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**Grosse Pointe Board of Education**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2009**  
Library, Grosse Pointe North High School  
707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

**MEETING MINUTES**

President Kosinski called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Guest Speaker, Senator Martha Scott.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

**SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT AND  
RECOGNITIONS**

Dr. Klein invited Senator Martha Scott, Board President Alice Kosinski and North Principal Tim Bearden to join her in honoring two Grosse Pointe teachers being recognized as Michigan Teachers of the Year.

**A. Michigan American History Teacher of the Year**

The Daughters of the American Revolution have named North Teacher, Terri Steimer, Teacher of the Year for American History for the State of Michigan. She works in the Social Studies Department at Grosse Pointe North High School.

Dr. Klein noted that the Daughters of the American Revolution provided tremendous support to the school district this year and have given social studies materials to students and staff throughout the district.

**B. Michigan Science Teacher of the Year**

The Board of the Michigan Science Teachers Association has selected North Astronomy Teacher Ardis Herrold as the 2009 High School Science Teacher of the Year. Winners were chosen for using or modeling best practices, inspiring their students, demonstrating innovative teaching strategies, being excellent role models for students and other teachers, demonstrating leadership, and exhibiting a passion for science and for teaching. Awardees will be honored on March 6, 2009 at a Michigan Science Teachers Association conference.

**C. State Budget Update**

Senator Martha Scott was in attendance to discuss education funding, the state budget and the federal stimulus package.

Senator Scott noted that the Governor presented a proposed budget two weeks ago which included severe cuts for education and other services. Although some of the funds in the stimulus package, signed into law by

President Obama, have been earmarked for certain services, the governor and lawmakers will decide how the portion of the allocation for Michigan (not earmarked) will be spent. According to the State Fiscal Agency, education funding can anticipate a package of \$163.5 million for "Education Incentive" grants, \$419.5 million for special education funding, \$24 million for school technology programs and \$3.8 million for teacher quality enhancement. Grosse Pointe Schools should receive over \$3 million in federal stimulus money. The following amounts will be allocated for Grosse Pointe Schools services: \$507,710 for Title I funding; \$2,071,923 for Special Education funding; \$82,895 for education incentive grant funding; and \$1,158,698 for stabilization funding. These funds should help alleviate some of the cuts to education that were proposed in the proposed budget by the governor. Those cuts included a \$59 reduction per pupil in the foundation allowance; a 20% reduction in money for Section 20J schools, and a 20% reduction in funding for Intermediate School Districts. Senator Scott said that she is hopeful that these cuts will no longer be necessary. She encouraged residents to call her office with any questions or concerns. The Board thanked Senator Scott for her visit and the budget information she shared.

#### **D. Residency**

Mr. Fenton then provided the Board an update on residency, first noting that there had been a district-wide re-registration for students in the summer of 2005. Since that time, central office staff has averaged 133 investigations of students yearly, attending district schools. Mr. Arnette Jordan was hired to oversee the enrollment and residency department, in particular, the investigations of students suspected of not living in the district. Residency investigations this year number 111, resulting in 27 students being removed from classes for non-residency issues. Mr. Jordan also reviews housing leases that have expired to make sure that the students living in the home meet the requirements. Mr. Fenton noted that a common misconception is that the student *must* live in the district, when, in fact, one or more of the parents *must* live in the district, not the student. In those situations, however, the residency information is verified. Once it is discovered that a parent legally resides in the district, and the student legitimately attends Grosse Pointe Schools, the investigation is closed on that student.

