



V. A.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Session of October 24, 2016
Brownell Multipurpose Room
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Gafa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Trustees Abke, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Ismail

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by North and South students.

Also Present: Superintendent Niehaus, Deputy Superintendents Lisa Abbey and Jon Dean

Guests: Paul Stauder from PFM and Amanda Van Dusen from Miller Canfield.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 24, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

Trustee Weertz motioned to amend the October 24, 2016 agenda to correct Action Item VI. D. Approval of Meeting Minutes to read October 24, 2016 instead of November 14, 2016.

THAT the Board Approve the amended Agenda for October 24, 2016.

Ayes: Trustees Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Roeske and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Ismail

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. NATAS – 2187 – Sebastian C. and Brian Stackpoole

Brian Stackpoole from North High School advised the Board that this past year, his TV Production class had a great season of awards. Several students won TV Production awards in the State of Michigan so Mr. Stackpoole entered these students in a National contest for National Academy Television of Arts and Sciences (NATAS). Sebastian C. won a nomination for a short animated film titled 2187.

B. National Merit Semi Finalist and Commended Students

Mrs. Bur introduced the National Merit Semi Finalists, Commended Students.

C. AP Scholars

Mrs. Bur also introduced the AP Scholars.

D. Legislative Update

Dr. Niehaus gave the Board a quick update on the Legislative Report, news from Lansing. A third grade reading bill was passed. The bill puts in line to make sure our entire third grade students are reading. Several bills are up that are included in this, one of which is the Seclusion and Restraint rooms. Out of the five bills being presented, Grosse Pointe is in support of one. Most important, per Dr. Niehaus is the Electric Choice bill. This would be where we have the

choice to buy alternative energy with gas and electric. Also the Supreme Court has the 2016 budget, which has to do with the funding of Private Schools.

E. GPEA Good News – Mike Rennell

Mr. Rennell, President of the GPEA wanted to congratulate the staff, students and alumni that ran the Detroit Free Press Marathon this past weekend. He talked about a recent tour of Special Education with Lillie Loder and saw some really amazing things. He thanked the Brownell teachers for attending this evening and talked about many good things happening within the District.

F. Refinancing 2007 Bond

Deputy Superintendent Abbey introduced Paul Stauder, from PFM Associates and Amanda Van Dusen from Miller Canfield to discuss the possibility of refinancing the 2007 Bond, who have done this for the District in the past. This would allow us to reduce our debt millage for the taxpayers. Mr. Stauder says that the bonds can be refinanced as of May, 2017. This could not close before February 1, 2017 through the end of March. There are 35.2 million dollars outstanding on the bond issue with an average interest rate of 3.75%. The current interest rate today is closer to 1.85%. These numbers are based on current interest rates. Trustee Summerfield confirmed that this is not going to extend the life of the bonds, but have the same end date. Mrs. Van Dusen advised that this is not something that would save money for the general fund. All of the savings will go to the tax payers.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 24, 2016

No comments

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 24, 2016

A. Approval of Human Resource Report for October 24, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Summerfield

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

Dr. Dean says the report this month is routine in nature.

THAT the Human Resources Report for October 24, 2016 be approved as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Abke, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Ismail

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

B. Approval of Closed and Regular Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Abke

THAT the Closed and Regular meeting minutes of October 10, 2016 be approved as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Abke, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Ismail

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

C. Approval of Federal Program Funding

Mrs. Abke explained that we are always looking for funding and Mr. Howell does a good job with that. This is typical approval this time of year for our Title I funds that are dispersed to Defer, Poupard and Mason. Title IIA funds are for the training of teachers and staff members and are about the same as last year. Title III Part A is for our English Language learners. Two other funds, IDEA flow through dollars for special education from the Federal Government, not ACT 18 funds, nor State funded special education and the final piece is federal money for early childhood grant for preschool in the special education programs.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT the Federal Program Funding be approved as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Abke, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Ismail

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

E. Approval of Board Policy

1. Revision of BOE Bylaw 0144.3 Conflict of Interest

Trustee Roeske clarifies that Board Members may not accept various supports from contractors involving federal funds and brings us in line with the Federal Government.

