

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE  
GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

**OFFICIAL**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BOARD CHAMBERS/1331 FRANKLIN, SE**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Falb.

Present: Grant, Lewis, Matias, Ross, Schottke, Slade, Baker, Flores, President Falb – 9.

Absent: 0.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

President Falb asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. There being none, the agenda is approved as written.

Motion by Mr. Ross, supported by Dr. Flores, that the agenda be approved as written.

Carried: Yeas: Grant, Lewis, Matias, Ross, Schottke, Slade, Baker, Flores, President Falb – 9.

Nays: 0.

## CELEBRATIONS

### **Rosa Parks Essay Contest Winner – High School Division**

Dr. Ron Gorman, Assistant Superintendent of PreK-12 Instructional Support, shared that five students from the Grand Rapids Public Schools either won or were a finalists for the Rosa Parks Essay Contest. Overall 322 essays were submitted at the middle school level, 122 in grades 9-10, and 235 in grades 11-12. Of those submitted over half were from the district. They wrote essays on world changers that came before them and how students plan to work across generations to change the world.

Dr. Gorman then introduced Mr. Mark Frost, Head Principal at Innovation Central. Mr. Frost introduced Pearl McFall and her family. He also noted that what she did with the contest winnings was even more impressive. She read her essay, “Impacting America My Way.” Her essay was inspired by Rosa Parks. Pearl shared how she could impact and influence people today. Her passion is for helping the homeless and helping them to make a better life for themselves through support to become independent. She took the \$500 prize winnings and purchased gift cards that she donated to homeless individuals.

### **REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD**

Gabrielle Clarke shared that Ottawa Hills was holding its Hip Hop Club open house this evening. She also shared that the Floyd Mayweather Classic was a successful fundraiser and that the seniors ordered their graduation caps and gowns.

Robert Flippo was excused.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT- BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

### **SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Ms. Jen Schottke presented the following reports:

#### **KIASB Dinner Meeting – February 16, 2017**

Board members are invited to attend the Kent Intermediate Association of School Boards dinner meeting on February 16, 2017 at the Downtown Market from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. There will be a presentation by Kevin Stotts, President of Talent 2025, on the role schools play in addressing the future talent and work needs of Kent County business. Please inform the Superintendent’s Office of your RSVP.

#### **Board Member Professional Development Opportunity**

Michigan Association of School Board Members is offering the New School Board Member Institute for Board Member Certification Classes and Board President Workshop. The

registration deadline is coming up quickly. Please let the Superintendent's Office know if you would like to participate. Classes will be held January 27 – 28, 2017 at the Kent ISD Educational Service Center.

### **MASB Legal Seminar on Student Discipline**

Michigan Association of School Boards is holding a School Law Workshop on Student Discipline at the MASB office on February 8, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The legislature recently amended multiple sections of the Revised School Code involving student discipline requirements. These changes modified the zero tolerance laws by giving school districts more discretion on expulsion decisions, but the amendments also include new obligations for school officials when considering the suspension or expulsion of a student. The new requirements will go in effect August 1, 2017.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Kindergarten Here I Come**

Mr. Matthew Beresford, Director of Early Childhood Education, provided information and an overview of activities regarding the “Kindergarten Here I Come” open house scheduled on January 25, 2017 at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. He also shared that the theme school application deadline is due January 31, 2017.

### **Board Member Request**

A board member requested an update on the Native American Program leadership plan. President Falb noted the question.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

None.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items are being presented for the acceptance/approval of the Board:

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Special Board Meeting/Work Session – December 12, 2016
  - b. Board Meeting/Annual Organizational Meeting- January 3, 2017
2. Reports of Committees
  - a. Academic Achievement Committee Meeting – December 20, 2017
3. Business Items (None)
4. Motions & Resolutions (None)

Motion by Ms. Slade, supported by Rev. Matias that the Consent Agenda items be accepted/approved.

Carried: Yeas: Grant, Lewis, Matias, Ross, Schottke, Slade, Baker, Flores, President Falb – 9.

Nays: 0.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**

### **Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

The December 20, 2016 Academic Achievement Committee Meeting minutes were approved under the Consent Agenda and have been posted to the District's website.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

None.

## **MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

None.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **NSBA 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Denver**

President Falb shared that the conference is scheduled in March and for board members interested in attending to please let her know and the Superintendent's Office.

### **Board Retreat**

President Falb highlighted agenda items for the retreat. She shared that Rod Green, PhD from MASB will be back to give a presentation on Board Governance 101, a BoardDocs demo, a finance overview, contextualizing negotiations for board members, and a compare and contrast of the superintendent evaluation tool. Lunch will be catered by Daddy Pete's BBQ. She asked board members to please be present at 8:00 a.m.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

None.

## **BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Ms. Lewis asked if the district can target enrollment to the families of preschoolers. President Falb shared that the district has a plan for outreach and asked that she direct her question to Mr. Helmhold't office.

Ms. Schottke shared that Pearl McFall's parents' faces were beaming and congratulated her on her essay.

President Falb expressed her appreciation to Representative David LaGrand and his work to give a much more reasonable approach to the changes in zero tolerance legislation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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Secretary

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