Mr. Fenton thanked Mr. Jordan for his work on investigations noting that his diligence has resulted in removal of students not meeting residency requirements.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Gafa  
**Supported by:** Trustee Minturn

**THAT the Board approve a resolution, initiated by Trustee Gafa, recommending administration establish a means for students to provide proof of enrollment eligibility at regularly scheduled intervals. The administration is encouraged to be creative and cost effective by taking advantage of other established distributions to institute this procedure and to remain cost effective in this effort.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh  
**Nays:** Trustee Kosinski  
**Motion carried by a 6 – 1 vote.**

#### **E. Human Sexuality Advisory Board Vacancy**

The Grosse Pointe Public School System's Human Sexuality Advisory Board is seeking parent applicants to serve a three-year term on the board. The primary goals of the HSAB are to review and recommend a curriculum to the Board of Education that meets the needs of students, is considerate of community standards, and is consistent with state law, research and best practices. Those interested, may obtain applications at the administration building, 389 St. Clair Avenue, Grosse Pointe or on the district website, [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org). Applications are due March 23. If there are questions, please contact Committee Co-chair Dr. Michael Dib at Brownell Middle School at 313/432-3904.

President Kosinski asked that the Board allow special guests from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education to present next on the agenda.

#### **Approval of Gift from Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education**

Mrs. Cat Ruffner and Mr. John Danaher from the Foundation Board presented the district with a gift from the Edward T. and Ellen Dryer Foundation made in continued support of the school district through the Foundation for Public Education. Mr. Jon Gandelot, President of the Dryer Foundation, spoke on the Dryer Foundation's gift to the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education for the district. Mr. Patrick Burke and Mrs. Lisa Vreede from the Foundation were also present. The Foundation's Finance Committee supported and the Foundation Board recently approved the donation of an additional \$41,000 for the F.A.S.T. reading program in the district. These funds will be used to purchase additional classroom materials and provide more teacher training opportunities.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Dindoffer  
**Supported by:** Trustee Gafa

**Ayes:** Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh  
**Nays:** None  
**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

Dr. Klein and Board members thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education and the Dryer Foundation for their continued support and donations to the school system.

No one came forward to comment.

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

**PUBLIC  
COMMENTS ON  
ACTION ITEMS**

Matthew Shenk, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke in favor of the proposal to allow children of non-resident employees to attend the district schools.

Jennifer Greenwell, Grosse Pointe Park and Bloomfield Hills, spoke against the proposal to permit children of non-resident staff to attend the school district.

Lisa Carmer, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke against the proposal to permit children of non-resident staff to attend Grosse Pointe Public Schools.

Tom Jaknbiac, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke against the proposal to allow non-resident employee's children to attend the school district.

William Rabaut, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his opposition to the proposal to permit non-resident employee's children to attend the school district.

Dennis Cotter, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke against the proposal to enroll children of non-resident employees.

Dean Belisle, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his opposition to the proposal permitting non-resident staff children to attend the school district.

Katherine Barr, Harper Woods, spoke against the enrollment proposal for children of non-resident employees.

Henry Kraus, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke against the enrollment proposal for children of non-resident employees.

Alison Lorkowski, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke against the enrollment proposal for children of non-resident employees.

James Weitzmann, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke against the enrollment proposal for children of non-resident employees.

Mark Davey, Grosse Pointe, spoke against the enrollment proposal for children of non-resident employees.

John Lesha, Grosse Pointe Shores, spoke against the enrollment proposal for children of non-resident employees.

Allison Baker, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke in favor of the proposal to enroll children of non-resident employees.

Michelle Anderson, Grosse Pointe, spoke against the proposal to enroll children of non-resident employees.

**ADDITIONS AND  
DELETIONS**

Contained in the discussion about enrollment of children of non-resident staff, Trustee Dindoffer asked that the following be added: "Mrs. Dindoffer, among others, indicated that her position remained unchanged since she voted against the same proposal last June. She indicated that the proposal would be a disincentive for employees to live in the district and would result in diminished opportunities for students living in the district."

<p><b>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FROM JANUARY 26, 2009</b></p>	<p>The following items were contained in the Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Human Resources Report of January, 2009</li> <li>B. Regular Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2009</li> <li>C. Reinstatement Panel Appointments</li> <li>D. Technology Purchases for North High School from Section 99 Grant</li> </ul> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Trustee Minturn <b>Supported by:</b> Trustee Walsh</p> <p><b>THAT the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented.</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>ACTION ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2009</b></p>	<p><b>A. Approval of Enrollment of Children of Non-Resident Staff</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The proposed regulations governing enrollments under this provision would include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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).</li> <li>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</li> </ol>

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.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Kosinski

**THAT the Board enact an amendment to Policy 5111 to permit enrollment in the district of non-resident children of employees.**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Minturn

**Supported by:** Trustee Gafa

**THAT the *Approval of Enrollment of Children of Non-Resident Staff* be tabled.**

President Kosinski suggested that Trustee Gafa's support of the motion to table be withdrawn.

