



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 28, 2011**  
**Wicking Library, South High School**  
**11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

<b>MEETING MINUTES</b>	President Steininger called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m.
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	<p>The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Minturn.</p> <p><b>Board members present:</b> Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh</p> <p><b>Also Present:</b> Superintendent Klein; Assistant Superintendents Beels, Fenton and Harwood; and Executive Director Warras</p>
<b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b>	<p><b>A. Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education Technology Campaign Report</b></p> <p>Robert Bury, Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education President, began his report after Dr. Klein introduced Foundation Board Members in attendance Laura Huebner, Lisa Vreede and Patrick Burke. He noted that their Board met earlier in March to review grant requests which were submitted for consideration. As a result of that meeting and additional information received from the district, the Foundation Board approved grants to support the following programs:</p> <p><b><u>No Bullying Allowed (NBA)</u></b> – Parcels counselors created and proposed to Pierce and Brownell staff a project to support character education and address bullying. Each month there will be presentations at school assemblies and special events to create a positive school climate as well as a universal feeling of safety and connection among students. The initiative will focus on each student's right to learn in a safe and engaging classroom environment and improving their school achievement. Each school has requested \$500 to support supplies for this program for a total request of \$1500.</p> <p><b><u>Problem Based Learning Project – Cardboard Boat Regatta</u></b> – A North High School Physics teacher has requested \$1150 from the GPFPE to support, in part, the cardboard boat regatta project for his high school physics students. Additional sources of funding will include donations from community members and the school budget. Students will use their problem solving skills to make a rowboat using only cardboard and some permitted adhesive materials. The boat must support the weight of the two students in the team during the regatta to be held in the North High School swimming pool.</p> <p><b><u>Grosse Pointe Preschool Program – Handwriting Without Tears</u></b> – Teachers in the two preschool classes at Barnes have developed an age-appropriate curriculum that introduces reading and writing to their students. Adding the curriculum enhancements in this handwriting program would provide a hands-on experience for our youngest students using music, movement, building, coloring and other multisensory activities to improve their skills in this important area. The cost of purchasing the needed program components is \$756.</p> <p><b><u>Technology Funding for Secondary Schools</u></b> - Mr. Bury also shared a final gift from the Foundation for Public Education in the amount of \$350,000 to complete the last phase of the Boll technology campaign which brings the total technology gift to \$830,000 for the school district's technology needs, \$80,000 over the goal of \$750,000.</p> <p><b>It was Moved by:</b> Trustee Minturn <b>Supported by:</b> Trustee Pangborn</p>

**THAT the Board accept with gratitude the gift of \$1,500 for the Middle School No Bullying Allowed (NBA) initiative; \$1150 for the problem based learning Cardboard Regatta; \$756 for purchase of Handwriting Without Tears for the preschool program; and the final installment of \$350,000 for the technology campaign begun by the Boll Foundation.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

## **B. Recognitions**

### **1. South Girls Varsity Hockey Team**

The South High School Lady Blue Devils Hockey Team recently won State Championship under the leadership of coach Joe Provenzano and assistant coaches Brittany Zeches and David Pulis. The following girls were part of that team: Hayley Altshuler; Claire Boyle; Lorna Burns; Chantal Chuba; Elizabeth Clem; Anne Crowley; Allison Daudlin; Christine Daudlin; Dana Davenport; Darian Dempsey; Anastasia Diamond; Gabriella Hartman; Melissa Klinger; Andrea Marshall; Dylanah McColl; Cara Monforton; Marissa Monforton; Meghan Polack; Tenley Shield; and Samantha Taylor.

The Lady Blue Devils team then presented Dr. Klein with a signed photograph of the team in appreciation for her continued and generous support.

Board members congratulated and thanked the team for their contributions in representing the school district.

### **2. Presidential Scholar Candidates**

The district has received notice from the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars that three students from the Grosse Pointe Public Schools have been selected as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. Annually up to 141 students are chosen from among outstanding graduating seniors to become scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. The following students have been recognized as Presidential Scholar Candidates: Stephen Morrison, Dan Dou and Natalie Sohn.

### **3. Myles-Amir Harlan, Performance at the White House**

Myles Amir Harlan, North High School instrumental student, was asked to perform for President Obama at the White House as part of The Sound of Young America: The History of Motown event. On Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, he joined a group of students from Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Ritchfield, Minnesota and Washington, D. C. to play for the President and his wife.

