



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 27, 2012**  
**Library, North High School**  
**707 Vernier Road, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236**

<p><b>MEETING MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p>	<p>President Gafa called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.</p> <p>The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Jakubiec.</p> <p><b>Board members present:</b> Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh</p> <p><b>Also Present:</b> Superintendent Harwood; Assistant Superintendents Beels, Dean and Fenton</p> <p><b>Absent:</b> Executive Director, Warras</p>
<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b></p>	<p><b>A. Recognitions</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1. Henry J. Muller, Grosse Pointe South National Merit Scholar Award Recipient</b></p> <p>Henry J. Muller has earned National Merit Finalist Recognition. Of 15,000 Semifinalists, one student from South High School advance to finalist standing. This senior is eligible to receive one of three types of Merit Scholarship awards: <b>National Merit \$2500 Scholarships; Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship award; or College-sponsored Merit Scholarship award.</b> Henry Muller was not in the audience to receive his recognition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2. Bruce Peltó, 2012 Michigan Outstanding Teacher of American History, Michigan Society Daughters of the American Revolution</b></p> <p>Bruce Peltó received the 2012 Michigan Outstanding Teacher of American History from the Michigan Society Daughters of the American Revolution. He, also, was not available to receive his recognition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3. Gary Bennett, 500<sup>th</sup> Victory for Grosse Pointe North Girls' Basketball Program</b></p> <p>Grosse Pointe North's Gary Bennet has reached a milestone by capturing his 500<sup>th</sup> win as a varsity basketball coach. He was recognized as a person of integrity, compassion and commitment who has achieved this remarkable record by always putting his student-athletes first. In his 36 year career as a teacher and coach, North graduate Gary Bennett has amassed 500 victories, won multiple league, district and regional crowns, and coached the 2008 Class A State Champions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>4. Steve Zaranek, Michigan Track Coach of the Year</b></p> <p>Steve Zaranek was named the Michigan Track Coach of the Year for all Division I schools. This award comes after being named Michigan Cross Country Coach of the Year last fall.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5. Shawn McNamara, Michigan Assistant Coach of the Year</b></p> <p>Shawn McNamara was named the Michigan Assistant Track Coach of the Year after being selected from the coaching staffs of 607 state high schools that sponsor girls' track and field.</p>

	<p><b>B. Update on Strategic Planning/Continuous Improvement Plan</b></p> <p>Dr. Harwood said that as part of the process in identifying where administration needs to go with the school district for this year and years to come, the challenges that face the district in being able to maintain the excellent programs provided, and to also assure that the district is on the right path to provide that for the students of the district, the work as a Board of Education and Superintendent, will continue to update and provide District Goals, Superintendent Goals and School Improvement Goals for the District, to make sure we are achieving the success and growth that will benefit all of the district's students. The Strategic Plan is in the process of continued development and the Continuous Improvement Plan has had goals identified that will continue to be worked on making sure that all are using the same compass.</p> <p><b>C. Governor's Financial Update</b></p> <p>Dr. Harwood noted that the Governor's proposals of Best Practice have been identified for local superintendents. . Needing to meet 5 of 6 best practices, this district will be able to meet 5 of those 6. The 6<sup>th</sup> involves meeting the Schools of choice proposal, which Grosse Pointe is recommending that the district not be part of that best practice. The community continues to need to be a voice in Lansing in the proposal about Schools of Choice.</p> <p>Dr. Harwood noted that the safety and welfare of all students is the priority and during the primary election tomorrow, although the schools or not closed, staff and administration in each building are at a heightened alert for people entering and leaving the building. Students will be well protected as voters come into school buildings throughout the day.</p> <p>Dr. Harwood asked Lynn Jacobs, who has been working to facilitate a Community Connections and Conversations group, sponsored by the Community Center for Michigan to share the invitation about the next meeting scheduled, will be holding conversations on K-12 Public Education on March 15, 2012 at the Ewald Library from 7 – 8:30 p.m. Although all are welcome, there is a limited space and those interested can forward an email to President Gafa or other members of the Board to reserve a seat.</p>
<p><b>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REGULAR ACTION ITEMS</b></p>	<p>No one came forward to comment at this time.</p>
<p><b>AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2012</b></p>	<p><b>A. Approval of Human Resources Report for February, 2012</b></p> <p>The Human Resources Report contained the appointment of one plant employee and the resignation of one instructional and one classroom assistant employee. All appointments are replacements or otherwise within the 2011-12 budget allocations unless noted.</p> <p><b>It was Moved by:</b> Trustee Jakubiec  <b>Supported by:</b> Trustee Pangborn</p> <p><b>THAT the Board approves the Human Resources Report for February, 2012 as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Ayes:</b> Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh  <b>Nays:</b> None  <b>Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</b></p>

