



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 27, 2008
Library, Grosse Pointe North High School
707 Vernier Road, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT AND
RECOGNITIONS**

President Walsh called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

Trustee Steininger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also Present: Superintendent Klein, Assistant Superintendents Allan and Fenton, Executive Director Warras; Representatives from Sodexo, Jane Buttermore, Don McNeil, Michelle Knotts and Katrina Abrahams

Dr. Klein and Trustee Kosinski, began the Superintendent's Report with recognition of students and staff across the district.

Pierce students: Charlotte Keolsch, Gold Medal Winner in the Michigan Social Studies Olympiad; CJ Ryder, National Gold Key Winner in the 2008 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, which is the oldest and most prestigious award program in the country for students of the visual arts; and Macen Stuehser, 1st place winner in the third annual *You Be the Chemist* challenge.

The Gearheads Robotics Team was honored next and is made up of students from both North and South who were winners of the Image Award at the FIRST Regional Competition: Advisor, Ken Ginger; Kara Bakowski, Jennifer Battles, Vincent Bermudez, Alejandro Caragay, Josh Creighton, Alex Dean, Moriah Dean, Eric Hackenberger, Mark Hayden, Connor Hughes, Michael Pogue, Peter Saigh, Mallory Smith, Matt Snella (co-captain), Olivia Talbot, Ian Wakley, Andy Wisniowiecki, and Charlie Wyman (co-captain).

North High School recognition recipients: The *North Pointe* School newspaper received a Spartan Award from the Michigan Scholastic Press Association which is the highest honor that the association gives recognizing the best student publications in the state. The North Pointe's advisor is Andrew Taylor, who received a Michigan Scholastic Press Award, and Christine Bedway, editor, who also received an award for her news writing. Other Scholastic Press Awards were given to Lauren Powell for feature page design and feature column writing; Andre Brown for sports page design and editorial writing; Lindsay Cameron, entertainment page design; Hannah Colborn, photo stories; and Devin Healy for opinion page design.

Two North students placed in the top ten at the International DECA Competition this year: Andrew Charnesky and Adam Gaglio.

North's winners at the University of Michigan German Day included Shuaid Raza and Lydia Fuller.

Matt Harrison and Kirk Faber, also North students, were both awarded Gold Keys as part of the 2008 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Competition.

South High School award winners: Jeff Nardone, *Tower* Newspaper advisor, was awarded the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Key Award which is the highest that the CSPA gives to advisors. Student Eva Dou was named Michigan High School Journalist of the Year by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

2008 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards went to Amanda Rapacchietta, National Gold Winner, and Isabelle Lauerman and Alexander McMillan, who were awarded Gold Keys.

Students at South winning Foreign Language Awards were: Carlos Hernandez, 1st in the state and 10th in the country for Level II, Category A for the Italian National Exam; Amanda Elskens, 1st in the state and 15th in the country for Level II, Category B in the Italian National Exam; Liza Dzul who placed in the top level 5 students in the state in the Spanish National Exam; and Katie Gilbert and Linnea Jimison who place in the top ten National Ranking in the French National Exam.

District-wide, recognition went to Rosemary Padesky for receiving the Grosse Pointe Public School System's Support Employee of the Year Award; Mark Davids for being named 2008 winner of the American Association of Physics Teachers Excellence in Pre-College Physics Teaching Award; and to Board Trustee Alice Kosinski for receiving Level One Certification from the Michigan Association of School Boards.

President Walsh then made a presentation to Grosse Pointe Schools' Superintendent Suzanne Klein who was nationally recognized as a recipient of the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award for 2008. This is an award designed to honor practicing school administrators who have made significant contributions to the improvement of administrator preparation. This award is co-sponsored by the University of Michigan and the University Council for Education Administration, an organization of member universities in the United States, China, and the United Kingdom, devoted to improving the professional preparation of educational leaders.