### **4. Susan Speirs, 2011 Frontiers in Physiology Professional Development Fellowship**

North science teacher, Susan Speirs, has been invited to participate in a Physiology Professional Development Fellowship with Dr. Patrick Mueller at Wayne State University's Medical School. Mrs. Speirs will work in Dr. Mueller's laboratory where they study whether the RVLM neurons that control blood pressure and are also shaped by exercise. Mrs. Speirs job will be to bring that information and experience back to the classroom to impact the learning in the AP Biology and Applied Medical Research classes and share that experience.

## **C. MEAP Scores for Elementary and Middle Schools**

The information on MEAP scores for elementary and middle school students may not be shared as they are still embargoed at the state level. This item will be rescheduled for the April meeting.

	<p><b>D. Summer, 2011 Programs</b></p> <p>Summer program information has been updated since the last announcements. Registrations are underway for Camp Intervention, Safety Town and the Preschool program at Barnes School, while summer school courses will soon be available for registration.</p> <p><b>E. Update on Refinancing Energy Bonds</b></p> <p>Brian Bendzinski from Bendzinski &amp; Company and Mike Wormley from Mesirow Financial were then introduced by Dr. Klein. Mr. Bendzinski began his report noting that on March 8, 2011, the Board authorized their firm to begin the process of refunding the school district's 2001 outstanding energy conservation bonds. Those outstanding bonds had interest rates ranging from 4.375% to 4.5% which were then refinanced with bonds with interest rates ranging from 2% to 3%. The true interest on the bonds after everything was refunded, including the costs of issuance being paid, were 2.251869% which produced a gross savings amount to the district after the costs of issuance or professional fees are paid in the amount of \$104,144.99. This equates to an approximate average of \$25,000 a year in savings in the general fund. The rates received on the bonds were due to the very strong income and wealth levels of the community and the district's strong financial management and reserve levels.</p> <p>The Board then had an opportunity to ask questions and express their concerns.</p> <p>President Steininger asked what the professional fees were for the services provided. Mr. Bendzinski responded that they were \$36,713 which includes the bond rating but not the underwriter discount which amounts to approximately \$13,000. Mr. Steininger stated he considers those costs disproportionate to the savings.</p>
<p><b>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS</b></p>	<p>No one came forward to speak.</p>
<p><b>ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH 28, 2011</b></p>	<p><b>A. Approval of Gifts from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education</b></p> <p>The primary purpose of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE) is to provide locally controlled financial support to the Grosse Pointe Public School System by direct contribution and through proceeds generated by an endowment. Funds raised by the Foundation support the school system's strategic plan and invest in areas such as: enhanced educational programming, innovative technology, elementary foreign language, classroom improvement, staff and professional development, extracurricular, co-curricular, and athletic programs and activities. Funds raised by the Foundation augment, but do not replace, the generous support provided by booster clubs, PTOs and other organizations that are important to our schools.</p> <p>This item was approved during the Superintendent's Report.</p> <p><b>B. Approval of Human Resources Report for March, 2011</b></p> <p>The Human Resources Report contained the appointment of one plant/custodial employee at the high school level. All appointments are replacements or otherwise within the 2010-11 budget allocation.</p> <p><b>It was Moved by:</b> Trustee Walsh  <b>Supported by:</b> Trustee Gafa</p> <p><b>THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Ayes:</b> Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh</p>

**Nays:** None  
**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**C. Approval of Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2011**

The Minutes of the Work Session and Regular Meeting of February 28, 2011 were presented to the Board for approval as amended.

**Moved by:** Trustee Walsh  
**Supported by:** Trustee Gafa

**THAT the Board approve the Minutes for February, 2011 as amended.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh  
**Nays:** None  
**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**D. Approval of Brownell Univent**

Bids for replacement of classroom unit ventilators at Brownell Middle School were received in February, 2011. Fourteen companies attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting and six submitted bids. The project will be funded from the sinking fund.

The administration is recommending that the Board award the bid to Detroit Contracting, Inc. for \$240,000.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh  
**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Brownell Univent project be approved as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh  
**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**E. Approval of South Lighting and Ceiling Phase II**

The scope of work for the corridor lighting and ceiling replacement at South includes new lighting fixtures, wiring, energy efficient control system for lighting and new ceiling and plaster repair as needed. Twenty companies attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting and seven submitted bids. The project has undergone extensive review by the Preservation Committee at South and will be funded from the sinking fund.