**B. Approval of the Minutes of the January 23, 2012 Meeting as amended**

The Board was asked to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2012 Meeting Minutes as amended.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Valente

**THAT the Board approve the minutes of the January 23, 2012 Minutes as amended.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

**Nays:** Trustee Gafa

**Motion carried by a 6 – 1 vote.**

**C. Approval of Contract with NWEA**

For the past five years the district has used the assessment developed the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA), a non-profit testing organization, as the cornerstone of its student assessment program in grades 1-8. This assessment is given online to students two-three times a year and provides a continuous update of skill development for students in these grades. Teachers receive immediate results of the assessment and can quickly modify instruction when appropriate to address the current academic needs of students in reading and mathematics. Along with the traditional MEAP tests and the Grosse Pointe Writing Assessment NWEA provides a comprehensive view of language arts and mathematics skill development for elementary and middle school students. In recent years counselors have begun using the NWEA for new students who enter the high schools and have found it to be a valuable placement tool. Once students are tested NWEA provides a number of significant instructional supports to assist teachers in getting the most value from the information provided through the assessment. Administrators and teachers believe that NWEA provides benefits for both students and staff members alike.

NWEA charges an annual fee of \$12.50 for each student license. There has been no change in this charge over the past five years. For 2011-12 licensing fees amount to \$71,462.50. Monies have been budgeted for this expenditure in the instructional budget.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Jakubiec

**THAT the Board approve the Contract with NWEA as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**D. Approval of Policy Regarding School Board Elections**

President Gafa noted that this past year, Lansing changed the date of school board elections. Dr. Harwood added that the Board needed to change their policy to meet the state required changes. The next school board election would be held in 2014. The revised Board policy also notes that, "...beginning in 2012, members of the Board shall be elected on the first Tuesday

following the first Monday in November in even-numbered years. Board members whose terms were scheduled to expire in 2013 and 2015 will have one year added to their terms, which shall thus expire in 2014 and 2016, respectively.”

**It was Moved by: Trustee Dindoffer**

**Supported by: Trustee Roeske**

**THAT the Board approve a Policy Revisions regarding School Board Elections**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

#### **D. Approval of Bids**

##### **1. Defer Restrooms, Phase II**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Jakubiec

**THAT the Board approve the plans for construction of the Defer restrooms, Phase II, as presented and award the bid to A & H Contractors, Inc. for \$161, 700.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

##### **2. South High School Restrooms, Phase II**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Pangborn

**Supported by:** Trustee Walsh

**THAT the Board approve the renovations to the South High School Restrooms, Phase II as presented and award the bid to A & H Contractors, Inc. for \$191,100.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

##### **3. Trombly Elementary School Restrooms, Phase II**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Valente

**THAT the Board approve the renovations to the Trombly Elementary School Restrooms, Phase II as presented and award the bid to Axiom Construction Services Group for \$128,500.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

##### **4. South High School Mechanical Room Upgrades**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve the renovations to the South High School mechanical room upgrades as presented to Supreme Hearing and Cooling, L.L.C. for \$115,820.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

#### **F. Approval of District Goals**

Board Policy 1110 indicates that the Board of Education shall provide time to assess the progress of the district and set goals for each school year. The district's Annual Report, required by Public Act 25 was given on September 26, 2011 and provided data on various measures of student achievement from the past school year and also set the stage for the development of district goals and school level improvement goals for 2011-12. School Improvement Plans were approved by the Board of Education at their October 24, 2011 meeting.

