



IV. A.

Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 28, 2009
Library, Grosse Pointe South High School
11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

MEETING MINUTES CALL TO ORDER	<p>President Kosinski called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.</p> <p>The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Kratz.</p> <p>Board members present: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kratz, Minturn, Kosinski, Steininger and Walsh</p> <p>Also Present: Superintendent Klein, Assistant Superintendents Fenton and Harwood, Executive Director Warras</p>
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT	<p>A. Lorna G. Utley, Past President of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education</p> <p>Dr. Klein and Board President Kosinski recognized Mrs. Lorna G. Utley honoring her dedication and commitment to the school district as founding President of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education in 2006. Dr. Klein extended her thanks to Mrs. Utley from the district for her service. Mr. Robert Bury, current Grosse Pointe Foundation President, gave a tribute to Mrs. Utley's work with a collage of pictures showcasing activities and accomplishments from the inception of the Foundation to the present. President Kosinski thanked Mrs. Utley for her work for the school district and extended the Board's immense gratitude for her continued support.</p> <p>The current Foundation Board members were also introduced: Robert Bury; Lisa Vreede; Patrick Burke and Christy Scoggin. The new Grosse Pointe Foundation video showcasing the current work of the Foundation was then shown for the Board and those in attendance.</p> <p>B. Mark Sobieralski, National Coach of the Year</p> <p>Mark Sobieralski, head coach of Grosse Pointe South's girls' tennis team, was recently named National High School Athletic Tennis Coach of the Year. The Board congratulation Mr. Sobieralski on his accomplishment.</p> <p>C. League of Women Voters Forum for Board of Education Candidates on October 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>The League of Women Voters will be hosting a Board Candidate Forum on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in Wicking Library at South High School. There is one Board of Education three-year term open and two four-year terms that will be filled in the election November 3, 2009.</p>

	<p>D. Informational Meetings about the Millage Proposals on the November 3, 2009 Ballot</p> <p>There will be two community forum meetings for the public on the millage proposals that will be on the November ballot: October 7, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the South High School Library and October 12, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the North High School Library for those wishing to attend. Millage information is also available on the district website.</p> <p>Trustee Walsh then presented information on the millages that will be on the November 3rd ballot. Quick facts about the millage include: the two ballot proposals continue millages already in place; Proposal 1 provides operating millage for the schools which funds teachers, technology, textbooks and instructional materials; Proposal 2 provides funding to repair and improve school facilities; together these two millages account for 25% of the school system's budget; and all of the money raised by these two millages remains in the district to benefit the students.</p> <p>Dr. Klein noted that these millages are coming to the voters at this time as they both expire in June, 2010.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS	<p>Mr. Dutch Mandel, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke in support of the millage renewal with an emphasis on the school buildings as an asset to the community and its residents.</p> <p>Mrs. Allison Baker, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her thoughts on why the community should support the millage renewal, highlighting the work and website of the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public School System.</p> <p>Mrs. Laura Huebner, Grosse Pointe City, spoke on the effect Proposal A has had on district budgets as well as shared her thoughts on the millage renewals that will be on the November ballot.</p>
ACTION ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 28, 2009	<p>A. Human Resources Report for August, 2009</p> <p>The Human Resources Report contained the appointments of one employee to the instructional group and one staff member to the plant/custodial group. The report listed the recall of thirty-four teachers in various areas. All appointments are replacements or otherwise within 09/10 budget allocations unless noted.</p> <p>It was Moved by: Trustee Minturn Supported by: Trustee Kratz</p> <p>THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for August, 2009 as presented.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh Nays: None Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</p>

B. Meeting Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 3, 3009, Closed Session Minutes of August 3, 18 and 24, 2009, Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2009

Meeting minutes of the special meeting of August 3, 2009, closed session minutes of August 3, 18 and 24, 2009, and work and regular meeting minutes of August 24, 2009 were presented for approval.

It was Moved by: Trustee Kratz

Supported by: Trustee Dindoffer

THAT the Board approve the minutes of the meetings listed above as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

C. Approval of Tax Levy for 2009-2010 School Year

A resolution was provided to the Board approving the 2009 tax rates which had been reviewed by Amanda Van Dusen of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C.

A Truth in Taxation Hearing was not required since operating tax revenue has decreased for 2009.

Listed below is the summary of the categories and effective rates on those categories for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
<u>HOMESTEAD</u>		
“GAP” Hold Harmless Operating	5.7666*	5.9404
Sinking Fund	.9738	.9738
Debt Millage	<u>1.2761</u>	<u>1.3758</u>
Total	8.0165	8.2900

*Beginning in 2008-09 this levy is applied to principal residences, industrial personal property and commercial personal property. See detailed summary of commercial personal property below.

