

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

OFFICIAL

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

MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Present: Ross, Schottke, Slade, Baker, Flores, Grant, Lewis, Matias, and 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 Ms. Slade, supported by Ms. Lewis, that the agenda be approved as written.

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

Nays: 0.

CELEBRATIONS

Ms. Carolyn Evans, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction was in the superintendent's seat on behalf of Superintendent Neal.

Year in Athletics

Mr. Marcus Harris athletic director at Ottawa Hills High along with Mr. Justin Walker athletic director at Union High were joined by student athletes who were proud to share with the many accomplishments achieved doing the fall and winter seasons. Mr. Harris informed the Board that they had 50 students on the Honor Roll and Dean's list as well as the National Honors Society at their respective schools. They had 19 All Conference, 2 All State swim finals and 3 cross country State Finalists. Special thanks were expressed to the students for their exceptional work ethic on and off the field, as well as to parents for doing such a great job.

Mr. Walker informed the Board of the accomplishments made at Union High School. There were 6 All Conference athletes, 2 All Conference Honorable Mentions, and 6 All District Team for the boys soccer team as well as 1 All Regional soccer team member, 1 All State Honorable Mention for soccer and Juan Zavala was named MASA coach of the year. This is the first time in 10 or 15 years that they won the boys' district soccer. For Union's winter session, there is 7 All State Conference Athletics, 2 All Conference Honorable Mention and 1 All State Honorable Mention. Four students signed letters of intent for a full or partial scholarship to continue their academic and athletic career.

Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan Educators of the Year

Ms. Laura Lamore, executive director of special education along with the president of the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan Mr. Tom Hackett proudly shared their excitement in presenting the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan Educator of the Year Award. This year's recipient is Martin Luther King Leadership Academy's early childhood special education team. The program is a full inclusion model. The following staff were recognized and congratulated: Karen Ahlem, Amy Bocain, Bryan Gast, and Laura Workman.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD

The student representative to the board was excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT- BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

None.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ms. Jen Schottke presented the following reports:

Budget Timeline

The state legislature has their revenue estimating conference this Wednesday which at this point, the board will learn fare more about how they will need to prepare for next year.

- **Work Session – June 5 at 4:30 p.m.**
(Please calendar this time prior to the regular board meeting.)
 - Budget Amendment II presentation
 - 2017 – 2018 Budget presentation

- **Work Session - June 12 at 4:30 p.m.**
(Date already scheduled)
 - Vote on Budget Amendment II
 - 2017 – 2018 Budget – Continuation/Q&A

- **Public Hearing on the 2017-2018 Budget – June 19 at 6:00 p.m.**
(Please calendar this time prior to the regular board meeting.)

- **Regular Board Meeting - June 19 at 6:30 p.m.**
 - Vote on 2017-2018 Budget (Deadline is June 30, 2017)

Board Committee Meeting Schedule Update

Academic Achievement Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium.

Finance Committee is scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Ad Hoc Policy Committee is rescheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in room 101.

Movies in the Park

For the third year in a row, Grand Rapids Public Schools will be sponsoring Movies in the Park. The District will be the title sponsor for two movies this year that start at 7:00 p.m. at An-Nab-Awen Park located at 220 Front Ave. NW. Each of these evenings, there will be a staffed table with give aways and school choice information.

Movie	Date	First Showing
Zootopia	Friday, June 2, 2017	7:00 p.m.
Book of Life	Friday, July 21, 2017	7:00 p.m.

Moreover, there are some exciting new features for Movies in the Park this year, including a new LED screen (instead of the blow up screen and projector), two showings each night, and a new layout at the park. This is free to the public.

COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATE

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Thank You Strong Schools, Strong Communities Proposal

Mr. John Helmholdt, executive director of communications and external affairs provided a thank you on behalf of Superintendent Neal and all the staff of GRPS. He shared that Grand Rapids had a 58 percent yes in the city and won 63 of the 67 precincts. He thanked the voters and taxpayers of Grand Rapids for rallying behind our students, our teachers, support staff, the Board, and being behind this administration and the direction Grand Rapids Public Schools is headed.

Groundbreaking at Buchanan

Mr. Helmholdt shared that this will be the first in a series of ground breakings and eventual ribbon cuttings on the district's bond projects. Buchanan Elementary will break ground on May 31, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at Buchanan Elementary. The reconstruction for the school is slated for next year to year and a half.