District goals for 2011-2012 are those identified by the Board of Education in the revised Strategic Plan which was updated with the facilitation of Banach and Banach. The Board has also developed updated mission, vision and belief statements in that planning process.

At the Board's work session on November 28, 2011 a draft of goals prepared by the administration were reviewed and discussed. The goals proposed include:

- To create an environment where everyone is learning
- To ensure a preferred future for the Grosse Pointe Public School System and its graduates by using bold, data-driven planning
- To create positive perceptions and behaviors through effective communication.

Following Board approval of these goals, the administration will further develop specific measures, budget and staffing needs for each objective as well as develop a marketing brochure which will all be discussed and shared with the Board of Education at a work session on January 23, 2012.

Accomplishing these goals will require the best efforts of all stakeholders to fulfill the vision and mission of the Strategic Plan for our students and community. Regularly scheduled reviews will ensure that these goals are met and the district continues to respond to the opportunities and challenges presented.

Board members shared their thoughts on the district goals as presented and revisions needed.

**Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Valente

**THAT the Board table the Approval of the District Goals until the March 26, 2012 regular meeting.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

#### **G. Approval of Superintendent Goals**

Dr. Harwood presented the Superintendent Goals to the Board noting that those goals were established during the first six months of the fiscal year by the previous superintendent. He

said that there are 14 consistent objectives that would be carried through the school year according to Policy 1230.1230. He noted that he would be carrying out those goals for the remainder of this school year.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve the Superintendent Goals as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

#### **H. Approval of Addition of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Book, Warriors Don't Cry**

Additional texts are necessary for optimum instruction in the memoir genre for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Honor's English. Teachers and parents read, reviewed and recommended this memoir for use in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Honor's English course.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Walsh

**THAT the Board approve the Addition of the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Book, Warriors Don't Cry.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

#### **I. Approval of Board Budget Development Parameters Resolution**

Treasurer shared information from a Budget Parameters Resolution document he provided to fellow Board members. His memorandum re-introduced the Policy level process to the Board, the administration and the public.

Board Policy 6220 requires that the Board annually direct the district administration to commence development of the ensuing year's budget by the adoption of a resolution that articulates "the preference of the Board in advance of budget development to avoid ambiguity and to allow the community to have a clear view of the budget development process from its inception."

The budget development process relies on a series of expense and revenue assumptions that yield a projected annual surplus or shortfall. In recent years, projected shortfalls have been the norm as human resources cost increases outpaced Proposal A governed revenues. Staff reductions, class size modifications and other expense reducing measures resolved the projected shortfalls. A common parameter was the preservation of General Fund Equity, a reaction to revenue and expense uncertainty.

Current bargaining unit agreements were designed to adjust compensation in a formulaic manner to that same uncertainty while also guaranteeing General Fund Equity would always return to 10% if it ever fell below that level of General Fund expenditures. Preservation of General Fund Equity is now primarily governed by bargaining unit contracts as they respond to revenue and expense variables beyond the district's control when previously governed primarily by local budget decisions.

