



V. B.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2009**  
Library, Grosse Pointe North High School  
707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ANNUAL  
ORGANIZATIONAL  
ITEMS**

President Walsh called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Gafa.

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

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

**A. Administration of Oath of Office to Newly Elected Trustees**

The Board election was held on November 4, 2008, resulting in the election of Trustees Ahmed Ismail and Judy Gafa. Mr. Ismail and Mrs. Gafa have signed the Acceptance of Office, Affidavit of Eligibility, and the Constitutional Oath of Office.

Dr. Klein administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Ahmed Ismail and Mrs. Judy Gafa.

Board members officially congratulated Mr. Ismail and Mrs. Gafa. Trustee Walsh then declared a brief recess.

**Brief Reception Recess**

Trustee Walsh reconvened the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**B. Election of Officers for the 2009 Year**

Board Bylaw 0152 indicates that the Board shall annually elect at the Board's organizational meeting a President. The new president then conducts the remainder of the meeting starting with the election of the 2009 vice-president. Elections for the positions of secretary and treasurer are then conducted before proceeding with the remainder of the agenda. According to Roberts Rules of Order, it is not necessary that a motion be supported for the nominations.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Minturn

**THAT Alice Kosinski be nominated for President of the Board of Education.**

Trustee Steininger asked to layer the motion by nominating Joan Dindoffer as President of the Board of Education.

It was noted that a nomination motion cannot be layered. One motion must be voted on and either accepted or rejected before another motion can be submitted.

**Roll call for the motion that Alice Kosinski be appointed as President:**

**Ayes:** Trustees Gafa, Kosinski, Minturn and Walsh

**Nays:** Trustees Dindoffer, Ismail and Steininger

**Motion carried by a 4 – 3 vote.**

President Kosinski then resumed the Board's nomination process for other Board officers.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Steininger

**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT Joan Dindoffer be appointed Vice-President.**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Minturn

**THAT Brendan Walsh be appointed as Vice-President.**

President Kosinski called the question on the motion to appoint Trustee Dindoffer as Vice-President.

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Ismail and Steininger

**Nays:** Trustees Gafa, Kosinski, Minturn and Walsh

**Motion failed by a 3 – 4 vote.**

President Kosinski then called the question on the motion to appoint Trustee Walsh as Vice-President

**Ayes:** Trustees Gafa, Kosinski, Minturn and Walsh

**Nays:** Trustees Dindoffer, Ismail and Steininger

**Motion carried by a 4 – 3 vote.**

President Kosinski asked for nominations for Secretary.

**It was then Moved by:** Trustee Ismail

**Supported by:** Trustee Walsh

**THAT Joan Dindoffer be appointed as Secretary.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh  
**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

President Kosinski asked for nominations for Treasurer.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**THAT Fred Minturn be appointed as Treasurer.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh  
**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

### **C. Declaration of Board Member Compensation**

Per Board bylaw 0144.1, at the annual organization meeting, Board members shall individually declare their compensation preference by selecting one of these options:

- A. Receive his/her per meeting compensation for the current year.
- B. Refuse compensation for the current year.
- C. Request that in lieu of his/her compensation for the current school year a like amount be directed to a program of the Grosse Pointe Public School System or a District related school organization.
- D. Request that the compensation be directed on his/her behalf to the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education.

Trustee Ismail requested that he receive his compensation after which time he will donate it to the Services For Older Citizens.

Trustee Dindoffer declined compensation.

Trustee Steininger asked to receive his compensation for donation to the charity of his choice.

Trustee Walsh directed his compensation to the Latin Club of the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Trustee Gafa directed her compensation to the “family center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods”.

Trustee Minturn declined compensation.

President Kosinski asked that her compensation be directed to the Special Education Department resource rooms in the district.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOGNITIONS**

### **A. School Board Recognition**

Districts across the state are recognizing School Boards during the month of January. Dr. Klein thanked the Grosse Pointe Board of Education for their contributions to the school district and community, noting that they have the most important volunteer jobs in the country as citizens with extraordinary dedication to the nation's public schools.