Class of 2017 Graduation Schedule

The District is proud of our graduating Class of 2017. The District has spread the events over more days rather than holding a day-long event. The graduation events are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, June 6

City High School at 6:00 p.m. at Fountain Street Church

Wednesday, June 7

Adult Education/GR Learning Center/and KEC Beltline at 5:00 p.m. at Fountain Street Church
Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy at 7:30 p.m. at Fountain Street Church

Thursday, June 8

Ottawa Hills at 5:00 p.m. at Calvin College's VanNoord Arena
Union on at 7:30 p.m. at Calvin College's VanNoord Arena

Friday, June 9

Community Transition Campus/KVO/Lincoln School/Lincoln Developmental Center/ and Pine Grove at 5:00 p.m. at Calvin College's VanNoord Arena
Innovation Central and GR Montessori at 7:30 p.m. at Calvin College's VanNoord Arena

ACTION ITEMS

KISD 2017-2018 Budget Resolution (Support For)

Motion by Mr. Ross, supported by Ms. Slade, to approve the KISD 2017-2018 Budget Resolution (Support For).

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

Nays: 0.

ISD BUDGET RESOLUTION

Grand Rapids Public Schools, Michigan (the “District”)

A regular board meeting of the board of education of the District was held in the auditorium in the District, on the 15th day of May, 2017, at 6:30 o’clock in the p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Wendy VerHage Falb, Ph.D., President.

Present: Members

Absent: Members

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member _____ and supported by Member _____:

WHEREAS:

1. Section 624 of the Revised School Code, as amended, requires the intermediate school board to submit its proposed budget not later than May 1 of each year to the board of each constituent district for review; and

2. Not later than June 1 of each year, the board of each constituent district shall review the proposed intermediate school district budget, shall adopt a board resolution expressing its support for or disapproval of the proposed intermediate district budget, and shall submit to the intermediate school board any specific objections and proposed changes the constituent district board has to the budget.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The board of education has received and reviewed the proposed intermediate school district budget in accordance with Section 624 of the Revised School Code, as amended, and by the adoption of this resolution, expresses its support for the proposed intermediate school district budget.

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2. The secretary of the board of education or his/her designee shall forward a copy of this resolution to the intermediate school board or its superintendent no later than June 1, 2016.

3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Members

Nays: Members

Resolution declared adopted.

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Grand Rapids Public Schools, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education at a regular board meeting held on May 15, 2017, the original of which resolution is a part of the Board's minutes, and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended.

Secretary, Board of Education

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Bylaw #1005 District Authority, Second Reading, Final Adoption

Motion by Dr. Baker, supported by Ms. Slade, to approve Bylaw #1005 District Authority, Second Reading, Final Adoption.

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

Nays: 0.

Section 1000: Board Bylaws
1005 District Authority

The official name of the school district shall be the Grand Rapids Public School District and the District shall operate as a general powers school district. The legal basis for the Grand Rapids Public School District is vested in the will of the people as expressed in the Michigan Constitution, the statutes pertaining to education, various court interpretations, and the powers implied by the above.

The Board, on its own behalf and on behalf of the electors of the school district, retains and reserves unto itself, without limitations, all powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it by the laws and the Constitution of the State of Michigan and/or the United States and those outlined in the Michigan School Code.

It is the intent of the Board through its policies to establish direction and general and long-range operational procedures for the care and custody, establishment, maintenance, management and carrying on of the public schools and property of the District as authorized under current law.

Whenever the words “Superintendent,” “Assistant Superintendent,” or “Principal” appear in these policies and rules, the words “or designated representative” shall be assumed to follow. The delegation of authority of administrative actions does not relieve the Superintendent or other administrators of the responsibility of the actions of their designated representatives.

Approved: June 29, 2009
Revised: _____
LEGAL REF: MCL 380.11a

Bylaw #1015 District Mission Statement, Second Reading, Final Adoption

Motion by Dr. Baker, supported by Mr. Ross, to approve Bylaw #1015 District Mission Statement, Second Reading, Final Adoption.

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

Nays: 0.

Section 1000: Board Bylaws
1015 District Mission Statement

The Mission of the Grand Rapids Public Schools is to ensure that all students are educated, self-directed, and productive members of society.

All students will meet or exceed standards approved by the Board in all curriculum areas.

All students will be productive, responsible citizens who value learning.

A supportive partnership will exist between the Grand Rapids Public Schools and the community.

Approved: June 29, 2009
Revised _____

Bylaw #1020 Bylaws, Second Reading, Final Adoption

Motion by Ms. Schottke, supported by Mr. Ross, to table Bylaw #1020 Bylaws. Ms. Schottke cited that the Ad Hoc Policy Committee will discuss consistency in the way the language is written. The policy will be brought back for its Second Reading, Final Adoption at the next board meeting.