It was Moved by: Trustee Abke

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the BOE Bylaw 0144.3 Conflict of Interest be approved as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Abke, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Ismail

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

2. Deletion of current BOE Policy 1130 Conflict of Interest

This one is being deleted and the next item is to replace.

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Deletion of BOE Policy 1130 Conflict of Interest be approved as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Abke, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Ismail

Motion carried by a 6 - 0 vote.

3. Creation of a new BOE Policy 8600 Conflict of Interest that would apply to all employees and Contractors of GPPSS

Trustee Roeske says that the Policy Committee has spent a lot of time on this one as a collective group. This is conflict of interest that governs all potential conflicts for all employees around the District as we work with contractors and third party agents.

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the BOE Policy 8600 Conflict of Interest be approved as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Abke, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Ismail

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

4. Revision of BOE Policy 2370 Educational Options – Online Learning

Trustee Roeske advised the Board that our old Policy 2370 does not cover Online Learning and some verbiage, as well as the granting of credit to receive prior approval.

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the BOE Policy 2370 Educational Options – Online Learning be approved as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Abke, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Ismail

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

VI. Agenda Action Items for November 14, 2016

A. Approval of Pilot Courses

1. STEM, Bots, Coding and Applications

Mrs. Bur advised the Board that this is not a new course, 2008-09, there was a robotics course and has not been run for the last several years. 2014-15, per EPLC guidelines, this course was removed from the Program of Studies. Robotics was offered as full year course, STEM, Bots, Coding and Applications will be offered as a six month course. This is a very vigorous curriculum with lots of hands on applications and using the technology that we currently have.

2. iCap Series

Mrs. Bur introduced Sean McCarroll from North who has worked with Micki Buksar Cecil. They explained that this is the fourth and final course in the Innovative Studies series. This has been designed to teach students creativity, critical thinking and the collaborative skills necessary for success in the 21st Century. Trustee Roeske thanked Mr. McCarroll and says they have done a great job. Trustee Summerfield loves this program.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2016

C. Approval of Resolution to Honor Distinguished Employees

This takes place yearly and this year will be on November 28, 2016. Committee CoChairs are Dan Roeske, Cindy Pangborn and Kathy Abke.

D. Approval of Audit Report from Plante Moran

Deputy Superintendent Abbey will bring this to the November 14th meeting. Annually our financial statements have to be audited by an independent auditing firm, which is Plante Moran.

VII. Information and Discussion

A. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report

Deputy Superintendent Dean spoke about the health care report. Our numbers are slightly higher this month. Ms. Abbey says no significant changes from last month.

B. November 8th Professional Development Program

Mike Rennell, GPEA President, cited a quote by Andy Rooney that said “Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us. Educators have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives”. He says that this is so true. He has past students that approach him from six seven years prior. For years staff has asked for more choices in Staff Development. The vast majority of PD this November 8th is being driven by our employees. Mr. Howell stated that we wanted to develop a program that supports all teachers, which will ultimately support our students.

C. All-District Open House on November 13th from 1-3 p.m.

Mrs. Fannon stated that the Open House is always an exciting event. We have had open house now for several years. We invite all of the community to stop in and tour your neighboring school.

D. Additional Instruction Time and Interventions Grant

Mr. Howell advised the Board that the Grosse Pointe Public Schools has been awarded \$73,755 for the additional instructional time interventions grant. This is for grades K-3. This grant is for learners that need intervention in reading. We previously received a grant last year and this is an extension of that grant.

E. Middle School Wrestling Program

Dr. Niehaus has been in contact with Chris Clark, Principal of Pierce Middle School. Brownell and Pierce will be combining their team to fill all of the weight groups. Parcels is large enough that they do not need to partner. Mr. Clark is completing a Resolution with MHSAA.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, November 14, 2016, 7:00 pm, Gym, Mason Elementary
- B. Work Session of the Board, Monday, November 21, 2016, 6:00 pm, Board Room, 389 St. Clair
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, November 28, 2016, 7:00 pm, Brownell Multipurpose Room
- D. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, December 12, 2016, 7:00 pm, Brownell Multipurpose Room

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Bharani Yerramalli, Grosse Pointe Shores, he asked the Board why the GPA that is given to AP classes is different than peer districts? His daughter is given a GPA of 4.05 and in other Districts, she would have a 4.6. This matters on College applications.