Dr. Klein thanked the local Shore Pointe Kiwanis for their donation of dictionaries to every third grader in the district. Those books are

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| <p>PUBLIC COMMENTS</p> <p>ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS</p> <p>REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS</p> | <p>being distributed this week as part of a community service project.</p> <p>Dr. Klein also mentioned that throughout the last few weeks of school there are a variety of events being held in the schools for parents and community to attend and enjoy.</p> <p>No one came forward to comment on Regular Agenda Action Items.</p> <p>Trustee Steininger had revisions to the minutes of the work session of April 28, 2008. He asked that his comments on page 2, second paragraph from the bottom of the page read, "Mr. Steininger stated that students who are first time offenders in a minor substance abuse issue should not get a 10 day suspension. Trustee Steininger added that the Superintendent should be made aware of any suspension of 5 days or more."</p> <p><i>Approval of Human Resources Report of April 18, 2008</i></p> <p>The Human Resources Report contained the appointment of one classroom assistant, and the retirement, resignation, or leave of four instructional staff members, two office staff members, two classroom assistants and one custodial staff member. All appointments are replacements or otherwise within the 2007-08 budget allocations unless noted.</p> <p>Moved by: Trustee Minturn Supported by: Trustee Steininger</p> <p>THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report of April 18, 2008 as presented.</p> <p>Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</p> <p><i>Approval of Business Items of April 30, 2008</i></p> <p>The business items were presented for approval.</p> <p>Moved by: Trustee Minturn Supported by: Trustee Kosinski</p> <p>THAT the Business Items for April 30, 2008 be approved as presented.</p> <p>Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</p> |
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Approval of Minutes

The Board is asked to approve work session and regular meeting minutes of April 28, 2008 and closed and work session minutes of May 13, 2008 as presented. Corrections requested by Trustee Steininger were noted and will be inserted as requested.

Moved by: Trustee Steininger

Supported by: Trustee Dindoffer

THAT the minutes of April 28, 2008 and May 13, 2008 be approved with corrections and additions to the April 28, 2008 work session minutes as requested.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

Approval of Resolution on State Aid Borrowing

Mr. Fenton explained that the school district has three options for borrowing money to meet cash flow needs: tax anticipation notes, State Aid Notes and a bank line of credit. Based on an analysis of the district's cash flow needs, Amanda Van Dusen of Miller Canfield is advising the district that the Board approve a resolution authorizing a Bank Line of Credit and not a State Aid Note. This resolution will be completed by the June 23, 2008, at which time Mr. Fenton asks that the Board approve this avenue for borrowing. He noted that the resolution will authorize the district to proceed with the borrowing approval with the State of Michigan. Once the resolution is adopted and the application is signed, it will be filed with the state, which takes approximately five weeks. Ms. Van Dusen is advising that the line not be tax exempt and that the district choose a variable rate structure. The amount available under the line must not exceed 30% of the state aid yet to be received for the fiscal year which would be approximately \$19 million. During the year, the line may revolve, but cannot automatically renew. Initial review indicates that a \$5 to \$6 million line of credit would be ample based on the district's projected fund equity and ending balances. Mr. Fenton asked that this item be tabled until the June board meeting.

Approval of Resolution on Schools of Choice

Schools of Choice is part of the current School Aid Act under Section 105. By law, a school board must determine whether or not it will opt-in to Schools of Choice for the 2008-09 school year by June 4, 2008.

The Grosse Pointe Board of Education is asked to approve the resolution which meets the timeline required under the Schools of Choice provision of Public Act 300, and resolve to opt-out of the

Schools of Choice provision of PA 300 noting Board Policy JBC which traditionally provides two exceptions to the school board's residency policy.

Moved by: Trustee Kosinski

Supported by: Trustee Steininger

THAT the Board approve the resolution on Schools of Choice.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

Approval of Resolution Honoring District Retirees

Each year the Board of Education adopts a resolution to honor the service of staff members who are retiring. The following employees will be honored this year: Rosalie Bryk, May Jean Chan, Victor Cugliari, Kenneth Ginger, Elaine Hathaway, Richard Hooper, Christine Kaiser, James Maleszewski, James Rakowski, Lynn Reed, Kirk Schmidt, Theresa Taranta, Richard Underwood and Michael Wasilewski.

Moved by: Trustee Minturn

Supported by: Trustee Dindoffer

THAT the Board approve the resolution honoring district retirees.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

Approval of Resolution on Wayne County RESA Budget

Section 380.624 of the Revised School Code now includes language which requires each constituent school board of Wayne RESA to participate in RESA's budget development process.

RESA must submit its proposed general fund operating budget to the board of each constituent district no later than May 1 each year. Not later than June 1 of each year, each local school board must review the proposed budget, adopt a board resolution expressing its support for or disapproval of the proposed budget, and submit to the RESA board any specific objections and proposed changes the district board has to the budget.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education is asked

to acknowledge receipt of the WCRESA Operating Budget for 2008-09.

