

## **Our Mission**

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

## **EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Kent County, Michigan

### **REGULAR MEETING of the East Grand Rapids Board of Education**

Community Board Room at the James E. Morse Administration Center at Woodcliff  
2915 Hall Street SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**Monday, March 12, 2012**

### **MINUTES**

The **REGULAR MEETING** of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Kent County, Michigan, was held on Monday, March 12, 2012, in the Community Board Room of the James E. Morse Administration Center at Woodcliff, 2915 Hall Street, SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Present: Brian Ellis, Steve Edison, Bob Minnema, Peter Ruppert, Michelle Rabideau, Susan Levine

Absent: Beth Milanowski

Administration: Dr. Sara Magaña Shubel, Jeanne Glowicki, Kevin Philipps, Kathy Wisniewski, Doug Jenkins, Jenny Fee, Lori Johnston, Nick Hopkins, Peter Stuursma, Bill Behrendt, Caroline Breault-Cannon, Linda Kehm, Anthony Morey

#### Meeting Called to Order

President Ellis called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Acknowledgment of Guests – None.

Public Comments – None

Member Milanowski arrived at 5:03 p.m.

Budget Work Session (Enclosure #4) – President Ellis explained that the Budget Work Session is combined this evening with the Regular meeting to make efficient use of everyone's time. Kevin Philipps, Assistant Superintendent of Business, provided background information on the proposed budget recommendations, reporting that the administrative team worked to the best of their ability to maintain our continued commitment to excellence as established in our Strategic Plan. Philipps presented the correlation between recent budget surveys and focus group sessions. The original 2012-2013 budget projection with key assumptions was reviewed, as well as changes to these projections based on the Governor's Budget Proposal and other revenue adjustments recommended by administration along with expense adjustments. The EGR Now donations are not considered in the administrative budget recommendations, and \$750,000 is the targeted use of the district's fund balance. Deficit budget recommendations were described in priority order. Members of the administrative team were asked to present the recommendations which affect programs and/or staff positions in their departments or school buildings.

Nick Hopkins, Athletic Director, presented proposed athletic reductions totaling \$56,000 in cost savings by utilizing college interns as game event workers, increasing the amount of Pay to Participate fees, and discontinuing funding for softball and wrestling.

Jeanne Glowicki, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, and Doug Jenkins, Director of Technology, presented on proposed media center staffing reductions and introduced the new concept of a Learning Commons. The vision for these restructured locations is to bring together library and technology in an environment that fosters informal and formal collaboration, creative work, and social interaction. The Learning Commons would include assistive technology, computer availability, a help desk, multimedia, and printing options. At the help desk, creative and technical support will be offered. Current technology staff members will continue to be resources at all buildings in offering accessibility to blend with current and future learning. Total savings in this category is \$150,000.

Kevin Philipps presented the proposed reductions in maintenance and custodial supplies representing a total cost savings of \$50,000. Philipps presented the proposed reduction of the child care secretarial position to half time representation a cost savings of \$35,000. Philipps presented the proposed Schedule B reductions and explaining the process of starting with a "zero based budgeting" approach, detailing a list of positions to remain and those to be discontinued. This represents a cost savings of \$60,000.

Elementary principals presented on the proposal to eliminate Y5, kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade elementary paraeducators, representing a total cost savings of \$125,000. Volunteers will be utilized to maintain some of the services currently provided by paraeducators.

Nick Hopkins discussed the proposal to approach EGR Team Boosters to assist with defraying the district's costs for athletics by assisting with the funding for half of the athletic training position. This would represent a cost savings of \$30,000.

Jenny Fee, High School Principal, presented on the proposal to implement Pay to Participate for the drama program, representing a total cost savings of \$30,000.

Patty Temple, Supervisor of Building and Grounds, presented on the proposal to eliminate four of five custodial cleaner positions and explained the impact of implementing these reductions. The total projected cost savings in this category is \$74,000.

Elementary principals, Caroline Breault-Cannon, Linda Kehm, and Anthony Morey, presented the options and recommendations for elementary reductions and explained the contractual obligations to be considered. Highlights of current programs were presented along with the goals for elementary, describing the options explored in the budget reduction process. A complete restructuring of Specials (Art, Music, and PE) and Spanish was detailed with one option of having a Specials experience of 36 minutes daily. Another option considered was the elimination of Spanish for K-3 students. The third option considered was to substitute Spanish for one Special. The elimination of Spanish K-5 was presented as another option to reduce the budget at the elementary level. The pros and cons of all options were reviewed. In summary, an elimination of Spanish K-5 would represent a cost savings of \$270,000.

Peter Stuursma, Middle School Principal, presented on the elimination of the Intervention Specialist position, which is a position to support struggling middle school and upper elementary general education students. This represents a cost savings of \$90,000.

Kevin Philipps summarized the proposed reductions in the amount of \$970,000. He presented a comparison of the budget proposal to budget surveys and focus groups, reviewing the results as detailed in previous board meetings. The divergence, if any, from these results to the budget proposal was presented. Dr. Shubel explained the reasoning for the need to preserve a strong leadership infrastructure in order to operate an effective school system. The projected budget with reductions also represents \$750,000 in spending of the fund balance. Philipps summarized what the administration has accomplished throughout the budget process and the necessary work for the remainder of the school year.

