



VIII. A.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2015  
Brownell Multipurpose Room  
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Gafa called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

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

**Board members present:** Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz  
Trustee Pangborn attended by phone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Valente.

**Also Present:** Superintendent Niehaus; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR JUNE 15, 2015**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Valente

**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the Board Agenda for June 15, 2015 be approved as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente, Weertz and Trustee Pangborn by phone

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**III. BOARD OF EDUCATION GOOD NEWS**

**A. Student Military Service Recognition**

Board President Gafa joined Superintendent Niehaus in welcoming and congratulating district students committed to a branch of military service. Students from North High School entering a branch of service after graduation were Matthew Kane, U.S. Air Force and Malik Underwood, U. S. Army. Students from South High School included: James Sands, U.S. Marines; Scott Brooks, U. S. Naval ROTC; Michael Landuyt, U. S. Naval ROTC; and Jared Ells, West Point. Board members had an opportunity to congratulate Jared Ells who was present in the audience to receive his certificate of Board recognition.

Mr. Scott Chambers from the *Grosse Pointe News* shared a recent section of the paper highlighting the artwork that Grosse Pointe Public School students submitted for advertising in a section called “Kids’ Ads” 2015. For each business that participated, several students created ads that were judged resulting in a winning ad for each business published in a section with the child’s name, age and school. Mr. Chambers thanked the teachers that participated in the project as well as Rebecca Fannon for her coordination of all of the student ads. The winners of the project were: Luca Nixon from Trombly School for Wally’s Frozen Custard; Noah Dean, Ferry School for Bigby Coffee; and Caroline Krall, Kerby School for The Hill Seafood & Chop House.

**B. Special Education Update and MDE Significant Disproportionality Notification for 2013-2014 School year**

Superintendent Niehaus welcomed Special Education Director, Stefanie Hayes, and Sue Lucchese and Lillie Loder, Student Services Supervisors who accompanied Ms. Hayes in presenting an update on special needs services and data from a Michigan Department of Education Disproportionality Notification for the 2013-2014 school year.

Board members thanked Ms. Hayes for the informative update. Trustee Valente requested that the next Special Education presentation include transition services and options for career development for students. Superintendent Niehaus also asked that the report include the scope of Full Circle and how those services impact the district.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS**

There were no public comments at this time.

#### **V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR JUNE 15, 2015**

##### **A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2015**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

**THAT the Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2015 as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente, Weertz and Trustee Pangborn by phone

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

##### **B. Approval of Bid for District-Wide Door Access Controls**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Ismail

**Supported by:** Trustee Roeske

**THAT the Board approve the Bid for District-Wide Door Access Controls as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustee Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente, Weertz and Trustee Pangborn by phone

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

#### **VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR JUNE 22, 2015**

The following items will be presented to the Board for an approval on June 22, 2015:

- A. Approval of Human Resources Report for June 22, 2015
- B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2015
- C. Approval of G.A.A.A. #3
- D. Approval of Budget for 2015-2016

##### **E. Approval of Central Office Administrative Contract Extensions**

Superintendent Niehaus provided proposed recommendations for the central office administrative contracts to be reviewed and voted on by the Board at their next regular meeting on June 22, 2015.

##### **F. Approval of Elementary School Social Studies Curriculum**

Maureen Bur, Sonja Franchett and Gloria Hinz presented a review for Elementary Social Studies Curriculum that would adopt MC3 to supplement existing resources and become a fully standards-aligned social studies curriculum with the intended rigor and depth of content.

##### **G. Approval of French I Textbook**

French teachers Melissa Byl and Heather Neal provided a rationale for their request for a new proposed textbook, “T’es Brache” for French levels 1 through 3. They also shared that the textbook currently used in the classroom was published in 1999 and has outdated information throughout the text.

## **H. Approval of Policies**

Trustee Roeske shared information on the four policies presented highlighting changes that were made as the district does its due diligence in reviewing and revising policies as needed.