She presented school board members with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Wayne County School Board Association and a collection of writings from Grosse Pointe School middle school students entitled *Distinguished Essays*.

Dr. Klein wished board members a successful year ahead and thanked them again for all that they do for every student in the district.

### **B. Recognition of National Financial Literacy Challenge Award Winner**

Dr. Klein asked President Kosinski, North Principal Tim Bearden and North Teacher Dan Quinn to join her in honoring North Student Andrew Charnesky. Mr. Charnesky received a medal from the U.S. Department of Treasury for having scored in the top 1% of high school students taking the President's Advisory Council on National Financial Literacy Challenge in the fall of 2008.

Dr. Klein noted that numerous holiday concerts were held since the Board's last meeting in December. There are more such events between now and the end of the school year listed on the district website.

Early in January, parents attended instrumental performances by elementary, middle and high school students across the district as they displayed their talent in the Band O Rama and String Extravaganza.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEMS**

No one came forward to comment.

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No one came forward to comment.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FROM DECEMBER 8, 2008**

The following items were contained in the Consent Agenda:

- A. Human Resources Report of December, 2008
- B. Regular and Work Session Minutes of December 8, 2008
- C. Resolution of Continuance of Funds and Designation of Signatories on Accounts
- D. Appointment of Christian Fenton and Isha Smith as

<p><b>ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY 26, 2009</b></p>	<p>Representatives to MAISL for Property/Liability Insurance Underwriter</p> <p>E. Board Regular Meeting Calendar for 2009</p> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Trustee Walsh <b>Supported by:</b> Trustee Ismail</p> <p><b>THAT the Board approve the Consent Agenda</b></p> <p><b>Ayes:</b> Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh <b>Nays:</b> None <b>Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</b></p> <p><b>A. Approval of Gifts from Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education</b></p> <p>Mrs. Lorna Utley, President of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education, presented the Board of Education and district with gifts for school programs.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE) is to provide locally controlled, financial support to the Grosse Pointe Public School System by direct contribution and through proceeds generated by an endowment. Funds raised by the Foundation will support the school system's strategic plan and invest in areas such as: enhanced educational programming, innovative technology, elementary foreign language, classroom improvement, staff and professional development, extracurricular, co-curricular, and athletic programs and activities.</p> <p>Funds raised by the Foundation augment, but do not replace, the generous support provided by booster clubs, PTOs and other organizations that are so important to our schools.</p> <p>The Foundation's Finance Committee supported and the Foundation Board approved the following grant requests from district staff at their December 11, 2008 meeting:</p> <p><b>Chinese Artist Visitation Program - \$825</b> - The Grosse Pointe Public School System was approached by Chinese documentary filmmaker Xiping Li and Olivia Deng, International Business Coordinator for Wayne County Economic Development, to participate in a documentary about public education in the United States. As part of that project, art classes at Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South were given the opportunity to be part of the series and participate in a cultural exchange with several Chinese artists. These artists have been honored for their craft and provided our students with hands-on instruction in calligraphy and painting.</p> <p><b>Full Circle Upscale Resale - \$2,000</b> – Creating varied work experiences to help prepare students for employment is a key part of</p>
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the life skills curriculum for all students. Our special education students practice these skills in the classroom and community from early elementary years. The Full Circle Upscale Resale program will provide students real jobs and work experience in our schools and community. The foundation grant will provide \$2,000 for start up funding to purchase items such as clothes racks, uniforms for students and clear plastic bins for sorting clothes.

The Board was asked to accept a contribution of \$2,825 for the Chinese Artist Visitation Program and Full Scale Upscale Resale from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education.

**Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Minturn

**THAT the gift from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education for \$825 for the Chinese Art Visitation Program be accepted.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**Moved by:** Trustee Dindoffer

**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the gift from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education for \$2,000 for the Full Circle Upscale Resale Shop be accepted.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

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

Trustee Minturn, who drafted the budget parameters, read highlighted key areas of the report for discussion.