	<p>Trustee Walsh also shared budget background materials that included: the current Budget Modeling Utility Report; Financial Transparency Series Report; Financial Benchmarking Report (which contains State of Michigan Department of Education data from 2009-2010 school year and back seven years); Elementary Class Size Report; and Staff Utilization Utility Report. Budget Development Parameters for the 2012-13 Budget Cycle were also included.</p> <p><b>It was Moved by:</b> Trustee Walsh  <b>Supported by:</b> Trustee Roeske</p> <p><b>THAT the Board approve the Board Budget Development Parameters Resolution as presented.</b></p> <p>After extended Board discussion,</p> <p><b>It was Moved by:</b> Trustee Dindoffer  <b>Supported by:</b> Trustee Jakubiec</p> <p><b>THAT the Board amend Trustee Walsh's Resolution to include that the administration will provide a projection of month by month fund equity balance.</b></p> <p>Mr. Fenton was asked if he could provide this information and he noted that he could report a projection of the fund equity balance month by month but could not provide the cash flow projection month by month.</p> <p><b>It was recommended that a vote on the amendment be made first and then on the main motion.</b></p> <p><b>In a roll call vote,</b>  Trustee Dindoffer, yes  Trustee Gafa, yes  Trustee Jakubiec, yes  Trustee Pangborn, yes  Trustee Roeske, yes  Trustee Valente, yes  Trustee Walsh, yes</p> <p>Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</p> <p><b>The main motion was then voted on to approve the Board Budget Development Parameters Resolution as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Ayes:</b> Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh  <b>Nays:</b> Trustee Jakubiec</p> <p><b>Motion carried by a 6 – 1 vote.</b></p>
<b>ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH 26, 2012</b>	<p><b>A. Approval of Human Resources Report for March, 2012</b></p> <p>The Human Resources Report for March will be provided before the March 26, 2012 regular meeting.</p>

## **B. Approval of Minutes for February, 2012**

Minutes of the February 27, 2012 Regular Meeting will be available prior to the next regular meeting.

## **C. Approval of Resolution Recognizing Distinguished Volunteers**

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 that will be presented to the Board at the next regular meeting. Trustees Roeske and Pangborn are the Committee Chairs on this Distinguished Volunteer Recognition Program.

## **D. Approval of Bids**

### **1. South Lifeskills Classroom Remodeling, Phase II**

On March 8, 2012, bids will be opened for the Life skills Classroom Remodeling Phase II at Grosse Pointe South. The work generally consists of:

- Installation of base, wall and tall cabinets as identified on the plans, including some stainless steel countertop work
- Gypsum board and wall framing as identified on the plans
- Installation of portable demonstration table
- Electrical outlets, etc. as identified on the plans

The project is being funded from the sinking fund. The anticipated cost is \$30,000.

### **2. Monteith Library Classroom Remodeling**

Due to the large student population and limited space at Monteith, some modifications are being proposed to help utilize current space more efficiently.

During the summer of 2012, proposed work to be completed at Monteith includes:

- Classroom 201

Expansion of this room will be achieved by removing a wall to an adjoining office. This expansion will increase the classroom size to 749 square feet and will be used by the special education department. Asbestos flooring and ceiling will be replaced. The new lighting system will be energy efficient fixtures with occupancy sensors and a photocell.

- Resource Room

Asbestos flooring and ceiling will be removed. The new lighting system will be energy efficient fixtures and occupancy sensor.

- Library

429sf of the library will be used to create a new classroom to be utilized by the instrumental music department. This new classroom will have a new ceiling installed with energy efficient lights, occupancy sensors, acoustical wall panels, and a new sound resistant door.

The project is being funded from the sinking fund and the projected budgeted amount is \$80,000. We will be utilizing current facility bid contractors that have been previously approved by the board. The various bids will be summarized and brought to the Board in March.



## **E. Approval to Establish a Collaborative Partnership with the Head Start Program**

The approval to establish a collaborative partnership with the Head Start Program was again brought to the Board after failing to receive Board approval previously.

General information for this program for fall, 2012:

- The Grosse Pointe Public School System will not have a Head Start Program. Wayne Metro Community Action Agency will operate a Head Start Program in collaboration with Poupard Elementary School at no cost to the district, for income eligible Grosse Pointe residents and Harper Woods residents who reside in Poupard's service area. Upon completion of the Head Start Program, children will transition to their home school for Kindergarten.
- Teachers are employed by Wayne Metro Head Start.
- Head Start is a federally funded program. Head Start does not receive state funding.
- Currently, 10% of children enrolled at Harper Woods Head Start are Grosse Pointe residents.
- Wayne Metro Head Start services Highland Park, Harper Woods, Hamtramck, and Grosse Pointe families. They do not service children from Detroit.
- Head Start will operate at Poupard from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Trustee Dindoffer shared information on expanding the Administrative Guideline (after collaborating with district counsel) to meet and clarify the needs of this group operating in a district building during the school day. She also noted that this change in Administrative Guideline prioritizes this Head Start Program as supportive of the district's school program.