	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
<u>NON-HOMESTEAD</u>		
Non-Homestead Millage	18.0000*	18.0000
Sinking Fund	.9738	.9738

Debt Millage	<u>1.2761</u>	<u>1.3758</u>
Total	20.2499	20.3496

* Beginning in 2008-09 commercial personal property is exempt from 12 of the 18 mill operating levy except to the extent the exemption is reduced to hold the district harmless. See details below.

COMMERICAL PERSONAL PROPERTY

	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
Homestead Commercial Personal Property	5.7666	5.9404
Non-Homestead Commercial Personal Property	6.0000*	6.0000*
Sinking Fund	.9738	.9738
Debt Fund	<u>1.2761</u>	<u>1.3758</u>
Total	14.0165	14.2900

*A separate 6.0000 mills is levied by the State and not collected by the school system.

It was Moved by: Trustee Minturn

Supported by: Trustee Kratz

THAT the Board approve the tax levy for the 2009-2010 school year.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

D. Approval of Revisions to Board Policy 8310, Public Records

The Board of Education has contracted with NEOLA to provide semi-annual updates and revisions based on changes in legislation and court decisions. The Board Policy Committee has reviewed each policy brought forward and recommends revisions to particular policies.

From this review, the Policy Committee is proposing additional changes for Board Policy 8310, Public Records and would ask that the Board approve the proposed revision to this policy.

It was Moved by: Trustee Walsh

Supported by: Trustee Minturn

	<p>THAT the Board approve the revisions to Board Policy 8310, Public Records, as presented.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh Nays: None Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</p>
ACTION ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 26, 2009	<p>A. Approval of G.A.A.A. #1</p> <p>Deviations requested since the budget was approved on June 27, 2009 have been represented as part of the General Appropriations Act Amendment No. 1. Changes in the General Revenue and Sources for the General Fund include: an increase of \$4,349 from the Federal Title II Part D; a decrease in \$88,331 from Federal Title I; increase of \$278,111 from the Federal Title I ARRA; an increase of \$837,200 from the Federal IDEA – ARRA; a decrease of \$15,283 from the Federal Preschool grant for a total of \$1,078,821 increase in revenue. These changes are in recognition and adjustments to the current Federal Grants. Expenditures include \$1,078,821 due to increases in grants, but with no change in the fund equity total.</p> <p>Mr. Fenton noted that the administration would be bringing a G.A.A.A. #2 to the Board for approval in November to reflect the fall enrollment count data. The final tax levy adjustments are recognition of changes in fund equity from the audit report and possibly a finalization of any changes in the state foundation allowance which is currently expected to decrease to \$218 per pupil. The changes this evening are changes in the federal grants only.</p> <p>It was Moved by: Trustee Minturn Supported by: Trustee Kratz</p> <p>THAT the General Appropriations Act Amendment #1 be approved as presented.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh Nays: None Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</p> <p>B. Approval of Human Resources Report for September, 2009</p> <p>The Human Resources report contained the appointments, recalls, resignations and retirements of employees from various employee groups. Dr. Klein highlighted the retirement of Linda Kaplinski from central office after 24 years of service. Mr. Harwood noted that there was an individual on recall status on tonight's Human Resources report that would not be able to report to work until October should the Board wait until October to approve this report. He added that approving this report was also contingent on approving the G.A.A.A. report this evening as the federal grant monies to compensate this teacher are part of that agenda item.</p>

It was Moved by: Trustee Minturn

Supported by: Trustee Kratz

THAT the Human Resources Report for September, 2009 be approved as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2009

The minutes of September 28, 2009 will be available before the next meeting of the Board.

D. Approval of Annual 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 the current school year. The district's Annual Report, required by Public Act 25 and provided on September 28, 2009, provided data on various measures of student achievement during the past school year and set the stage for the development of district goals and school level improvement goals for 2009-10.

Developing goals focuses the district on the most important issues to improve the quality of education for students in our schools. The district has established goals through the Strategic Plan, the school improvement and the accreditation processes, the initiatives of the Education Programs Leadership Council (EPLC), and partnerships with parents and community members.