Moved by: Trustee Minturn

Supported by: Trustee Kennedy

THAT the Board reject the resolution on the Wayne County RESA budget.

Trustee Kosinski disagreed with the motion and spoke in favor of supporting the WCRESA budget.

Ayes: Trustees Kennedy, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

Nays: Trustees Dindoffer, Ismail, and Kosinski

Motion carried by a 4 – 3 vote to reject the WCRESA budget.

Approval of Bids

1. Defer Air Conditioning

Moved by: Trustee Ismail

Supported by: Trustee Minturn

THAT the Board award the contract for the Defer HVAC project to Great Lakes Service Group for \$100,860.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

2. South Fire Alarm

Moved by: Trustee Minturn

Supported by: Trustee Kosinski

THAT the Board award the bid for the South High School fire alarm project to Electronic Safety Services for \$107,133.59.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

3. North Parking Lot

Moved by: Trustee Kosinski

Supported by: Trustee Minturn

THAT the Board award the bid for the North High

School entry drive project to Pro-Line Asphalt for \$39,400.

Trustee Dindoffer asked that the speed bumps be redesigned. Mr. Fenton replied that their effect would be minimized. He also said that the handicapped parking area in front of the Performing Arts Center would be expanded and clearly marked.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

4. Parcels Parking Lot

Moved by: Trustee Minturn

Supported by: Trustee Ismail

THAT the Board award the bid for the Parcels Middle School parking lot project to Best Asphalt, Inc. for \$74,994.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

Approval of Contract for Cafeteria Services

Part of the ongoing effort to reduce costs was for the administration to pursue a number of avenues including the privatization of the cafeteria program. The cafeteria food service program was contracted to Sodexho, Inc. on July 13, 2005, for a year and renewed for two years.

A budget proposal for the 2008-09 school year was presented to the Board. The administration is asking the Board to again approve a one year contract with Sodexho. The State of Michigan regulates the food service Requests for Proposals (RFP), bid process and the renewal process. The State also allows for a renewal without a RFP for up to five years.

The proposal includes food cost, labor, benefits, on-site manager, administrative costs, and management fee and non-food costs. The profit for next year is estimated at \$61,640.

The Board is asked to renew the contract with Sodexho for one year.

Moved by: Trustee Ismail

Supported by: Trustee Steininger

THAT the Board approve the contract with Sodexho Services, Inc. for the 2008-2009 school year.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

Jane Buttermore, Don McNeil and Michelle Knotts from Sodexho were available to answer questions of the Board.

Approval of G.A.A.A. #2

According to Public Act 621 from which the General Appropriations Act is derived, there can be no deviation from the original appropriations Act without amending the Act. Deviations requested since the budget was approved on June 11, 2007 have been presented as part of the General Appropriations Act Amendment No. 2. Changes to the general fund from revenue and other sources resulted in an increase in revenue of \$679,890. The total in expenditures out of the general fund totaled \$227,000, for a total increase in the fund balance as of June 30, 2008 of \$452,980.

Moved by: Trustee Minturn

Supported by: Trustee Ismail

THAT the Board approve the General Appropriations Act Amendment No. 2 to the General Fund.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

Approval of High School Course – Digital Seminars

In following the goals of the district's Strategic Plan to continue to enhance students' technological skills and knowledge, two North High School teachers proposed a new course called Digital Seminar. This class is an informational literacy class that will include training students in creating multimedia presentations in a chosen career pathway, provide the skills for students to maintain a cross-curricular digital portfolio, and synthesize and present information and use an online course management system. The proposed course, if approved, would have two pilot sections in the 2008-09 school year at North High School.

Moved by: Trustee Kosinski

Supported by: Trustee Ismail

THAT the Board approve the pilot course, Digital Seminars, for the 9th grade at North High School.

**ACTION ITEMS FOR
JUNE 23, 2008**

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

A. Approval of Human Resources Report of May 19, 2008

The Human Resources Report contains the appointment of one custodial staff member, the resignation, retirement or leave of eight instructional staff members, two classroom assistants and one custodial staff member. All appointments are replacements or otherwise within the 2007-08 budget allocations unless otherwise noted. Dr. Klein highlighted the leave of absence for Ranae Beyerlein who will become the GPEA President, and the retirements of Rosalie Bryk, May Jean Chan, Kenneth Ginger, Christine Kaiser, James Rakowski, Lynn Reed, Nicole Scarbrough and Richard Hooper.