## **F. Approval of Policy Revisions**

### **1. Policy 7540, Computer Technology and Networks**

This revision emphasizes requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) regarding training for students about online safety. It also provides language to allow students and staff to access social media via the district network under carefully prescribed conditions. In addition, the policy authorizes the use of social media for district communications and promotions.

### **2. Policy 7540.03, Student Network and Internet Acceptable use and Safety**

The revisions to this policy clarify CIPA requirements as a condition for using the district's network and specify the elements of training for students about online safety.

### **3. Policy 7540.04, Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety**

The revisions to this policy clarify CIPA requirements regarding district staff and their responsibility to educate students regarding online safety. The policy provides specific requirements for staff training about online security. The disclosure of personally identifiable information about students online is prohibited. Language is also included regarding personal access and use of social media from the district's network.

### **4. Policy 5136, Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices**

This policy is updated to bring the language in line with actual practice in the schools relating to the use of electronic communication devices.

	<p><b>G. Approval of Bids</b></p> <p><b>1. Web Hosting</b></p> <p>Grosse Pointe currently has a contract with School Wires for web hosting services. The contract runs through June 30, 2012. Eight bidders have responded to the bid request for providing web hosting services. The district does not have enough information at this time to adequately evaluate the services of each bidder. The contract with School Wires can be extended for one year and then re-bid for the FY 13-14 e-rate cycle. The Board will be asked to approve a one-year extension of the contract with School Wires at a cost of \$25,335.</p> <p><b>2. 200 MPS Dedicated Services, (E-Rate Funds)</b></p> <p>The district currently has a 200 megabits per second (MPS) dedicated ATT (OPT-E-MAN) circuit to Wayne RESA, which is required for internet access and shared network resources. The district's current monthly cost is \$1,750 plus taxes and surcharges. AT &amp; T was the only bidder for these services at \$1,750 per month and remains the only bidder during this bid process.</p> <p>The district has access to Wayne County RESA consortium pricing for these same services. Grosse Pointe's cost for 200 MPS service under the terms of the RESA consortium bid will be \$927.25 per month for a 60 month term. This is a monthly savings of \$822.75 from the current contracted rate.</p> <p><b>3. Cell Phone Bids</b></p> <p>The district currently has a cellular phone contract with Sprint. Administrators, engineers, key secretaries and others whose positions require immediate telephone and e-mail access are provided district phones. The Board will be asked to approve the contract with Sprint for cell telephone service at an estimated cost of \$62,930.54 per year for a contract term of three years.</p>
<p><b>INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION</b></p>	<p><b>A. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report</b></p> <p>Mr. Fenton reported that the Monthly Financial reports are still on target with the projected \$8 million fund equity. He noted that the athletic revenue now appears on the General Fund and appears to be slightly lower than anticipated which he will follow up on.</p> <p>Dr. Harwood said that he had not received a report from Browne and Browne and he will follow up with them and with Mr. Dean on the status of the Health Care report.</p> <p><b>B. Budget Development Update</b></p> <p>Dr. Harwood said that he and Mr. Fenton would be working with the administration and bargaining units soon. They will also be meeting with Isha Smith this Wednesday to establish a timeline and work on the parameters and assumptions for the next school year.</p> <p><b>C. 2011 MEAP Score Update for Grades 3 – 9</b></p> <p>Ms. Beels provided information to the Board on 2011 MEAP Score Update for Grades 3 – 9. She noted that district MEAP scores continue to remain well about the state average in all areas. School administrators and teachers continue to focus on improvements, and will address areas of need in School Improvement Plans.</p> <p>Ms. Beels noted that plans for addressing areas of concern include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure curriculum is aligned to Common Core State Standards in Language Arts; Mathematics; and Literacy in STEM for grades 6-12</li> <li>- Compare NWEA scores to MEAP results and Piloting NWEA science test in grades 4 and 5</li> <li>- Address where curriculum is taught with movement of science concepts from 5<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade</li> </ul> <p>In summary, district administrators and teachers focus on continual improvement in all areas; GPPSS scores remain well above the state average in all areas; the district is assessing when teaching concepts in relation to when they are tested, especially in science; and the district will pilot NWEA science tests to be able to triangulate data as decisions are made.</p>