The administration is recommending that the Board award the bid to ACME Enterprises, Inc. for \$319,265.

**Moved by:** Trustee Walsh  
**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve the South Lighting and Ceiling Phase II as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh  
**Nays:** None  
**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

#### **F. Approval of Distinguished Volunteer Recognition Resolution**

Since 1984 the Board has been expressing its appreciation to citizens who volunteer their time and effort for the programs and activities of the public schools. Prior to the presentation of the engraved golden apples, it is appropriate to recognize and thank this year's volunteer award recipients through the adoption of the resolution provided.

**Moved by:** Trustee Gafa

**Supported by:** Trustee Minturn

**THAT the Board approve the Resolution for the Distinguished Volunteer Recognition as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

#### **G. Approval to Assume Operation of Full Circle Resale Shop**

The Board of Education has been approached by the ARC with a request that the Grosse Pointe Public School System take over the operations of the Full Circle (FC) upscale resale shop located on Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Park. The purpose of the Full Circle store is to provide students in the 18 -26 year old age bracket with work opportunities.

The Board received information from Mr. Fenton providing background obtained from the ARC since the last Board meeting, including a profit and loss statement for the Resale Shop as well as their assets and liabilities.

Mr. Fenton noted Mr. Odell, the owner of the property, is willing to go to a month to month lease agreement. The current lease expires March 31, 2011.

Representatives from Full Circle were in attendance to answer any questions.

Based on review of the information provided, the administration is requesting:

1. That the Board of Education take over the operations of the Full Circle resale shop as a "club activity".
2. That the resale shop be supervised by the Special Education Director.
3. That all revenues and expenditures be recorded in the Trust and Agency Fund ("Custodial Fund") as part of the GPPSS Fund operations.
4. That all revenue and expenditures be subject to normal internal controls and accounting guidelines including the annual audit through the Business Department of the GPPSS.
5. That the Board approve a lease on a month to month arrangement.
6. That the success of the program, including the financial operations, be evaluated at the end of 6 months to determine future viability.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Minturn

**Supported by:** Trustee Gafa

**THAT the Board approve the District's assumption of the Full Circle Resale Shop on a month to month basis as a club based on the six recommendations listed.**

Trustee Jakubiec asked that Item #6 include that a formal evaluation be done on or before June 15<sup>th</sup> and that only the assets would be assumed to protect the district from unknown liabilities.

Trustee Dindoffer asked about the possibility of making the Resale Shop a 5013C. Mr. Fenton noted that it would be possible to do so in the future.

Trustee Pangborn then asked if the Resale Shop was operational all summer to which Mr. Fenton replied that it was.

Trustee Walsh stated he is very comfortable with the school district assuming responsibility of the shop.

Trustee Dindoffer said that she supports the program but does not have all the answers to the options which are needed. She wondered if the district explored other potential organizations or sponsors.

Trustee Pangborn agrees with Mr. Jakubiec that an evaluation should be done in June (preferably before the end of the school year).

Mr. Fenton addressed the concerns and questions of Board members. He added that there are no known liabilities and he will provide a report to the Board in the next three months.

**Ayes:** Trustees Gafa, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** Trustees Dindoffer and Jakubiec

**Motion carried by a 5 – 2 vote.**

#### **H. Approval of Technology Purchases for Middle and High School**

To expedite the purchase and installation of classroom technology funded by the Grosse Pointe Education Foundation for Public Education, Foundation members have requested that a recommendation for expending the proceeds of its latest gift be submitted at the same time its gift is approved by the Board of Education. Doing so will minimize delays completing by the opening of school in the fall the master plan for installing in all classrooms throughout the district state-of-the-art technology resources. Each classroom in the district will be equipped with a SMART board, projector, document camera, computer and all necessary electrical connections.

The Foundation presented a gift of \$350,000 to the district this evening. This will complete its goal of raising \$750,000 for district classroom technology with an amount of \$80,000. In addition, there is a balance of \$30,577 left in the grant account that has not yet been encumbered, leaving a total of \$380,577 available for technology.

These monies will provide the necessary funding to complete the purchase of and installation of classroom technology equipment for Parcels Middle School, North High School and South High School. There will also be dollars remaining to fund additional technology equipment across the district.