B. Approval of Business Items of May 30, 2008

The business items will be provided to the Board prior to the next meeting.

C. G.A.A. A. #3

Information for the G.A.A. #3 will be available prior to the next meeting.

D. Approval of Minutes of May 27, 2008

Minutes of the May 27, 2008 board meeting will be available prior to the next meeting.

E. Approval of 2008-09 School Year Budget

The 2008-09 School Year Budget will be provided prior to the next meeting.

F. Approval of Textbooks

1. Chemistry Textbook

This chemistry textbook is aligned with the state and district curriculum as well as extending beyond the expectations to support differentiation. Online supports will provide additional help to students who may struggle with the material. The textbook is Chemistry: Matter and Change by Buthelezi, Dingrando, Hainen, Wistron and Zike and the cost will be \$21,591.

2. High School Economics Textbook

Updated materials are needed to support the new Michigan standards for the required Economics course. This text is well aligned with the

course content expectations, incorporates differentiation activities and ancillary materials and has an eEdition and internet based resources available to both students and teachers. The textbook is Economics: Concepts and Choices by Boyes and Melvin and the cost will be \$5,436.

3. Supplemental Atlas Set for 6th and 7th Grade World History

This Atlas, which compliments the already adopted Nystrom Atlas of American History is an engaging and very well presented supplement for the middle school social studies instruction. It incorporates geography and map reading skills with historical events and will support the new state benchmarks in ancient history. This textbook is The Nystrom Atlas of World History and the cost will be \$4,485.

4. 8th Grade Conceptual Physics Textbook

This set of materials continues the very successful philosophy of science that has been used at the elementary level by emphasizing a “hands-on” approach. The program includes numerous labs and data analysis, substantial professional development, online web labs, student CDs (soon to be online) and a test bank. The book and labs are targeted for grades 8 or 9 but are also used at grade 10 and are considered quite challenging. The title of the book is Physics: A First Course by Tom Hsu and the cost will be \$65,567 (this cost includes 4 additional lab equipment stations).

5. High School Geometry

This text is well aligned to the new Michigan mathematics benchmarks and is very thorough and incorporates technology well. The title of this textbook is Geometry by Larson, Boswell, Kanold and Stiff and the cost will be \$28,215.

6. K-5 Mathematics Series

The Mathematics Committee decided to pilot a newly developed program, Expressions Math from Houghton Mifflin. This is a National Science Foundation program, only one of two NSF programs nationwide.

The committee and pilot teachers also worked with the Everyday Mathematics program which is another National Science Foundation program. It is the only program recommended by WCRESA. Over 80% of the schools in Oakland Country and many of our like districts use Everyday Math. The pilot teachers and Mathematics Committee recommend Harcourt Math for kindergarten and Everyday Math for grades one through five. The kindergarten textbook is called Harcourt Math and costs \$21,088, and the grades 1-5 textbooks are Everyday Mathematics for a cost of \$175,540.

7. Social Studies materials for Grades K, 1, 2 and 5

The recommended textbooks for adoption for grades K, 1, 2 and 5 are: My World Kindergarten Kit by Houghton Mifflin for kindergarten,

\$7,485; All Together by Scott Foresman for grade 1, \$20,797; People and Places by Scott Foresman for grade 2, \$23,008; The United States by Scott Foresman for grade 5, \$35,193.

G. Purchase of Honors and Regular World History and American Government Textbook

The textbooks, World History and The Americans are the textbooks recommended for the high school World History and American Government courses. The costs respectively are \$57,268 and \$33,774.

H. Approval of Third Party Dependent Audit

As part of the ongoing effort to monitor and reduce health related benefits costs, the administration is checking that staff dependents listed are up to date and accurate. Mercury Dependent Audit Services specializes in reviewing benefits plans to ensure accurate reporting and eligibility of school system employee's dependents. The cost of the audit, if approved, would be \$34,990.

I. Approval of Technology Purchase

1. Reconditioned Computers

The technology budget for fiscal year 2008-09 includes a budget provision of \$200,000 for replacement of desktop computers with reconditioned Dell computers with flat panel monitors and a three year replacement warranty.

It is recommended that 420 reconditioned computers and monitors with three year warranties be purchased from Insight Investments at a cost of \$159,612.