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."* Policy states that the parameters shall:

- A. Identify specific financial goals and objectives that the Board requires in regards to specific cost reduction, revenue increases or other financially related objectives for particular budget elements.
- B. Identify particular budget related strategies that the Board prefers the administration to pursue or avoid in their development of the budget.
- C. Be as specific as possible in terms of the objectives, but allow for flexibility in the administration's approach to budget development.

Unless preventative measures are taken, the district anticipates a 2009-10 budget shortfall of \$6,000,000 under the following assumptions:

- ♦ General Education student enrollment will decrease by approximately 1.5% or 120 students.
- ♦ State Foundation allowance payments will increase by 0.5%.
- ♦ The State established public school employee retirement rate (MPERS) will increase from 16.54% to 18.54%.
- ♦ District employee insurance benefit costs will increase between 5% and 10%.
- ♦ Employee bargaining unit contracts dictate salary increases based on years of service to the district and/or post-graduate credits/degrees earned.

### **General Development Provisions**

The Board recognizes and affirms that the primary function of the Grosse Pointe Public School System is to ensure the educational development of each and every student. The administration is encouraged to bring forth a budget recommendation that places us in the best position to execute on that mission while remaining cognizant of practical and financial realities.

The Board further affirms the importance of maintaining a responsible level of General Fund equity. The Board is unlikely to support a recommendation for the use of Fund Equity that addresses a structural and/or recurring district budget deficit.

The Board strongly encourages the administration to make effective use of the financial reports operationalized over the last three years to identify trends and best practices that can be leveraged to the district's financial benefit. With its completion, the Board also prefers budget projections to utilize the new Budget Modeling Utility.

### **Specific Areas of Focus**

#### *Staffing to Enrollment Level Ratio*

The Board of Education has not authorized an increase of class size since the 2006-7 budget year at which time the General Education student enrollment was 8,645 students with 465.3 General Education



Teacher FTE's. Next year's enrollment projection is 8,193 General Education students – a decrease of 452 students from 2006-7 levels. Currently the district employs 468.4 General Education teacher FTE's. The administration is encouraged to evaluate all areas of staffing that could logically scale to General Education student enrollment. Without falling below the staffing ratios of the 2006-7 budget year, we can expect a large percentage of the projected shortfall to be addressed through this correction.

*Special Education Services*

Similar in concept to General Education related staffing levels, the administration is encouraged to scrutinize the Sources and Uses trends of the district's Special Education services. For the 2007-8 budget year, the district's Special Education student FTE count was 268 with a budget of \$18.9M. In 2008-9 the student FTE count decreased 4.3% to 257 yet the budget increased by 3.9% to \$19.7M. Additionally the Children's Home of Detroit closure should be a factor. The Board would like to receive a recommendation for a combination of revenue enhancement and cost containment that would further reduce the 2009-10 budget year projected shortfall.

*General Operational Cost Efficiencies or Revenue Enhancements*

The Board continues to encourage the administration to identify any and all areas of cost containment, reduction and revenue enhancement that can assist in offsetting the projected 2009-10 budget shortfall. The Board would like to receive a recommendation of cost reductions and/or revenue enhancements distinct from those areas of focus highlighted elsewhere in this resolution. This category should also comprehend actions taken to address the 2008-9 in year shortfall that would carry over to 2009-10.

*Long-Term Financial Solutions*

Until the State of Michigan addresses some of the structural deficiencies of its funding policies, we must anticipate recurring budget shortfalls on the local level. The Board encourages the administration to investigate innovative and long-term solutions that will aid in the district's ability to cope with the financial challenges brought about by the State of Michigan's current means of funding local school districts. In conjunction with the budget process and timing, the administration will submit to the board a proposal or series of proposals that will completely offset the projected deficits in our five year projections.

The Board was asked to approve the 2009-10 Budget Development and Financial Reporting Parameters presented.

**Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Gafa

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh



**Nays:** None

**Motion carried with a 7 - 0 vote.**

**C. Approval of Bids**

**1. Grosse Pointe South Multi-Purpose Room, Student Commons, and Practice Gymnasium**

On December 11, 2008 bids were opened for various sub-trades for the construction of the Multi-Purpose room, Student Commons and Practice Gym at Grosse Pointe South High School. The bids were publicly advertised, opened, and read.