1. Policy 8310, Public Records
2. Policy 5112, Entrance Age
3. Policy 8390, Animals on District Property
4. Policy 5320, Immunization

President Gafa recommended a consent agenda for June 22, 2015 that would include items: B) Regular Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2015; F) Elementary School Social Studies Curriculum; G) French I Textbook; and H) Policies 8310, 5112, 8390 and 5320.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Valente

**THAT the Board create a consent agenda for the June 22, 2015 Regular Meeting with items B, F, G and H.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente, and Weertz and Trustee Pangborn by phone

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

## **X. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Budget for 2015-2016**

Mr. Fenton addressed budget documents provided to the Board in their Friday packets. He shared information on the BMU, fund equity targets, taxable values going up, state aid adjustments and health care costs. He noted that the driving factor for the general fund is enrollment. Mr. Fenton also discussed the district's goals and changes that will be made in the budget to arrive at the 10% fund equity level by the end of the 2016-2017 school year. He reiterated his concern about the state aid adjustments making a tight financial finish for the 2014-2015 school year closing.

Trustee Summerfield said that the district is on track and moving forward with the fund equity moving back to the 10% goal in 2016-17. He added that the budget reflects the parameters set forth other than the fund equity. Mr. Summerfield also said that the central office administration has done an excellent job.

Superintendent Niehaus commended everyone involved for their efforts in development of the budget. He shared that an additional \$700,000 will need to be taken out of the budget with his recommendation to take \$450,000 out of the textbook fund. Dr. Niehaus said that he does not plan to supplement budget shortfalls out of employee salaries. His proposal recommends moving away from textbooks and beginning to focus efforts more on digital content.

### **B. Elementary Program of Studies**

Maureen Bur shared changed made to the 2015-2016 edition of the Elementary Program of Studies. All changes align with the 2015-2016 District Goal #2.

### **C. EPLC Matrix Review**

Mrs. Bur also presented and EPLC matrix that identifies the cycle of curriculum reviews through 2024. Through the development of this matrix, the district can provide students, staff, and parents information on the timing of curriculum reviews and ensure that our staff and students have access to relevant, timely, and meaningful resources and content. This matrix review aligns with 2015-2016 District Goals #1 and #2.

## **XI. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A. Public Hearing on 2015-2016 Breakfast Program, June 22, 2015, 7 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- B. Public Hearing on 2015-2016 Budget, Monday, June 22, 2015, 7 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, June 22, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

## **XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS**

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, commended Ms. Hayes and the special education staff for the update presented this evening saying that it was “empowering.” He welcomed Dr. Niehaus and wished him well in his new duties.

## **XIII. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Trustee Ismail welcomed Dr. Niehaus and shared that he looked forward to working with him and is excited to watch where the district is headed.

Trustee Valente wished everyone a good summer.

Trustee Roeske commented on the North/South graduation ceremonies congratulating the seniors on their future endeavors, noting that being able to hand out diplomas is the best part of being on the School Board.

Trustee Pangborn (by phone) addressed the budget update presented and the technology shortfalls. She recommended the Board meet to discuss why the technology bond did not pass and discuss proposals for parameters to assist in the next bond proposal.

Trustee Summerfield thanked the students that have volunteered to serve their country in a variety of different branches of military service. He wished everyone a great summer.

Trustee Weertz extended “kudos” to the administrators for the wonderful reports presented this evening. She also shared that attending the commencement exercises was a wonderful finish to a great year.

Superintendent Niehaus commented that for him, the recent graduation ceremonies at North and South were at the “top of the scale.” He added that a lot of work went into the planning and organizing of these ceremonies by the two staff members at each high school who organize these events. He thanked the sound crew that assembled and disassembled the sets both inside and outside for these events. Dr. Niehaus noted that this graduating of class of 2015 set a bar for others that should be publicized. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to be able to begin as Superintendent on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Superintendent Niehaus also thanked the students, parents, staff and the administrative team for all of their efforts in welcoming him to the district. He said he is looking forward to moving into the district after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. He added that this was a great opportunity, great job and a great community to work and serve!

President Gafa congratulated the students who won awards for their business ads in the GP News Kids Ads for 2015. She congratulated Eva Paschke who is travelling to the White House this summer after winning for her healthy recipe she created in her Brownell cooking class. She congratulated all of the graduates. She wished “Godspeed” to the students entering military branches of service. She wished everyone a safe and happy summer vacation. Mrs. Gafa presented Dr. Niehaus with a Detroit Tigers baseball cap. Dr. Niehaus thanked President Gafa and the Rotary who presented him with a Bart Simpson outfit which is Superintendent Chambers from the Bart Simpson show. He thanked everyone for welcoming him to the district.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

---

Margaret Weertz, Board Secretary