



V. B.

Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 8, 2008
Wicking Library, Grosse Pointe South High School
11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT AND
RECOGNITIONS**

President Walsh called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Kennedy.

Board members present: Trustees Dindoffer, Ismail, Kennedy, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

Also Present: Superintendent Klein, Assistant Superintendents Allan, Fenton and Harwood, Executive Director Warras

A. MASB Educational Excellence Awards

The MASB (Michigan Association of School Boards) has awarded one of their 2008 Education Excellence Awards to Barnes Early Childhood Center and the Opportunity Center at South School. Each program continues to improve student achievement in a unique way.

Barnes Early Childhood Center and the Opportunity Center
Dr. Klein introduced Barnes staff: Sue Banner, Beth Moran, Julie Bellovich, Helen Landuyt and Carrie Krausman who are instrumental in delivering services at the Early Childhood Center on Morningside. Barnes Early Childhood Center is a facility where some of the youngest students in the district begin their education. Some of the staff also visit students in their homes to provide needed services.

The Opportunity Center provides training opportunities for older students who are getting ready to move into the 'work' world. Other services at the Opportunity Center include helping students learn daily living skills and pre-vocational and vocational skills. Monica Stever and Rose Mendola were thanked for their efforts with the Opportunity Center.

B. South High School Tower Newspaper Awards

Dr. Klein congratulated the Tower newspaper staff for receiving the prestigious National Award from the Journalism Education Association at the National Scholastic Press Association Convention. The Tower was named First Place in the Best in Show competition making it first in the nation in competition. This is the first time in the history of the newspaper that it has received this award. The Tower editorial board includes: Charlotte Berschback, Mary Biglin, Adam Brewster, Emma Brush, Rian Dawson, Daniel Dickson, Dan Dou, Dexter Mason, Nanette Motschall, Katherine Palms, Tommy Pendency, Paul Roosen, Andrew Simon, Davin Zoltowski and Journalism teacher, Jeff Nardone. Dr. Klein thanked Mr. Nardone for his

	<p>dedication and commitment to the Tower newspaper.</p> <p>C. Acceptance of Office and Affidavit of Eligibility</p> <p>Verification of Mr. Ismail's and Mrs. Gafa's acceptance of office and affidavit of eligibility have been provided to the Board and both will be sworn in at the January 26, 2009 regular Board meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Klein invited the community to attend the various concerts and special events happening in school buildings in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>Elementary schools across the district recently participated in a Library contest where students voted on their favorite books, grade level by grade level. Mrs. Fannon has prepared information on the special choices of the students that will soon appear in the local newspaper and may help parents as they select books as gifts for their children.</p> <p>A mobile museum featuring the exhibit, <i>Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America</i>, will be available at three schools throughout the district during the month of December. The mobile museum will open on Thursday, December 11th at Pierce Middle School and Defer Elementary School from 8:30 – 7 p.m.; on Friday, December 12th at Parcels Middle School from 8 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, December 13th at Parcels Middle School from 9 – 6 p.m.; and on Friday December 19th at Monteith Elementary School from 9 – 6 p.m. Dr. Klein thanked Grosse Pointe Park municipal authorities, particularly Chief Hiller, who will assist the district in providing a safe environment for students and the community during this exhibit.</p> <p>Mrs. Ann Mills, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared her thoughts about the Extended Day Kindergarten program listed on the consent agenda.</p> <p>No one came forward to comment.</p> <p>Trustee Dindoffer requested the addition of text to the regular minutes of November 24, 2008 in the agenda item highlighting the new high school course, Pictorial Literature: A Comparison of Classical Literature and the Emerging Genre of Graphic Novels. Mrs. Dindoffer asked for the record that an addition on page 5 of the minutes note: <i>"Mrs. Dindoffer, Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Ismail raised issues regarding the title of the course, curriculum and materials, and urged care in possible copyright, infringement, or other legal issues and recommended review of legal counsel."</i></p> <p>Board members recommended removing items B. Minutes of November 24, 2008 and F.1. New High School Course, Pictorial Literature, from the Consent Agenda.</p> <p>The following items were contained in the Consent Agenda:</p>
<p>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEMS</p> <p>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS</p> <p>ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS</p> <p>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FROM NOVEMBER 24, 2008</p>	

**ACTION ITEMS FOR
DECEMBER 8, 2008**

- A. Human Resources Report of November 19, 2008
- B. *Regular and Work Session Minutes of November 24, 2008*
- C. G.A.A.A. #1
- D. Extended Day Kindergarten Rates
- E. Contract with Just 5 Clicks
- F. New High School Courses
 - 1. *Pictorial Literature*
 - 2. Business Finance
 - 3. Theory of Learning

Moved by: Trustee Minturn

Supported by: Trustee Kosinski

THAT the Board approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of the minutes of November 24, 2008 and the Pictorial Literature course as noted above.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Ismail, Kennedy, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

A. Regular and Work Session Minutes of November 24, 2008

Trustee Dindoffer requested adding to the regular minutes of November 24, 2008 in the agenda item highlighting new high school courses, Pictorial Literature: A Comparison of Classical Literature and the Emerging Genre of Graphic Novels. Mrs. Dindoffer asked for the record that an addition on page 5 of the minutes note: *“Mrs. Dindoffer, Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Ismail raised issues regarding the title of the course, curriculum and materials, and urged care in possible copyright, infringement, or other legal issues and recommend review of legal counsel.”*

Moved by: Trustee Minturn

Supported by: Trustee Kosinski

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of November 24, 2008 be approved as amended.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Ismail, Kennedy, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

B. New High School Course – Pictorial Literature

Moved by: Trustee Kosinski

Supported by: Trustee Minturn

Trustee Kennedy said that although Graphic Novels may be a genre of fiction, they are not literature. Language Arts instruction should instill both a respect for and command of the English language. She

**ACTION ITEMS FOR
JANUARY 26, 2009**

noted that the books listed do neither and in fact may diminish and devalue our 'mother tongue' and accordingly, she will vote against this course.