The thirteen trade groups needing approval by the Board of Education are: selective demolition; concrete; masonry; structural steel; general carpentry; roofing; windows and skylights; terrazzo and hard tile; wood flooring; carpet/resilient flooring; painting; mechanical and electrical.

This bid process is a culmination of a significant amount of work and commitment of time by a number of people. The planning for the pool project included the GMB (prior architects), Ehresman and Associates (current architect), central administration, high school administrators, building engineers, teachers, parent volunteers and Grosse Pointe South Preservation volunteers.

The Board was asked to approve by separate action each of the attached bids as recommended by Barton Malow for the Grosse Pointe South Multi-Purpose, Student Commons and Practice Gymnasium project.

**1) It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh  
**Supported by:** Trustee Minturn

**THAT the selective demolition work be awarded to Blue Star Demolition for \$62,000.**

**Ayes:** Trustee Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**2) It was Moved by:** Trustee Dindoffer  
**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the concrete work be awarded to Gemelli Concrete for \$22,130.**

**Ayes:** Trustee Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

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

3) **It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh  
**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the masonry work be awarded to Silverado Construction for \$250,000.**

**Ayes:** Trustee Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

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

4) **It was Moved by:** Trustee Dindoffer  
**Supported by:** Trustee Walsh

**THAT structural steel work be awarded to Dobson Industrial for \$180,230.**

**Ayes:** Trustee Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

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

5) **It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh  
**Supported by:** Trustee Minturn

**THAT the general carpentry work be awarded to B & H Construction for \$393,956.**

**Ayes:** Trustee Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

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

6) **It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh  
**Supported by:** Trustee Minturn

**THAT the roofing work be awarded to JD Chandler Roofing for \$55,760.**

**Ayes:** Trustee Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

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

7) **It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh  
**Supported by:** Trustee Dindoffer

**THAT glazing and skylights work be awarded to IXL Glass for \$99,500.**

**Ayes:** Trustee Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**8) It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the terrazzo and hard tile work be awarded to Boston Tile and Terrazzo for \$43,500.**

**Ayes:** Trustee Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**9) It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the wood flooring work be awarded to Star School Flooring for \$81,360.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**10) It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the carpet and flooring project be awarded to Artistic Installations for \$35,170.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**11) It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the painting projects be awarded to Arrow Research for \$15,900.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

12) **It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh  
**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the mechanical work be awarded to Contract mechanical for \$347,800.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

13) **It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh  
**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the electrical work be awarded to McNulty Electric by \$141,000.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

Trustee Ismail thanked Mr. Fenton, Ehresman and Associates and the parents, staff and students who were involved in the meetings for the projects.

## **2. Grosse Pointe North Window Project**

The base bid for the Grosse Pointe North metal window replacement project includes a removal and replacement of existing windows and metal canopies. The project is funded from the Bond Issue.

The Board is asked to award the bid for the North window replacement project to Designers Mirror & Structural Glass Company for \$314,475.

**Moved by:** Trustee Dindoffer  
**Supported by:** Trustee Steininger

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried with a 7 - 0 vote.**

## **D. Approval of Policy Revisions**

### **1. Board Policy 5200: Attendance**

Policy 5200 addressing student attendance and the guidelines that support its implementation have been in place during the first semester, even as discussion about the attendance guidelines has continued at Board meetings in recent months.

Recently high school administrators met with the Policy Committee to review attendance data and the implementation of the policy.

At the meeting Administrators reported that for both schools, unexcused absences have dramatically increased, as have the number of call-ins from parents excusing their student's absences.

Given these increases the high school administrators have recommended some modifications in the guidelines that will also necessitate several modifications in the attendance policy. These modifications include:

- A re-institution of the "Cap of Ten" practice. If a student has more than three unexcused absences or more than ten excused and unexcused absences for a course, the student may be dropped from that course. The student will not be given an attendance F, as in the past, but will receive no credit for the course, unless he/she elects to take the test-out assessment and passes with a C+ or better.
- Exempt Absences are defined as a special category of Excused Absences that when provided the appropriate documentation, are exempt from being counted under the Cap of Ten rule. Some examples would be documented medical issues, college visits, and funerals.
- Changes in some categories of excused absences such as provisions for college visits, which is opened up to all grades without a specific limit on visits.

