Use of Electronic Communication Devices at the regular meeting on October 27, 2003. Those changes have been incorporated.

Mr. Ellis moved to approve and Mrs. Trierweiler seconded the motion to approve Board Policy #8320 - Student Use of Electronic Communication Devices as recommended by the Board Policy Committee and the Superintendent. The motion passed 7-0.

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Second Reading and Approval of New Board Policy #5250 - Employee Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Enclosure #18)

The Board reviewed Policy #5250 - Employee Use of Electronic Communication Devices at the regular meeting on October 27, 2003.

Mrs. Kuras moved to approve and Mr. Ellis seconded the motion to approve Board of Education Policy #5250 - Employee Use of Electronic Communication Devices. The motion passed 7-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent

Michigan School Aid Update

East Grand Rapids Public Schools may have to cut \$566,000 in middle of the year with what the state is telling us now. Dr. Morse stressed the need for everyone to contact their legislator and ask them to: pause the income tax rollback, renew full funding of Proposal A, allow no inequitable cuts, and not get involved with school fund balances (local decision).

Assistant Superintendent for Business

State Revenue Reductions

Mr. Derks handed out an e-mail from Tom White of Michigan School Business Officials. This e-mail does not give much additional information from what we already know. The District is working with staff, talking with the Associations, has implemented a hiring freeze, implemented a 10% reduction in budgets for buildings and departments, is working out an energy plan (to be presented at next meeting), and is waiting to hear where the State is at before making any staffing changes.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Differentiation

Mrs. Vettese has met with the Gifted and Talented parent support group. We are now in the second year of a three-year plan with differentiation. Differentiation deals with how to teach, how to work with the learner, how to reach more children, how to be a better teacher. She will bring teachers in to differentiate the program to share their experiences and show how it works in classrooms.

Board Representative Report

MASB Conference Report - Mrs. Beth Lent

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MASB annual dues are not increasing this year. The following two resolutions passed: National Athletic Tournaments (opposed) and Unfunded Mandates and Sanctions (opposed). There was an additional resolution passed regarding Intermediate School Districts (Supported). One resolution failed by one vote, which tied the use of student assessments to improving teaching methods and professional development activities.

Adjournment

Mrs. Lent adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosalie R. Stein
Board Secretary

Superintendent's Office - 12/01/03