President Ellis commended the administration on the indepth manner in which the proposed budget reductions were presented and the work that went into such an undertaking. Ellis believes that we can collaboratively work through this process and he encouraged everyone to keep the pressure on our legislators regarding school funding. The budget will be finalized at the regular board meeting on June 11, 2012.

A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board throughout the budget work session.

Dr. Shubel acknowledged the amount of work and commitment that went into the proposed budget reductions. She reported that the five legislators who attended last week's Education Town Hall meeting stated that they were willing to consider the implications of all day kindergarten on school systems.

#### Board Secretary's Report: Communications to and from the Board – Steve Edison

The Board received communication from Ann Kuske on technology.

The Board received a Thank You from Michelle Day for the Schuler gift card on the birth of her daughter, Marin.

The Board received communication on the budget process from Sue Cothorn.

The Board received a Thank You from Kirk Reifinger for the Schuler gift card on the birth of his son, Nash.

The Board received communication from Deb Bonner on proposed budget reductions.

#### High School Student Council President's Report

Ian Kelly, Senior Class President, reported that the Student Council has started to divide up work between classes with seniors having a baccalaureate meeting and working on their service project. Juniors are in the process of planning prom and have decided on their service project to create a book drive. Sophomores have already started their planning for next year's prom. Both sophomores and freshmen are still in the process of planning their service projects.

### **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**

#### East Grand Rapids Leadership & Youth Development (EGRLYD)

Stacy Trierweiler presented an update on the EGR Leadership & Youth Development program, highlighting the successes achieved so far this year due to the strong leadership of the board, active student participation, and college interns. A DVD of this year's activities was presented.

President Ellis commended the EGRLYD board on their leadership and the way they have managed to self-fund this program and successfully continue the programs offered to students.

Proposed AP English (Enclosure #8)

Jane Hazle, high school English teacher, presented on the proposal of an AP English course to replace the current Honors 11<sup>th</sup> grade English. She provided an overview of the offering and how this merges current Honors 11<sup>th</sup> grade American Literature with AP requirements. Books are teacher selected rather than prescribed. The course is organized around three essential questions and one essential statement. Jeanne Glowicki detailed the budget amount of \$6,568.64 to support this offering.

A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board.

Proposed Environmental Science (Enclosure #9)

Matt Harold presented on the proposal of an Environmental Science course. The overall structure and purpose of the course was outlined, indicating that the course will be open to all students with a focus on students who are in need of a science credit (Chemistry) or an elective. Resources will be reviewed following approval of the curriculum. This course will offer a wide variety of topics that do not fit a traditional textbook. Online and other resources will be evaluated to maximize student engagement and learning. A budget is not presented with the proposal this evening as further research is necessary in researching materials and resources.

A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board.

**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 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 the items in the Consent Agenda, Numbers 10-13.

Approval of Minutes of REGULAR Meeting of 2/13/2012 (Enclosure #10)

Approval of Payment of Bills for February 2012 (Enclosure #11)

Approval of High School Spring Athletic Overnight Trips (Enclosure #12)

Approval of Proposed HS Math Online (Enclosure #13)

Member Minnema moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 10-13. Member Edison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of Numbers for the 2012-2013 Schools of Choice Program (Enclosure #14)

Background: 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. The Finance Committee and Superintendent are recommending that we accept 33 students through the 2012-2013 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.

Recommendation: Motion to accept 33 students through the 2012-2013 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.

Dr. Shubel reviewed the Schools of Choice resolutions which were approved at the February board meeting. In order to qualify for the Governor's "Best Practices" incentive, the district needs to offer at least one opening under Section 105c for students of contiguous intermediate school districts. Therefore, in addition to the 33 Kent ISD SOC positions as proposed in Enclosure #14, one (1) additional opening is recommended in kindergarten under Section 105c.

Member Edison moved to accept 33 students through the 2012-2013 Kent ISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program as outlined in Enclosure #14, as well as one (1) additional opening in kindergarten under Section 105c. Member Rabideau seconded the motion. A discussion was held with questions and answers from the Board. Motion passed 7-0.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### Superintendent

Dr. Shubel reiterated that budget recommendations are extremely difficult and we will continue to press our representatives in Lansing on the impact of their decisions and how they affect our public school systems.

### Assistant Supt. of Business

None.

### Assistant Supt. of Instruction

None.

### Board Representative Reports

Member Rabideau announced *Hurrah*, to be held on March 17 and encouraged everyone to attend in support of our schools.

Member Edison thanked everyone for attending the Education Town Hall Meeting last week which was extremely well attended. The Legislative Committee did a phenomenal job of organizing this event.

### Adjournment

President Ellis announced the next board meeting will be held on April 16, 2012, 6:00 p.m. in the Community Board Room.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

President Ellis adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen W. Edison, Secretary  
East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education

\* Minutes for this meeting will be available in the Superintendent's Office at 2915 Hall St. SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506. The phone number is 235-3535.  
\*\* If you plan to attend and have a special need and require accommodation to attend this meeting, please contact Dr. Sara M. Shubel, Superintendent, at 235-3535.  
jmm 3/13/2012