Copies of the revised Attendance Policy and Administrative Guidelines were distributed to Board members. The recommended modifications would not alter the Board's philosophy about student attendance but would provide administrators some additional support as they work to keep students in class.

Mr. Warras noted that the changes in the guidelines were not to punish students, but to try to keep them in school.

**Moved by:** Trustee Minturn

**Supported by:** Trustee Walsh

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn and Walsh

**Nays:** Trustee Steininger

**Motion carried with a 6 - 1 vote.**

## **2. Board Policy 5611: Due Process**

Trustee Walsh introduced this proposed policy revision. The policy, which was adopted last fall, is being brought back to the Board with a revision that addresses the issue of a building principal's decision being the final word regarding temporary separation of students for discipline issues. Trustee Walsh reiterated, that from his point of view, the building principal's decision on discipline at this level should be final.

Trustees Ismail, Dindoffer and Steininger were concerned that this policy was being revisited and disagreed with Trustee Walsh. Trustee Dindoffer noted that it never hurts to have a 'second pair of eyes' looking at a decision made when requested and is common in professional services. Mrs. Dindoffer added that the policy as approved earlier in the fall has not warranted additional or excessive hearings. She saw no point in changing the policy at this time.

Trustee Steininger said that the policy voted on in the fall was meant not to circumvent the discipline of the principal, but to allow parents whose children "might" be unjustly accused of something to have the right of appeal. He added that five days out of school for a student "unjustly accused" is too long because it could impact the student's grade for an entire semester. The appeal process was created so that parents could have the right of a 'second set of eyes' to review their child's disciplinary case. Mr. Steininger also said that this policy (as voted on in the fall) has not impacted anyone's ability to discipline a child. Rather, it gives the parents access to a process which every parent deserves as a resident of the community.

Trustee Walsh clarified that his motion does not undo the entire Due Process Rights Policy. It merely eliminates the last sentence of item A, leaving the other elements of the policy in place.

President Kosinski said that the last sentence of the policy that states, "A building principal's decision is final" is a token of the Board's trust and esteem of the people (the Board) hired to do the job and should remain a building level decision. She continued that the Board of Education recognizes the importance of safeguarding a student's Constitutional rights, particularly when subject to the District's disciplinary procedures.

The proposed revision reads as follows:

### **Students subject to temporary separation:**

Except in emergency situations, a student must be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her, a summary of the evidence supporting the charges, and the opportunity to respond prior to the implementation of a temporary separation. When such

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temporary separation has occurred, notice and opportunity to respond shall occur as soon as reasonably possible. The principal or other designated administrator shall provide the student an opportunity to be heard and shall be responsible for making the temporary separation decision. The building principal's decision **is final**.

**Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Minturn

**Ayes:** Trustees Gafa, Kosinski, Minturn and Walsh

**Nays:** Dindoffer, Ismail and Steininger

**Motion carried with a 4 – 3 vote.**

**A. Approval of Human Resources Report for January, 2009**

The Human Resources Report contains the appointment of one classroom assistant and the retirement/resignation/leave of one custodian from South High School. All appointments are replacements or otherwise within 2008-09 budget allocations unless noted.

**B. Approval of Minutes of January 26, 2009**

The minutes of the January 26, 2009 Board meeting will be presented before the next regular meeting of the Board.

**C. Approval of Reinstatement Panel**

Board policy 5611, Due Process, calls for the Board to appoint a Reinstatement Panel composed of two Board members, one administrator, one teacher, and one parent to review a petition for reinstatement of a student following expulsion when such a petition is received during the school year. The Board is asked to approve a Reinstatement Review Panel to serve from February through December, 2009 to handle any requests for reinstatement that are presented. The panel would consist of Board Members, Ahmed Ismail and Joan Dindoffer with Brendan Walsh as the alternate; Administrator Gary Buslepp with Mary McDonald Barrett as the alternate; Ranae Beyerlein as the teacher member and Suzanne Jabara as the alternate; and Terry Murphy as the parent member with Patrick Burke as the alternate.