District goals for 2009-10 are drawn from the current Strategic Plan and other ongoing initiatives on which the district is concentrating efforts and resources to support student success during the current school year:

- Goal 1: As a result of challenging educational programs, high student achievement and outstanding opportunities available for all its students, the Grosse Pointe Public School System is considered the state's premier school district.
- Goal 2: A highly competent staff, committed to the highest standard of excellence, creates a positive learning environment for all students.
- Goal 3: Technology is effectively integrated to support the work of students and staff so that learning results improve and productivity is enhanced.
- Goal 4: The district's communication initiatives keep residents well informed, enhance community partnerships and attract new families to the district.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 5: The district acts as a wise steward of its financial assets by following guiding principles to determine funding, controlling costs and maximizing the benefits received from its assets to support and enhance the instructional program and successfully cultivating new sources of revenue. <p>Accomplishing these goals continues to 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 ensure that these goals are met and the district continues to respond to the opportunities and challenges presented.</p> <p>E. Approval of School Improvement Plans</p> <p>The Annual District Goals reflect the district's school improvement plan as well as the plans of every school building as outlined in the notebooks distributed to the Board. These plans are tailored to the learning challenges and goals at each school building as principals and their staffs work to assure success for each student in their building. As provided in Board Policy 2120, School Improvement, each elementary, middle and high school has developed an updated school improvement plan which reflects student achievement data, sets goals for 2009-10 and provides a structure to improve the quality of education for students in that school.</p> <p>Taken together, the administration believes that the district and school improvement goals will enable students to achieve a higher level of proficiency in all academic areas, explore other areas of interest and talent as well as prepare for the challenges they will find as they move beyond their enrollment in the Grosse Pointe Public School System.</p> <p>F. Approval of Bid for North Performing Arts Improvements</p> <p>Mr. Fenton noted that the bids for the North High School Performing Arts improvements will be available before the next regular meeting of the Board.</p>
INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION	<p>A. PA 25 Report</p> <p>Mr. Warras provided highlights of the District PA 25 Report noting that all schools in the district have received A's in the new Michigan <i>Education Yes!</i> report card and made Adequate Yearly Progress. The report contains information about student scores on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests, a comparison of those scores over time, and other factors such as parent involvement, dropout rate, student attendance, facilities, and how closely the district curriculum meets state guidelines. In addition to receiving a grade, the Michigan Department of Education also released Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) information showing that every Grosse Pointe Public school made AYP this year, a requirement of the Federal No Child Left Behind law.</p> <p>At next month's board meeting, achievements will be highlighted with a school by school analysis. This information lays the groundwork for the 2009-10 school improvement plans with the goal of making the district the best possible learning</p>

organization it can be so students can achieve the greatest learning success throughout their school career.

Trustee Steininger expressed concerns about the scores for the 6th grade in the English/Language Arts based on the information provided. Mr. Warras addressed Mr. Steininger's concerns, sharing additional data.

B. Financial Report and Budget Development

Mr. Fenton reported that the customary financial reports for August, 2009 have been included in information provided to the Board.

He also said that a summary of projects completed as a result of the sinking fund for the last six years is now posted on the district website along with a projection on future sinking fund projects.

President Kosinski stated that the Board had a work session regarding the budget prior to the regular meeting this evening, noting that work on the budget process has already begun for the 2010-11 school year.

Trustee Walsh noted that the Board has reached a consensus on how to approach the budget process and development for the upcoming year. A report will also be placed on the website, outlining this process and its timeline and procedures for review. The foundation for the new budget, he commented, is based on the district's goals in the Strategic Plan, and the emphasis will be on re-evaluating every investment that the Board will make, rolling nothing forward.

C. Enrollment Update

Mr. Fenton noted that for the 2008-09 school year, the Board reported 8,530 students. As of September 22, 2009, the district enrollment is 8,455, a difference of 75 students. Although the enrollment is down slightly, Mr. Fenton noted that it is not as many students as he had originally projected for budget purposes last year. The secondary level is getting the largest growth of students and the lower elementary grades getting the least amount of growth. Central office administrators will continue to watch the trends as the year unfolds.

D. Class Size/Staff Allocation Report

Mr. Harwood said that in the spring, the Board approved a budget with 566.2 FTE for staff. Currently the district has 579.9 FTE's allocated which include an additional 14.3 FTE staff due to additional Federal and county funding sources. The additional stimulus money that the district received is funding 14.3 additional staff. Mr. Harwood explained that the average class size in the elementary buildings, K-5, is 21.8 students. At the high school level, that class size number is 26.3 students.