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

Nays: 0.

Section 1000: Board Bylaws
1005 Bylaws

The exercise by the Board of its powers granted by statute, the conduct of its affairs, and the rights and powers of its members and officers shall be governed by these bylaws, in accord with the laws of the State of Michigan and the regulations of the Michigan Department of Education.

Amendment of Bylaws

The Board bylaws/governance principles may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members elected to and serving on the Board of Education at a regular meeting only and not unless such amendment shall have been proposed at a previous regular meeting.

Suspension of Bylaws

Any bylaw/governance principle may be suspended by a majority vote of the members elect at any meeting.

Approved: June 29, 2009

Revised: _____

LEGAL REF: MCL 380.11a (6)

Bylaw #1032 Duties and Governing Philosophies, Second Reading, Final Adoption

Motion by Dr. Baker, supported by Ms. Slade, to approve Bylaw #1032 Duties and Governing Philosophies, Second Reading, Final Adoption.

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

Nays: 0.

Section 1000: Board Bylaws

1032 Duties and Governing Philosophies

Duties

The Board's work for the benefit of students and the community will include:

- a. Establishing and maintaining connections with the public regarding issues impacting public education;
- b. Reviewing and recommending education policy on an ongoing basis;
- c. Hiring and evaluating the Superintendent, including holding the Superintendent accountable to the terms of the contract and annually set goals;
- d. Enacting Board governance policies that include Superintendent parameters/responsibilities, Board/Superintendent/Staff Relations, and the Board's own means to support its governance role;
- e. Making decisions based on clear data and significant and relevant monitoring information pertinent to District operations;
- f. Approving a District budget with revenue and spending parameters and a financial performance monitoring process;
- g. Reviewing and accepting administrative rules as they support the policies established by the Board; and

- h. Establishing a process to appoint an interim Superintendent to ensure that District business is conducted during an extended planned or unplanned absence of the Superintendent.

Board Member Duties and Responsibilities

Individual Board members shall:

- Keep the Superintendent and fellow Board members advised of community reaction to the school program and to school policies;
- Listen to citizens with questions, comments, and complaints, referring them to an appropriate member of the school staff in accordance with the policies of the Board;
- Refer personal requests and criticisms by employees directly to the appropriate administrative office and/or union official in accordance with the policies of the Board;
- Act on the selection, assignment, transfer, promotion, demotion, or dismissal of school personnel, both certified and non-certified, only after submission of a recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools;
- Participate in county, regional, state, and national associations of school board members;
- Hold the Superintendent responsible for acceptable standards and results in the operation of the school system;
- Be responsible for their own behavior and consequences;
- Not undermine the leadership of the President and take only those actions which are congruent with policy;
- Observe Parliamentary procedure, deferring to the President when clarity of procedure is needed;
- Respect the authority of the President;
- Not bypass the authority and/or role of the President;
- Communicate directly with the President regarding performance issues; and
- Inform the President or Superintendent of additional agenda items prior to the Board meeting.

Governing Philosophies

In governing on behalf of a quality education for all students within the Grand Rapids Public Schools, the Board of Education's decisions and policy-making will be founded on the principles listed below:

- a. Fostering and modeling an atmosphere of respect for human dignity and the talents and contributions of all persons;
- b. Providing a system of accountability for delivering quality education that can be measured;
- c. Putting students' needs first by making decisions with a sense of honesty, sincerity, fairness, and integrity;
- d. Striving to meet the needs of all children through decision-making based on an equitable distribution of resources;
- e. Listening to hear the words and intentions of all who speak;
- f. Putting what we learn and do into a system perspective; and

g. Compromising and collaborating to achieve the goal of a quality education for all students of the GRPS.

The Board may exercise the above legal powers and duties only when convened in a legally constituted meeting.

Approved: June 29, 2009

Revised: _____

LEGAL REF: Michigan Constitution, Article VIII; MCL 380.10, 380.11 *et seq.*

Bylaw #1040 District Goals and Objectives, Second Reading, Final Adoption

Motion by Ms. Grant, supported by Mr. Ross, to approve Bylaw #1005 District Authority, Second Reading, Final Adoption.

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

Nays: 0.

Section 1000: Board Bylaws

1005 District Goals and Objectives

The Board shall provide the mission and vision for the District. The Board, in consultation with the superintendent, shall annually establish and review a set of long-range goals and objectives to guide the operations of the District consistent with the mission and vision. All personnel in the District shall direct their efforts toward achieving the goals and objectives of the Board in order to ensure that students are able to function effectively in their environment, employment, and continuing educational efforts.