<b>Building</b>	<b>Equipment</b>
Parcells Middle School	\$ <b>28,924.00</b>
North High School	\$ <b>121,659.00</b>
South High School	\$ <b>93,218.00</b>
Totals	\$ <b>243,801.00</b>

With the additional funds, the Foundation has expressed interest in having the district purchase additional sets of the Student Response System for classrooms from Smart Ed Service (also known as “clickers”). A total expenditure of \$136,752 will purchase six sets of clickers for each school building.

More detailed implementation plans were provided to the Board of Education.

	<p>The Board is asked to approve the planned expenditures for the \$350,000 gift from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Education to finalize the purchase and installation of classroom technology at Parcels, North and South and to purchase additional “clicker” sets for each school.</p> <p><b>It was Moved by:</b> Trustee Walsh  <b>Supported by:</b> Trustee Minturn</p> <p><b>THAT the Board approve the Technology Purchases for the Middle and High Schools as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Ayes:</b> Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh  <b>Nays:</b> None</p> <p><b>Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</b></p>
<p><b>ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL 26, 2011</b></p>	<p><b>A. Approval of Human Resources Report for April, 2011</b></p> <p>This information will be available to the Board prior to the April 26, 2011 meeting.</p> <p><b>B. Approval of Minutes for March, 2011</b></p> <p>Minutes of March, 2011 Board meetings will be available prior to the next regular meeting.</p> <p><b>C. Approval of Teacher Layoffs</b></p> <p>Dr. Klein referred to a discussion earlier in the meeting of state school aid funding in relation to budget cuts, student enrollment and staffing for 2011-12. In summary, she noted that the school system anticipates that close to \$6.3 million less revenue will be received based on information currently presented although there has not been a vote on the State School Aid Budget. A message by the Governor will precede the spring Revenue Estimation Conference prior to a final decision. Because the district has an April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline in the teaching contract to notify staff for which a position may not be available next year, Mr. Harwood will bring teacher layoffs forward at the Board’s next regular meeting.</p> <p><b>D. Approval of Bids</b></p> <p><b>1. South High School Gym Mechanical Systems</b></p> <p>On Thursday, April 7, 2011, bids will be opened for Grosse Pointe South Gym Mechanical Room.</p> <p>The bid includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removal and legal disposal of the existing steam to water heat exchanger and associated piping, pumps, and controls and installation of new steam to water heat exchanger and new circulating pumps and controls.</li> <li>- Remove existing steam condensate pump and replace with new.</li> <li>- Remove existing indoor air handling and install new rooftop HVAC unit, structural steel roof support, roof curbs, flashing, etc.</li> <li>- Installation of new make-up and exhaust system for Girls locker room.</li> </ul> <p>A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>The project is being funded from the sinking fund. Bid specifications are available for review.</p>

## **2. South High School Track**

The work for the South track improvement project consists of cleaning and prepping the existing track for installation of new resilient athletic coating, installing new resilient athletic coating on existing track surface and track and field event markings.

Three companies attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting and three submitted bids. The project is being funding from the sinking fund. The Board is asked to award the bid to Goddard Coatings for \$73,000.

## **3. North High School Parking Lot, Entrances and Monteith Resurfacing**

The work for the Grosse Pointe North School parking lot entrance and Monteith projects involves removing and replacing asphalt paving at Grosse Pointe North School parking lot entrance and Monteith resurfacing. The project is being funding from the sinking fund. Central office administration are evaluating the bids and a recommendation will be made prior to the Board's next regular meeting.

## **4. Restrooms**

### **a. Defer Elementary School**

On Thursday, April 7, 2011, bids will be opened for restroom improvements at Defer Elementary.

The work consists of:

- Complete remodeling of three boy's restrooms.
- Replacement of all existing plumbing fixtures, terrazzo flooring, and toilet partitions, etc.
- New suspended acoustical ceiling, light fixtures, exhaust fan, etc.
- New porcelain ceramic wall tile.
- Gypsum board and furring, painting, etc.

The project is being funded from the sinking fund. Bid specifications are available for review.

### **b. Trombly Elementary School**

On Thursday, April 7, 2011, bids will be opened for restroom improvements at Trombly Elementary.

The work consists of:

- Complete remodeling of two girls' restrooms.
- Replacement of all existing plumbing fixtures, terrazzo flooring, and toilet partitions, etc.
- New suspended acoustical ceiling, light fixtures, exhaust fan, etc.
- New porcelain ceramic wall tile.
- Gypsum board and furring, painting, etc.