<b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b>	President Gafa announced there will be a Work Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 19, 2012 and a Regular Meeting of the Board at 8 p.m. on Monday, March 26, 2012 in the North High School Library.
<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS</b>	<p>Kathleen Abke, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke on the proposal for a Head Start Program at Poupard Elementary School. She thanked Dr. Harwood and the Head Start Director for the information presented this evening as well as Mrs. Dindoffer for looking at the policy and Administrative Guideline that addresses the program.</p> <p>Micki Jenny, Grosse Pointe Woods, also thanked Dr. Harwood and the Board for their support of a proposed Head Start Program at Poupard.</p> <p>George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, also spoke in support of the proposal for a Head Start Program at Poupard Elementary School.</p> <p>Ranae Beyerlein, GPEA President, spoke about district budget cuts and the impact on employee morale and pay cuts.</p>
<b>OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT</b>	<p>Trustees Dindoffer, Pangborn, Roeske and Valente had no comment.</p> <p>Trustee Jakubiec congratulated those employees and students recognized earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>Trustee Walsh responded to Dr. Beyerlein's comments noting that the district is facing difficult financial circumstances.</p> <p>Dr. Harwood said that on Friday he will be meeting with a group of Superintendents from Wayne County-Westland on Grosse Pointe's position as a school district and the education of students in Grosse Pointe in light of the financial picture districts are facing.</p> <p>Dr. Harwood also commented that he appreciated the discussion about District Goals from the Board this evening and anticipates the central administrative team working collaboratively to align the goals to be targeted goals and Smart Goals to be able to give the direction in which the district needs to go for which he is excited about that opportunity. With that, the goals will drive the district to be a great district that will be a model for other districts.</p> <p>Dr. Harwood noted that now is the time to enroll new kindergarten students for Fall, 2012. He said that it was a pleasure to chaperone South High School Choir students to Italy last week and is proud of how students performed on and off the stage. Tomorrow night, February 28<sup>th</sup>, the South High School Pre-Festival Band Concert will perform at 7 p.m. in the South auditorium, and on Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, the South Pre-Festival Orchestra Concert Band will perform, also at 7 p.m. in the South auditorium.</p>

	<p>The Pre-Festival and Instrumental Concert from Parcels Middle School will perform on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. in the Parcels auditorium. The North production, “Anything Goes” will be performed on March 8 – 10, 2012 at the North Performing Arts Center.</p> <p>Dr. Harwood also reminded principals and PTO groups that nominations for Distinguished Volunteers are due on March 1, 2012 in the Superintendent’s office.</p> <p>President Gafa welcomed everyone back from the winter break. She congratulated students and staff for their achievements that were recognized this evening. Mrs. Gafa also noted the productive discussion on the Head Start Program at Program. She touched on the discussions in Lansing and the Governor’s talks on best practices and local control in school districts. She said there is no data to support the best practices that the Governor is trying to tax dollars to give to school districts. She said it is time to push back and to speak up in a collective voice and say that “enough is enough” and fight for the public schools again. She reiterated from earlier discussion that Mrs. Lynn Jacobs is doing a Community Conversation about education on March 15, 2012 at the Ewald Branch Library. She asked that you let her know if you are interested in attending.</p>
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	There being no further business, President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

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Board Secretary