Trustee Ismail also expressed his concerns over this course and that he will not be supporting this course.

Trustee Kosinski reminded fellow board members that not all students learn the same way, that not all students are capable of assimilating fine literature until they have a basic grasp of language, and this basic course will "hook" the students with basic literature and she will be supporting it.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Kosinski, Minturn and Walsh

Nays: Trustees Ismail, Kennedy and Steininger

Motion carried with a 4 – 3 vote.

A. Organizational Items for 2009

- 1. Administration of Oath of Office of Newly Elected Trustees**
- 2. Election of Officers**
- 3. Approval of Resolution of Continuance of Funds and Designation of Signatories on Accounts**
- 4. Approval of Appointment of Christian Fenton and Isha Smith as Representatives to MAISL for Property/Liability Insurance Underwriter**
- 5. Approval of Board Regular Meeting Calendar for 2009**

B. Approval of Human Resources Report of December, 2008

The Human Resources Report contains the retirement of one instructional staff member and the resignation of one non-instructional staff member.

C. Approval of Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2008

The minutes of December 8, 2008 meetings will be available for review prior to the next Board meeting.

D. Approval of Resolution to Commence Budget Preparation for 2009-10

Trustee Minturn commented that in the work session this evening the Board defined the scope of work to be done in preparing the budget for the 2009-10 school year. He added that the district does not yet have all the information but staff are beginning to prepare a budget which will keep the district on track for future years. An initial draft of

	<p>these parameters will be available for Board review after the holidays.</p> <p>E. Approval of Bids</p> <p>Mr. Fenton said that the bids for the South multi-purpose room and the North window project will not be in until the end of the week and will then be reviewed with the architect and follow-up interviews will be done. Information will then be forwarded to the Board for discussion at the January Board meeting.</p> <p>Trustee Ismail requested information on both bids.</p> <p>Trustee Minturn asked about the Brownell multi-purpose room project. Mr. Fenton said that he would send the Board a memo regarding that bid also.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grosse Pointe South Multi-Purpose Room 2. Grosse Pointe North Window Project
INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION	<p>A. Declaration of Candidacy for 2009 Board Officers</p> <p>President Walsh asked Board members if they had any interest in a particular office on the Board. Trustee Minturn stated that he would like to continue in the role as Treasurer of the Board; Trustee Dindoffer noted that she would be happy to serve in any capacity her fellow Board members might choose; Trustee Kosinski commented that she, also, would serve in any capacity fellow Board members might choose with the exception of Treasurer; Trustee Ismail echoed the same sentiments of Mrs. Dindoffer and Mrs. Kosinski; and Trustee Walsh also said he would be happy to serve in any capacity fellow Board members would choose.</p> <p>B. Financial Reports</p> <p>Mr. Fenton noted that the variable and semi-variable cost reports were available in the reports previously distributed to the Board. The monthly financials will be available at the end of the week as the end of the month close delayed distribution.</p> <p>President Walsh announced the Work Session and Regular Meetings of the Board for Monday, January 26, 2009 at 6 and 8 p.m. respectively in the North High School Library.</p>
FUTURE MEETINGS	
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS	<p>No one came forward to comment at this time.</p>
OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT	<p>Trustee Ismail wished everyone a happy holiday.</p> <p>Trustee Dindoffer thanked Mrs. Kennedy for her service on the Board of Education. She said that Mrs. Kennedy's presence provided for a better and stronger Board.</p>

<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Trustee Steininger wished everyone a happy holiday and hopes to see everyone at the Grosse Pointe South Christmas Concert at Christ Church.</p> <p>Trustees Kennedy and Kosinski also wished everyone a happy holiday.</p> <p>Trustee Minturn wished everyone a happy holiday. He thanked Fishbone's Restaurant and Dr. Brian Hunt who sponsored a luncheon in honor of the academic excellence for North students. He also thanked Harry Kurtz who made the Abraham Lincoln mobile museum available to three district schools. He congratulated Dr. Klein on her award at last month's meeting as the MASA Region 9 Superintendent of the Year. He also congratulated all of the award winners this evening.</p> <p>Dr. Klein thanked parents for their continued support of the school system. She also thanked Board members who work diligently in service to the district, and teachers who work hard in various programs in service to all district students. As the new year begins, she encouraged all to come with renewed vigor, interest and ideas for impact, as well as an opportunity to keep the promise that the district has made for each and every child, each and every day.</p> <p>President Walsh said that the district owes Mrs. Kennedy a debt of gratitude as it takes a special kind of person to be a Board member. He thanked her for her service on the Board noting that she will be sorely missed.</p> <p>There being no further business, President Walsh adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.</p>
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Board Secretary