**D. Approval of Technology Purchases – Section 99 Grant**

Mr. Warras brought forth two recommendations for technology purchases for the Board's approval.

The district is requesting Board authorization to begin spending funds totaling \$168,840.07 from the State's Section 99 Demonstration Grant allocation to begin implementation of our state-approved Technology



Plan at North High School. In addition, to assist in the long-term development and implementation of the plan, the district is also requesting that the services of Barton-Malow be approved at a cost of approximately \$24,000. Following are the details supporting these requests.

Representative Edward Gaffney was successful in bringing additional monies to the district for the purchase of resources to be used for mathematics, science differentiation and technology. The Section 99 grant monies that have been provided through Mr. Gaffney's efforts total \$1,050,000 and will support a number of demonstration projects as well as basic instruction at all levels. Thus far \$30,000 from this grant have been used to fund some of the technology equipment used in the new Robotics and Applied Medical Research and Clinical Investigations courses at the high schools.

The Section 99 grant comes at an opportune time, for these funds allow the district to begin the implementation of the approved Technology Plan earlier than anticipated.

Over the past several months Manager of Technology Steve Woloszyn and Technology Curriculum Specialist Michael Spears have worked with building administrators and teachers, updated the inventory of the district's current technology equipment, surveyed staff members, supported teachers who were willing to pilot various technology applications, and further developed the district's Technology Plan to bring all classrooms up to a new level of technological capacity required in today's schools.

The district's Technology Plan, submitted to the Board in April 2008 and approved by the state in June, offers a cohesive district-wide initiative that will raise all classrooms to a new level of technological capability required in 21st-century schools. The thrust of that plan is to provide all classrooms with a standard of technological capability, depending on the level and subject taught.

Given the size and complexity of this project, the district is recommending that the services of Barton-Malow be used. Paul Twigg, a Barton-Malow consultant, has been involved with similar projects in other school districts. His expertise in K-12 classroom design and educational technology will be very helpful as we develop the implementation and training plans for the installation and use of new technology. The quote from Barton-Malow is \$9,000 for the planning phase and \$16,000 for the project implementation phase for a total of \$25,000. While this work would be specifically focused on the high schools, the impact of that service would be felt at all levels as purchasing and installation begins. This will leave \$995,000 for the acquisition and installation of the classroom equipment.

Tim Bearden and the North High School staff have been leaders in the use of technology and are eager to begin implementation of their portion of the plan. They have piloted technologies, received professional training and developed a long-range plan that over the

next three years will provide state-of-the-art technological capability and increased staff competence to integrate this technology into the instructional process in all classrooms. Work at the other schools in the district is proceeding along similar lines and will lead to additional recommendations to the Board to authorize spending their portion of the Section 99 monies in the next several months. Timely approval of North's part of the project will assist all buildings in the implementation of the total plan.

To assist Board members in better understanding this initiative, a number of documents were prepared for review. These included the following:

- Grant allocation by building based on student count (Attachment 1)
- Equipment recommendations for each level (Attachment 2)
- A description of the equipment to be purchased (Attachment 3)
- A preliminary summary of the allocation of the Section 99 funds. It should be noted that some decisions at the elementary and middle level pertaining to the type and placement of data projectors are still being developed. The important decision whether to install ceiling mounted projectors or wall mounted projectors attached to SMART boards has not yet been determined. (Attachment 4)
- North High School's detailed plan for purchase and allocation of equipment (Attachment 5)
- Tentative 3-year spending plan for technology in the district (Attachment 6)
- Proposal from Barton-Malow for project planning and implementation. (Attachment 7)

One of the requirements for use of the Section 99 monies is that demonstration projects utilizing technology will be developed and shown by district staff to a larger audience. You will note that Reserves have been provided in North's building budget to allow for teachers to file applications for purchase of different technologies, to pilot those technologies and to provide information about the usefulness of the technology.