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, his comments refer to the October 16, 2016 School Board Meeting, Item IX, Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent. At that time, a Board Member directed some very negative and unflattering comments toward a candidate for the Grosse Pointe School Board. Not only is the resident dedicated to our community and shown a great commitment to the school system, comes from a long line of family members that served on many commissions and are involved in various charitable organizations throughout Grosse Pointe. He believes that a community resident should be 100% secure that they will not be publicly called out at school board

meetings. He also stated that it is his hope that attacking an upstanding community resident publicly at school board meetings is off this Board Members agenda.

X. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Abke thanked Mr. Yerramalli for bringing the GPA information to our attention. Also, this last week she had many opportunities to attend the schools fall festivals. She noted that the GP North Varsity Soccer team has won the District Championship, both the North and South football team are in the playoffs and South Choir had their Fall Follies last week-end. She is looking forward to the next meeting at Mason to celebrate the National Blue Ribbon designation.

Trustee Pangborn also happy to celebrate with Mason. Tonight we were supposed to talk about and even vote on the furniture for the 21st Century Classrooms. The Board did not receive the information on other expenses and that this has been put off. She knows that the furniture was purchased through a consortium and that the Board did not have to vote, but before it came to the Board, all of the other expenses should have been made available and we should have been told about the price of the furniture. She worries about us doing the right thing, voting on something that has already been completed. Mrs. Pangborn hopes that we do more things this upcoming year with our finances, by taking a look at the cost we are using for our legal fees and going line by line to look at ways to economize more. It is time to take a look at these line items and evaluate do we really need them. We need to start over, take a fresh look and evaluate how we can move this school system forward.

Trustee Summerfield thanked Mr. Rennell for inviting the Brownell Teachers. It is a great idea to have a group of teachers come each week. He welcomed Mrs. Pangborn's comments. Every year we have discussions on budget items, parameters, the BMU and love the suggestions of trying to reduce our costs and ways to address the problems we face.

Trustee Roeske mentioned the Open House from 1-3 that is coming up, please come visit our schools. He mentioned that both GP North and South start their State tournament this Friday. Mr. Roeske thanked the Defer PTO. Their fun run raised over \$22,000 for their school.

Trustee Weertz congratulated the Boys Soccer team, District Champs. It has been fifteen years since they last won. We are one GP in this tournament. The team will be playing at Troy Athens on Wednesday.

Superintendent Niehaus reported that he will not be in the District on November 8th for the elections or our Professional Development day. He will be in Washington DC with Dr. Middlekauff and two Mason teachers to receive the National Blue Ribbon award. One of 129 schools being recognized in the United States. Today he met with others to hear about the Bob Gibbs Report. Mr. Gibbs has worked with the GP Chamber and did a study. He reassured us that there is a lot of opportunity for growth in our business and retail areas. He was very enthusiastic about bringing young families into the Grosse Pointe School District and the communities. We have a great housing market, great school system, great community and a family like atmosphere that permeates our communities. One other thing he wanted to share, he actually confirmed it, one of our building Principals, Dan Hartly, is a professional actor. He is currently performing at Cranbrook in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. Nice fun facts to know about those you work with.

President Gafa touched on the budget as well. It does not give us good service for our community when we start talking about we are not being transparent. We have discussed the 21st Century Furniture almost a year ago. It was part of the budget and part of the strategic plan. She also stated that we heard today that we will be able to save our taxpayers 3.6 million dollars. Our District Administrators and Board is looking out for the financial interest of this community. It bothers her when people say we are not fiscally responsible. We are responsible and this is the second time that this bond is being refinanced and saving money for our tax payers. Mrs. Gafa said that she has been around the district this past week and seen some great things. She hopes the teachers and staff have a great professional development day.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Cindy Pangborn, Board Secretary