The project is being funded from the sinking fund. Bid specifications are available for review.

### **c. South High School**

On Thursday, April 7, 2011, bids will be opened for restroom improvements at Grosse Pointe South.

The work consists of:

- Complete remodeling of two restrooms in the main building (one boy's and one girl's).
- Replacement of all existing plumbing fixtures, terrazzo flooring, and toilet partitions, etc.
- New suspended acoustical ceiling, light fixtures, exhaust fan, etc.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New marble wall panels and /or porcelain ceramic tile.</li> <li>• Gypsum board and furring, painting, etc.</li> </ul> <p>The project is funded from the sinking fund. Bid specifications are available for review.</p> <p><b>E. Approval of Appointment of Auditors</b></p> <p>Mr. Fenton noted that, per the Board of Education's instructions, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent to the following firms: 1) Deloitte &amp; Touche L.L.P. Detroit, MI; 2) Plante &amp; Moran P.L.L.C. Southfield, MI; 3) Pricewaterhouse Coopers L.L.P. Detroit, MI 48226; 4) Ernst &amp; Young L.L.P. Detroit, MI; 5) KPMG L.L.P. Detroit, MI; 6) Grant Thornton L.L.P. Southfield, MI; 7) BDO Seidman L.L.P. Troy, MI; 8) Doeren Mayhew Troy, Michigan; 9) Baker Tilly Southfield, MI.</p> <p>Return of responses from the auditing firms is expected back on April 7, 2011 when they will be reviewed and a recommendation will be brought at the April 26<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.</p>
<p><b>INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION</b></p>	<p><b>A. Budget Development Update for 2011-2012</b></p> <p>Dr. Klein noted that the Board held a work session prior to their regular meeting to discuss the budget for the 2011-12 school year. She noted that the administration would be watching carefully as the Governor and legislature complete the budget approval for state school funding.</p> <p>The district's Budget Council used the Board of Education's Budget Development Parameters to propose cuts in \$1 million increments. Budget discussions at this evening's work session included the secondary and special education budgets.</p> <p>Recommendations for 2011-12 were shared and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The first line of cuts was to increase secondary class size by 1 student for a total of \$996,000.</li> <li>- The second line of cuts included reinstatement of last year's cuts to classroom assistants (5.0), secretarial (4.0), technology (1.0), and custodial; reduce 1.0 FTE elementary music and 1.0 FTE elementary multi-age; textbook freeze; commensurate reduction in athletics; and removal of more printers/copiers for a total of \$1,058,000.</li> <li>- The third line of cuts reduces curriculum specialists to 1.6; increases class size averages by .5 FTE at secondary; increases class size averages at elementary by .5 FTE; and reduces non-mandated classroom assistants for special education.</li> <li>- The fourth line of cuts reduces two teachers in the elementary resource room and EPED for Department Chairs; increases class size by an additional .5 FTE at secondary; and increases elementary class size by an additional .5 FTE at elementary for a total of \$1,144,000.</li> <li>- The fifth line of cuts restructures the high school day for a total of \$1,088,000 as it would be extremely difficult to implement this change for fall, 2011.</li> </ul> <p>Future reductions include the possibility of reorganizing district school building use or closing a building and realigning administration for a total of \$600,000.</p> <p>Each middle and high school principal provided information to the Board detailing their proposed budget with total staffing costs based on student enrollment, staffing, sub costs, staff development, supplies, textbooks, student transportation and various other operational costs.</p> <p><b>B. Monthly Financial Report</b></p> <p>Mr. Fenton noted that, as previously stated this evening, the state has not finalized school funding yet, and the district is currently looking at a \$6.3 to \$6.7 million reduction in revenue and/or</p>