The Board shall participate in long-range planning through an annual meeting with the Superintendent and senior staff to review progress on the implementation of priorities, initiatives, and long-range plans, to determine which goals have been achieved, whether any new efforts are needed, and to review major issues that may affect the future of the District. The Board also shall consider and act upon objectives and major activities proposed by the Superintendent to achieve long-range goals.

The Superintendent shall develop necessary procedures, forms, or other measures to implement the goals of this policy using a simple, logical, and collegial processes.

The Superintendent shall provide opportunities for interested patrons to become knowledgeable about the District long-range planning process, and to review and to make recommendations concerning specific District long-range plans.

The Superintendent shall give the Board periodic reports each year on the progress and success of various plans, and shall ensure that similar progress reports are available to the news media and to District patrons.

Approved: June 29, 2009
Revised:

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 – April 10, 2017
 - b. Board Meeting – May 1, 2017
2. Reports of Committees (None)
3. Business Items
 - a. Administrative Appointments
4. Motions & Resolutions
 - a. Kent Intermediate School Board Biennial Election of the Kent Intermediate School Board

Motion by Dr. Baker, supported by Ms. Lewis, that the Consent Agenda items be approved/accepted.

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

Nays: 0.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Administrative Appointments

The following administrative appointments were approved under the Consent Agenda:

- Forrest Clift, Principal, Rodgemoor Montessori
- Angel Day, Supervisor, Special Education

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Kent Intermediate School Board Biennial Election of the Kent Intermediate School Board

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DISTRICT'S ELECTION REPRESENTATIVE

[To be presented prior to May 15, 2017 and to be adopted on or after May 15, 2017 and filed with the Kent Intermediate School District on or before June 2, 2017]

Grand Rapids Board of Education, Grand Rapids, Michigan (the "District")

A regular board meeting of the Grand Rapids Board of Education, Michigan (the "Board"), was held in the auditorium of Grand Rapids Public Schools, on the 15th day of May, 2017, at 6:30 o'clock in the p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Wendy Falb, Ph.D., President

Present: Members

Absent: Members

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member _____ and supported by Member _____ :

WHEREAS:

1. The biennial election of the Board of Kent Intermediate School District (the "ISD") will be held on Monday, June 5, 2017; and
2. The members of the ISD Board will be elected by an electoral body composed of one (1) person designated by the Board of each of the Constituent School Districts; and
3. In accordance with Section 614(2) of the Revised School Code [MCL 380.614(2)], this Board must now adopt a resolution which designates its representative to the electoral body and direct said representative to vote on behalf of this Board for the specific candidates this Board supports for each position to be filled on the ISD Board, at least on the first ballot taken by the electoral body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This Board does hereby approve the designation of Katherine Downes Lewis as the representative of this Board for the electoral body, which body will elect three candidates to the vacancies on the ISD Board on Monday, June 5, 2017 and Raynard Ross as an alternate representative in the event the designated representative is unable to attend.
2. The designated representative, or the alternate in the event of the absence of the designated representative, is further directed to cast three (3) votes on the first ballot on behalf of this Board for Claudia Bajema, David Drake, and Andrea Haidle.

3. The Secretary of this Board is hereby further directed to cause a certified copy of this resolution to be filed with the Secretary of the ISD Board at or prior to the election of the ISD Board on Monday, June 5, 2017.

4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution by and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Members

Nays: Members

Motion declared adopted.

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Grand Rapids, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a regular board meeting held on May 15, 2017, the original of which resolution is a part of the Board's minutes, and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended.

Secretary, Board of Education

/cc

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board's Summer Retreat

President Falb mentioned to look for possible dates for a retreat this summer. If they have ideas or preferences for agenda items, she asked they be sent to her. The Superintendent's Office will send out information on the proposed dates.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- ◆ Ms. Irma Menchaca regarding the Native American Program

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Ms. Evans made note that the district is holding a Science Fair from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. and they have about 100 entries she requested everyone stop by.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Dr. Baker thanked everyone for their vote on May 2, 2017. He expressed his appreciation that it passed and looking optimistically toward the budget and Lansing's news.

Ms. Grant thanked everyone for supporting GRPS students. She is proud of the student athletes that were at the meeting tonight.

Ms. Lewis asked a question regarding the biennial election process.

President Falb expressed her appreciation to all of the voters for their confidence and support of GRPS and to the team at Martin Luther King Junior Leadership Academy.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Secretary

/cb