All of the equipment planned for purchase is available through the State REMC contracts. Since these were bids done at the state level, GPPSS will not need to have a district level bid for this project.

Once orders are placed, it is anticipated that required installation of equipment in the first classrooms will take place over spring vacation with the balance of the installation work to be completed over the summer so that these technologies will be available for use in September, 2009. Training for staff will continue this school year. Additional training will be provided throughout the 2009-10 school year.

While much excitement has been generated in planning the use of Section 99 funds, it should be noted that these monies are not sufficient to fund the entire Technology Plan. Additional resources will be needed in 2009-10 and 2010-11 if this technology initiative is to be fully implemented. Some preliminary projections have been developed that will be revised as more information is acquired. Budget requirements will be more fully explored as the budget process for next year gets underway.

The Board is asked to authorize allocation of \$168,840.07 from the Section 99 grant monies to fund technology purchases at North High School and grant the request to contract with Barton-Malow for consultation services related to the Technology Plan for \$24,240.

#### **E. Approval of Policy on Enrollment of Children of Non-Resident Staff**

Mr. Walsh was asked to introduce the proposed policy on enrollment of children of non-resident staff. Last year the Board asked the administration to explore the option of permitting enrollment in the district of the children of non-resident district staff members and discussed that possibility in several work sessions. The motion was defeated by 4-3 vote on June 23, 2008.

Under the School Aid Act, the foundation allowance received from the State is based on the district's "membership," which consists of "pupils." Generally, "pupils" are resident students, or non-residents the district is required by law to enroll (such as children who live in one district but who have a parent in the district, etc.). There are several limited exceptions to this rule. One of those exceptions is for a student "who is the child of a person who is employed by the district." MCL 388.1606(6)(j). For purposes of this provision, "child" specifically includes an adopted child, a step-child, or a legal ward.

Should the Board enact an amendment to Policy 5111 to permit enrollment in the district of non-resident children of employees, the administration would be asked to issue and enforce the regulations (guidelines) to implement that new policy.

The proposed regulations governing enrollments under this provision would include the following:

1. A provision which permits the enrollment only of children of full-time district employees who are non-residents of the district. The term "children" includes step-children, adopted children and wards.
2. Tuition at a rate based upon the hold harmless millage collected only within the district which would be charged for children enrolled under this provision.

3. Enrollment under this provision must occur prior to the September count date (except that children of employees hired by the district after the September count date may enroll within 14 days of the commencement of their parent's employment).
4. If the parent's employment with the district terminates during the school year but after the September count date, the employee's children will be permitted to complete the school year, subject to payment of the tuition described above. If the parent's employment terminates prior to the September count date, the child's enrollment will terminate at the same time.
5. Enrollment of a child of an employee may be denied on the basis that the child has been suspended or expelled, or has had poor grades, citizenship or attendance, in his or her previous school(s) or district(s).
6. Children of employees will be assigned to particular schools by the Office of Support Services in its discretion. Assignments will be based upon current and projected enrollment and staffing in individual schools, while giving due consideration to the school preferences of the parent.
7. Ordinarily, the child of an employee placed into a particular school will be permitted to remain in that school until he or she has completed the highest grade level at that school. In the discretion of the Office of Support Services, however, the district may require a student enrolled under this provision to change schools for class size or staffing purposes, although such a change will not take place during a school year.

With a new configuration of the Board and with the continued financial pressure placed upon our budget in concert with an added benefit the district could offer our employees, Mr. Walsh presented the resolution for the Board's consideration.

Board members shared their concerns and perspectives on the proposed policy revision. The suggestion was made to postpone the vote on this item until May which will give the community time to respond. Another recommendation was to solicit teacher perspective and interest regarding this proposal.

## **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. Financial Reports**

The monthly report of the variable and semi-variable costs by salaries, fringes, purchase services, and capital outlay was reviewed. Also included were Revenue and Expense reports for the General Fund, School Service Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Sinking Fund and Debt Fund.