2. CISCO SmartNet Renewal

The district uses CISCO equipment for network components and the IP telephone system. The technology budget for fiscal year 2008-09 includes \$35,000 for the renewal of the CISCO SmartNet support contracts.

The district has also applied for E-rate reimbursement for these contracts. The CISCO contracts qualify for Priority 2, Basic maintenance under the E-rate guidelines. This request is under review by E-rate. If the funding request is granted, the district would receive an estimated \$10,000 in E-rate funds for these qualified expenses.

The Board is asked to approve renewing the CISCO SmartNet support contracts with CDW/G at a cost of \$34,883.

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| INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION | <p>Monthly Financial Report The monthly financials and year to date financial statements distributed to Board members for review included Revenue and Expense reports for the General Fund, School Service Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Sinking Fund and Debt Fund.</p> <p>For the General, Sinking and Debt Funds, revenue is encumbered for taxes, some local revenue, and state aid, federal and other grants. For the General Fund only contracted salaries and benefits are reported as encumbered for Administrators, Supervisors, Teachers, Classroom Assistants, Para-pros, Clericals and Custodians. Purchased services, supplies (including utilities) and capital outlay are also reported as encumbrances. For all other funds except the Debt Fund, the monthly report includes encumbrances for purchase services, supplies and capital outlay. The Debt Fund reports expenditures for principle and interest payments.</p> |
| FUTURE MEETINGS | <p>Work Session, Monday, June 9, 2008, 6 p.m., 389 St. Clair Work Session, Monday, June 23, 2008, 6 p.m., North High School Public Hearing on 2008-09 Budget, June 23, 2008, 8 p.m., North High School Public Hearing on School Breakfast Program, June 23, 2008, 8 p.m., North High School Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, June 23, 2008, 8 p.m. North High School</p> |
| PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS | <p>Mrs. Mickey Shield, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke regarding high school senior recognition ceremonies and the opportunity for a representative from the Naval Academy being allowed to speak at that ceremony at South High School.</p> <p>Trustee Ismail asked if the issue regarding military representatives speaking at graduation ceremonies could be rectified at the graduation ceremony scheduled for next week.</p> <p>Dr. Klein commented that students going to military academies are sometimes recognized at graduation ceremonies and honors ceremonies. Military representatives do not speak at graduation ceremonies but the student's military choices may be announced at the podium.</p> <p>President Walsh noted that this is a policy issue.</p> <p>It was Moved by: Trustee Kennedy Supported by: Trustee Ismail</p> <p>THAT the Senior Honors Graduation Ceremonies include representation from and brief comments by appropriate service academy representatives.</p> |

Trustee Steininger read a statement regarding the inclusion of military representatives speaking at honors ceremonies.

Trustee Kosinski thanked Mr. and Mrs. Shields for coming to the board meeting to speak. She said that she has concerns about creating policy on the spur of the moment and would prefer to consider options with a thoughtful process and cover all aspects of how the issue can be worked into a policy.

Trustee Kennedy said that the issue is not a policy, it is a practice that needs to be revised.

Trustee Dindoffer commented that history has been that there is a reading of a policy one month and action of the policy the following month. To Mrs. Kosinski's point, she suggested that the policy committee address the issue at an appropriate time and that crafting the proper language is very important so it would be adhered to consistently over time. She asked the Shields if they would allow the Board time to get back to them in a concerted manner.

It was Moved by: Trustee Dindoffer

Supported by: Trustee Walsh

THAT the motion on the floor to allow senior honors ceremonies to provide representatives from military and other related service academies the opportunity to speak be tabled until the policy committee has an opportunity to bring appropriate language to the Board in policy format to be voted on in July, 2008.

Trustee Steininger said that the time is appropriate now and that the board should vote now.

Trustee Minturn suggested that a moment be made during the graduation ceremony to allow the military representative for Tim Shields the opportunity to speak briefly.

Trustee Kennedy agreed with Trustee Steininger that the motion on the floor be passed by the Board this evening.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer Minturn, Kosinski, Walsh

Nays: Trustees Ismail, Kennedy and Steininger

Motion carried (to table the decision to vote on language to allow military representatives to speak at senior honors programs until the policy committee can properly address the issue and create appropriate policy language) by a 4 – 3 vote.

It was Moved by: Trustee Dindoffer

Supported by: Trustee Kosinski

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Walsh adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

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8:37 AM