	<p>E. Michigan Department of Education Disproportionality Report</p> <p>During the school years of 2006-07 and 2007-08, Grosse Pointe Public Schools was found to be significantly disproportionate in the identification of African American students as Cognitively Impaired during monitoring by the Michigan Department of Education. As a result, the Department of Student Services was required to participate in focused monitoring and to develop a plan to address the disproportionality. In addition, the district was required to utilize 15% of the monies allocated in Special Education Flowthrough funding for early intervention services for the general population.</p> <p>This Plan of Correction was approved and the Department of Student Services took immediate action to rectify the items on which the district was cited. On December 16, 2008 a representative of the Michigan Department of Education met with the staff of the Department of Student Services to verify that the Plan of Correction was completed. In the June, 2009 review, the district was again monitored and found to meet the requirements of Part B of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).</p>
FUTURE MEETINGS	There will be a Work Session on Monday, October 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. followed by a Regular Meeting of the Board at 8:00 p.m. in the North High School Library.
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS	<p>Mr. Tom Jakubiec, Grosse Pointe Woods, thanked the League of Women Voters for hosting the Board of Education candidate forum on October 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library at South High School.</p> <p>Mrs. Meg Novak, Grosse Pointe Park, thanked the Board of Education and school district for the changes to the Kids Club procedures.</p> <p>Mrs. Stephanie Plansker, Grosse Pointe Park, addressed her concerns about the half-day Trombly kindergarten enrollment.</p> <p>Mrs. Mary Trost, Grosse Pointe Park, thanked the Board for the recent increase in teacher allocation at Trombly Elementary School.</p>
OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT	<p>Trustee Minturn thanked Lorna Utley and the other members of the foundation for their service on the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education. He also spoke in support of local funding and asked residents to remember to vote.</p> <p>Trustee Gafa attended the Full Circle “Raise the Roof” fundraiser for special needs students and expressed her appreciation to Mary Fodell for her work and creation of this excellent and successful endeavor. She congratulated Ellen Bowen and the Grosse Pointe Singers who performed. Mrs. Gafa also attended the Back to School Nights for her own children and thanked the dedicated teachers who helped to make those evenings so informative with the information they provided. She, too, encouraged the community to vote on November 3rd.</p> <p>Trustee Kratz commented on the administration contacting representatives in Lansing</p>

about the proposed shortfall facing school districts across the state. He appreciates everything that the administrators are doing to contact government officials in opposition to the school funding cuts.

Trustee Dindoffer asked Mr. Harwood about the kindergarten concern at Trombly in light of the finite resources facing the district. She added that she attended five “Back to School Nights” that were highly attended with parents showing enthusiasm as the new school year begins. She also said that she was impressed to hear that all 14 schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Mrs. Dindoffer said that it was also wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education and the great work that they are doing for the district. She thanked Lorna Utley and the entire Foundation Board for the work they continue to do. She thanked the citizen committee that is working in support of the millages that will be on the November ballot, including Allison Baker and her colleagues. She is appreciative of the vibrant community she lives in as they work together to accomplish goals of the residents and school district.

Trustee Walsh addressed the culture of learning that is prevalent in the Grosse Pointe Public School System community. He also attended many Back to School Nights and was pleased at the parent attendance there also. He mentioned the Pierce National Junior Honor Society where his daughter was inducted as a member, noting that it was a wonderful ceremony. Mr. Walsh added that the Taste of the Pointes on the front lawn of Grosse Pointe South High School was also a fantastic event for the community as was the North/South football game which brought out over 6,000 participants. He also congratulated North on their win.

Trustee Steininger thanked the Foundation for Public Education for all of their work for the district and all of the funds they raise. He also attended the Taste of the Pointes this past Friday as he thanked those who helped set up and made the event a success. He congratulated both high school football teams on the great game that they played, giving kudos to North for their win.

Dr. Klein said that the district’s Partners in Learning Newsletter will be arriving in homes soon detailing school events and upcoming information on the two millage forums: the first at South High School at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7th and the second one at North High School on Monday, October 12th. Municipal leaders have been invited to a Back to School update on Thursday, October 15th at 7 p.m. at Pierce Middle School. A page of the district newsletter contains information about swine flu which is being followed up by a letter to all parents of school age children reminding them of health precautions to observe and what the schools are doing to prevent the spread of this illness.

Dr. Klein thanked all who were involved in the Raise the Roof event as well as those that attended.

Student count day is Wednesday, September 30th and she encouraged parents to send their child to school that day.

	<p>Dr. Klein also spoke of the Smart Classroom initiative as technology tools in classrooms are updated and staff learning continues in this area.</p> <p>President Kosinski thanked the Foundation for Public Education for their hard work and their contributions to the district schools. She thanked Mrs. Utley for her leadership of this organization and looks forward to working with the new Foundation Board in the future. Mrs. Kosinski also thanked the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Schools for their work on the millage campaign.</p> <p>President Kosinski also commented on the Back to School Nights she recently attended and the dedication and hard work of the teachers to make sure that information was presented to parents in an informative and creative way. She added that the “schools are the jewels” of the community and appreciated teachers for making “school cool” to the many students that attend. She asked the community to continue to support the schools and vote on the millage proposals on November 3rd.</p>
ADJOURNMENT	There being no further business, President Kosinski adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Board Secretary