



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2015
Multipurpose Room, Brownell Middle School
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Gafa called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

[\(click here to view livestream video\)](#)

Board members present: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Pangborn

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Ismail.

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AGENDA FOR MARCH 16, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Ismail

THAT the revised Board Agenda for March 16, 2015 be approved as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Pangborn

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

There were no comments at this time.

IV. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH 16, 2015

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for March 16, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Valente

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for March 16, 2015 as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Pangborn

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes of February 23, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes of February 23, 2015 as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Pangborn

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

C. Approval of Resolution Recognizing Distinguished Volunteers

It was Moved by: Trustee Ismail

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the Resolution Recognizing Distinguished Volunteers as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Pangborn

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

D. G.A.A.A. #2

It was Moved by: Trustee Summerfield

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve the G.A.A.A. #2 as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Pangborn

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

E. Approval of Bids

1. Artificial Turf Project at North High School

a. Removal and Grading

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Board approve the contract for the artificial turf removal and grading at North High School to S & H Trucking and Excavating for \$118,000.

Ayes: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Pangborn

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

b. Replacement of Turf

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve the contract for the replacement of the artificial turf at North High School to A-Turf, LLC for \$456,690.

Ayes: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Pangborn

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

2. South High School Slate Tile Roof Phase III

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the contract to Royal Roofing for the South High School slate tile roof, phase III at a cost of \$199,790 as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Pangborn
Nays: None
Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

F. Approval to Require Posting of Board Electronic Communication

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske **Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the requirement to post Board of Education electronic communication on the district website as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz
Absent: Trustee Pangborn
Nays: None
Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL 27, 2015

- A. Approval of Human Resources Report for April 27, 2015**
- B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2015**
- C. Approval of Board Policies**
- D. Approval of Bids**
 - 1. Pierce Auditorium Seating**
 - 2. North High School Pool Liner**
 - 3. North High School Tennis Courts**

VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report

Dr. Dean received the month of January health care reports from Brown and Brown and noted that they presented average costs. He said that a significant health cost will be reflected in upcoming health reports that will indicate a substantial change in overall costs but will be contained by the district's stop-loss factor. Dr. Dean also noted that renewal costs will be kept at a low 1.1% increase for the district and for employee costs until March 30, 2016.

Mr. Fenton said that the monthly financials are in line with the BMU and reflect changes in the G.A.A.A. #2 report presented this evening.

B. Budget Development Update

Mr. Fenton said that the budget development process is on schedule and a document reflecting a current budget update as well as a forecast for next year's financial needs will be provided to the Board by April 1st. The reports will include updates on the Debt Fund; Sinking fund projects; staffing levels; and anticipated enrollment levels, from which the budget will be built. Mr. Fenton also shared that he expects some reductions in staffing due to declining enrollment at the elementary level.

C. Board Policies (first reading)

Trustee Roeske provided information on changes that were made to the following district policies:

- 1. Policy 9800, High School Diplomas to World War II, Korean Conflict and Vietnam Era Veterans**

Trustee Roeske noted that this policy remains the same in nature. The only change is the inclusion of Vietnam Era Veterans being added to those eligible to receive a diploma.

2. Policy 5830, Student Fundraising

This policy was changed to meet the USDA dietary restrictions and is now in-line with state law.

3. Policy 8540, Vending Machines

This policy was also revised to meet state regulations and guidelines.

President Gafa deviated from the order of business on the agenda to present Superintendent Harwood with gifts from the Board thanking him for his service to the district and wishing him the best of luck in his new endeavor. She noted that this evening's meeting would be his last official Board of Education meeting in the district.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, March 23, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- B. Board Policy Committee Meeting, March 31, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Board Office, 389 St. Clair

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Matt Whetstein, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his disappointment with current Early-On services in the district noting that he is his son's advocate in making sure the district provides the requirements needed for special needs students.

Clinton Andrews, Grosse Pointe Park, shared that one of his children was not prepared for college after high school. He said that his son did not have an easy transition academically and asked that the district follow a small group of Grosse Pointe Public School graduates through their first year of college to understand where changes can be made to prepare future students for the full college experience.

Laura Mikesell, Grosse Pointe City, highlighted teacher groups and the positive work being done throughout the district at each level by district teachers. She thanked Mrs. Gafa for scheduling an additional superintendent search focus group for teachers.

IX. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Ismail congratulated the students who performed "Catch Me If You Can" noting that it was a great performance. He complimented Superintendent Harwood on his consistent accessibility to be reached. Mr. Ismail wished him the best on his transition with his new endeavor.

Trustee Valente congratulated: South High School girls' hockey State Champions; South boys' varsity hockey team for making it to the state semi-finals; South choir on "sweeping" one of the most recent major state competitions; and the Gatorade Michigan Girls' Basketball Player of the Year, Ciera Rice.

Trustee Valente thanked Dr. Harwood for his services commenting that with Dr. Harwood in the Superintendent's seat, she always knew that the students of the district were safe and always felt that her children were in good hands.

Trustee Summerfield thanked the parents that spoke this evening highlighting the speaker who shared his thoughts about tracking students leaving high school and college readiness. He also thanked Dr. Harwood for his service to the district and always making time to help him get his "bearings" when he first started on the Board of Education.

Trustee Weertz thanked Mrs. Fannon for the recent community luncheon she organized. Mrs. Weertz highlighted her visit to the Northville School District last week to observe a program for students called the "Leader in Me" by invitation of Defer Principal, Karen Sullivan. She said that it was a wonderful program for the students who were taught about leadership skills. Mrs. Weertz thanked Dr. Harwood for his years and dedication to the district.

Trustee Roeske addressed a previous speaker who suggested the district initiate a college readiness process for students by tracking and auditing a graduating group's progress through their first year of college. He noted that Mrs. Walsh-Sahutske just spoke about that topic at a recent Board meeting and the tracking system the district uses

for that purpose called Naviance. Mr. Roeske wished Dr. Harwood well at the Kalamazoo Intermediate School District.

Superintendent Harwood thanked the Board for their gifts. He then thanked the many, caring professional staff members he has worked with over the past 9 years. He thanked custodial, secretarial, technological and teaching staff who were always available to meet the needs of the students in the buildings. He added that he observed some incredible teaching and had the opportunity to watch students grow from year to year. He said that Grosse Pointe teachers are incredible teachers. He thanked Mrs. Bur, Mrs. Hayes and Dr. Dean for their leadership and work with students and staff. Dr. Harwood said he especially wanted to thank Mr. Fenton, who has been a great colleague and a great friend that he truly appreciates.

Superintendent Harwood also highlighted the wonderful team of principals that have been put in place in the district. He concluded by thanking his family who generously supported him during his years in Grosse Pointe. Superintendent Harwood then said he looks forward to moving on to the Kalamazoo School District and the opportunity to work with their great group of leaders.

President Gafa echoed Mr. Ismail's comments about the "Catch Me If You Can" performance at North saying it was a fabulous show. She said that South will be doing "Mary Poppins" in the spring. Fashion shows are just around the corner for both North and South High Schools. Trustee Gafa congratulated Mike from the North wrestling team who placed 5th in the state. Mrs. Gafa thanked Rebecca Fannon and Alicia Carlisle for the recent Community Luncheon at Monteith Elementary School. She thanked Mrs. Mikesell for working with her and Mr. Fenton in adding another superintendent search forum for teachers to have an opportunity to speak. She also wished Dr. Harwood best wishes.

X. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Margaret Weertz, Board Secretary