	<p>additional expenses through the MPSERS rate. Legal action may take place on the constitutionality of some of these proposals. The state may not take final action until after June 30<sup>th</sup>, the date the district budget is to be completed. Mr. Fenton does not think it will be \$470 cut per pupil, rather he expects something a little less.</p> <p>There were no changes from the prior month as expenditures and revenue are according to the trend expected and in line with the Budget Model Utility. Mr. Fenton continues to be concerned about rising heating bills due to the cold winter and the rise in gas prices.</p> <p><b>C. Health Care Reports</b></p> <p>Mr. Harwood noted that the district has stable health care costs and is on target with health care expenses as stated in the district's current Budget Model Utility report. Mr. Harwood added that he met with Browne and Browne this week and that the district is on a positive trend with health care costs.</p> <p><b>D. Diplomas for World War II and Korean War Veterans</b></p> <p>To provide special recognition for the service and sacrifice of military veterans of WWII and the Korean War, Public Act 181 of 2001 authorizes the board of a Michigan school district to award a high school diploma to a WWII or Korean War veteran.</p> <p>The law permits a WWII veteran who left a high school in our district between December 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 for immediate military service and who did not subsequently receive a high school degree to now apply for a diploma. Korean War veterans who left high school in our district between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955 may also apply.</p>
<b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b>	<p>President Steininger then announced that there will be a 6:30 p.m. Budget Work Session and an 8:00 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 in the South Wicking Library.</p>
<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS</b>	<p>No one came forward to speak at this time.</p>
<b>OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT</b>	<p>Trustee Jakubiec stated, "I am so happy that we as a district can, and will continue to offer opportunities for our students to excel in extra-curricular activities where they can realize such wonderful experiences, such as our hockey team that was recognized here tonight, as part of their education here in the Grosse Pointe School district. Academically, and with our extra-curricular activities, I believe our district is one where many families should consider buying a home and enrolling their children."</p> <p>Mr. Jakubiec also noted, "Being a part of a family who enjoy living in this state, I know that I am personally looking forward to our state bringing its spending under control so we can have a strong foundation to move forward from – again, instead of simply kicking the can down the road any longer."</p> <p>Trustee Gafa congratulated the North students for their recent production of "Curtains". She thanked the League of Women Voters for their sponsorship of the <i>Running and Winning</i> workshop for high school girls in which she participated. She also congratulated the South High School Girls' Hockey Team as well as the National Scholars honored this evening. Mrs. Gafa thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education for their generosity and gifts to the school district.</p>

	<p>Trustees Minturn and Pangborn had no comment.</p> <p>Trustee Walsh asked the community at large to pay attention to what is going on in Lansing. He encouraged everyone to be as informed as possible about the condition of state finance and funding for schools. He said it is an unprecedented time for foundational funding decisions in the state regarding public education.</p> <p>Trustee Dindoffer had no comment.</p> <p>Dr. Klein said she thoroughly enjoyed the production “Curtains” and noted that South High School is preparing to perform “Spelling Bee” soon. A variety of other concerts and events are scheduled and, in May, some will be performed outdoors. Recently middle school students were part of local competitions of “You Be the Chemist” and Science Olympiad where students had great experiences in both events. Dr. Klein also thanked the League of Women Voters for the <i>Running and Winning</i> Workshop for high school girls.</p> <p>The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education recently sponsored 20 scholarships for students and staff in the district to go to the IDEA Workshop. This event at the Center for Creative Studies brought together young entrepreneurs, scientists, mathematicians and engineers to talk about the projects, products and businesses they began. It was an outstanding opportunity for students to look into their future and decide what they might like to pursue. Dr. Klein expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the foundation for Grosse Pointe students to be a part of that experience.</p> <p>President Steininger also thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education for their generous gifts to the district, noting that it is clearly another example of the community taking care of its own students and giving them a leg up on their future. He congratulated the South Girls’ Hockey Team for their achievement of the state title. He also recognized the accomplishments of Stephen Morrison, Dan Dou and Natalie Sohn as they received Presidential Scholar Candidate status. Mr. Steininger also acknowledged one of the district’s talented musicians, Myles-Amir Harlan, who performed for President Obama at the White House.</p> <p>President Steininger said that the new few months would be very tenuous as the district waits for the state’s final determination of funding for education as it appears certain that some cuts are assured. He stated that the Board must develop a reality-based budget. Assuredly, none of the cuts will be well received, but the state may expect districts to drain down their fund equity, voluntarily or otherwise. The district’s fund equity level is now between 15 and 17%. As of late, the state has made comments that those districts with a higher fund equity are “hoarding” money, to which Mr. Steininger replied that nothing could be further from the truth. President Steininger said that he views fund equity as something kept in reserve for emergencies to help students in their education in whatever manner needed. He stated that to use fund equity to support “creeper costs” is a poor long term use of those funds and that the district must restrain long term labor costs.</p>
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	There being no further business, President Steininger adjourned the meeting at 9:23p.m.

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Board Secretary