For the General, Sinking and Debt Funds, revenue is encumbered for

	<p>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 administration, 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 principal and interest payments. All of the funds are subject to final audit adjustments.</p> <p>The School Services Fund provides for all operating activities of the cafeteria, middle school athletics, high school athletics and club sports.</p> <p>The Capital Projects Fund is used primarily for the construction and repair of buildings and equipment in those buildings. Funds may come from special voted taxes designated for this purpose, by appropriation from the General Fund, long-term borrowing, or by designated gifts and/or contributions.</p> <p>The Sinking Fund is used primarily for repairs and improvements to buildings and grounds.</p>
<b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b>	<p>President Kosinski announced the Work Session and Regular Meetings of the Board for Monday, February 23, 2009 at 6 and 8 p.m. respectively in the North High School Library.</p>
<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS</b>	<p>Mrs. Allison Baker, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke on behalf of the South Mother's Club to encourage the community and South alumni to help the Mother's Club raise funds for technology in the classrooms.</p> <p>Mrs. Amy Muawad, Grosse Pointe, shared her thoughts regarding the proposal to allow children of non-resident staff to attend school in the district.</p> <p>Mr. Kevin Nugent, Grosse Pointe, also spoke on the issue of allowing children of non-resident employees to attend Grosse Pointe Schools.</p> <p>Mr. John Pomaville, Grosse Pointe Park, shared his views on the proposed policy to enroll children of non-resident staff members.</p> <p>Mr. Mike LeVan, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke against the proposed resolution to allow children of non-resident employees to attend the Grosse Pointe School district.</p>
<b>OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT</b>	<p>Trustee Ismail said that he would appreciate hearing from the community and district teachers about the proposal to allow children of non-resident employees to attend the Grosse Pointe School District. He also asked Dr. Klein to supply the Board with information about the Grosse Pointe Park initiative to give incentives to employees of</p>

the district to become new home owners in Grosse Pointe Park. Mr. Ismail welcomed Mrs. Gafa to the Board as well as congratulating the new Board Officers.

Trustee Dindoffer said that the issue just discussed about children of non-resident staff attending school in the district is really just a mathematical issue in terms of staff to pupil ratio which could be adjusted in a number of ways. She welcomed Mrs. Gafa to the Board and congratulated Mr. Kosinski on her position as Board president. Mrs. Dindoffer also thanked Mr. Walsh for his service and role on the Board as past president.

Trustee Steininger thanked those community members who waited through the Board meeting to speak this evening. He added that anyone who wants to attend the Grosse Pointe Schools should make the same sacrifices that others have made and move into the district. He was disappointed that two policies were revisited this evening for vote.

Trustee Walsh reiterated that there were no easy choices regarding the budget issues noting that every choice is a trade-off with no easy way out. He thanked those who made the String Extravaganza possible. Mr. Walsh welcomed new Board member, Judy Gafa.

Trustee Gafa thanked everyone for the warm welcome. She encouraged community members to email the Board to express their concerns or support about any issue and thanked those who waited this evening to speak. She thanked Mr. Johnson, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Bearden and Mr. Buslepp for allowing her and Mrs. Kosinski to tour Pierce and North to observe the new technology being used in schools.

Trustee Minturn thanked residents for their comments and encouraged everyone to stay engaged in the issues. He congratulated Mr. Ismail and Mrs. Gafa on being elected to the Board. He congratulated Mrs. Kosinski on her Board position as President. Mr. Minturn thanked Mr. Walsh for his prior work as President of the Board, noting that the community is better for his leadership and hard work.

Dr. Klein noted middle school parents have been asked for feedback on a survey posted on the district website. She noted kindergarten enrollment banners are displayed across the district, 5<sup>th</sup> graders are going to middle school for orientation, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders going to the high schools for information nights.

Dr. Klein thanked each Board member for their service to the district. She noted two upcoming public forums: Music Forum on February 9, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the Brownell Library and followed by a Grade 4/5 Library Curriculum Forum also in the Brownell Library.

President Kosinski thanked Brendan Walsh for his service to the

<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	<p>Board and the district as Board President. She welcomed teachers and students back to a new semester.</p> <p>There being no further business, President Kosinski adjourned the meeting at 11:14 p.m.</p>
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Board Secretary