Mrs. Dindoffer, among others, indicated that her position remained unchanged since she voted against the same proposal last June. She indicated that the proposal would be a disincentive for employees to live in the district and would result in diminished opportunities for students living in the district.

Board members discussed the issues of this item at length also inquiring as to which motion was still on the floor.

District council, Mark McInerney was asked to explain whether discussion could proceed with two motions on the floor. Mr. McInerney stated that the discussion could proceed with a motion to table on the floor.

Trustee Gafa decided to withdraw her support of the motion to table.

**Motion to table the *Approval of Enrollment of Children of Non-Resident Staff* failed for lack of support.**

Board members further discussed the issue before President Kosinski called a roll call vote on the motion to permit the enrollment of children of non-resident staff.

**Ayes:** Trustees Kosinski and Walsh

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

**Motion failed by a 5 – 2 vote.**

## **B. 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. Specifically, 621 states in Section 17: "... a deviation from the original general appropriations Act shall not be made without amending the general appropriations act. The legislative body of a local unit shall amend the general appropriations act as soon as it becomes apparent that a deviation from the original general appropriations act is necessary and the amount of the deviation can be determined." Deviations requested since the budget was amended on November 24, 2008 have been presented as part of the attached General Appropriations Act Amendment No. 2.

The following is a summary of the changes:

### GENERAL FUND

#### Revenue & Sources

State	(\$770,155)	Decrease in State per pupil/lower enrollment
State	(\$127,136)	Decrease in State Categorical funding
State	( \$41,484)	Decrease in State 20J funding
State	\$1,050,000	*Increase in 'Section 99' funding (Section 99)
Other	<u>(\$2,205)</u>	Decrease in Transition Grant
County Grants		
	\$109,020	Increase in Revenue

#### Expenditures

Basic Program	\$1,050,000	*Math/Science Technology
Basic Program	(\$200,000)	Variable expenses
Business	(\$175,000)	Variable expenses
Services		
Support		
Services	<u>(\$400,000)</u>	Variable expenses
	\$275,000	Increase in Expenditures

Reserved Fund	<u>(\$165,980)</u>	Decrease in Reserve Fund Balance 6/30/09
Balance		
Unreserved	<u>\$0</u>	Net effect zero in Unreserved Fund Balance
Fund Balance		6/30/09

\*Totals to Zero

**ACTION ITEMS  
FOR  
MARCH 23, 2009**

The Board was asked to approve the above listed General Appropriations Act Amendment #2 to the General Fund.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Minturn

**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.**

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

The Human Resources Report contains the appointment of one employee in the non-instructional supervisor group and three plant employees; and the retirement or leave of one instructional staff member and one classroom assistant. All appointments are replacements or otherwise within the 2008-09 budget allocations unless noted.

**B. Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2009**

The minutes of the February 23, 2009 Board meeting will be presented before the next regular meeting of the Board.

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

Since 1984 the Board has been expressing its appreciation to citizens who volunteer their time and effort for the programs and activities of the public schools. Prior to the presentation of the engraved golden apples, it is appropriate to recognize and thank this year's volunteer award recipients through the adoption of the resolution provided.

**D. Approval of Textbook – Grade 5 Science**

Changes in the Michigan K-7 Science Content Expectations, and changes in the timing of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade MEAP tests, have caused the district to realign its K-7 curriculum. All elementary level content must now be taught by the end of 4<sup>th</sup> grade and middle school content must be taught by the end of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. As a result, additional middle school content has been moved into 5<sup>th</sup> grade. In order to preserve the hands-on, inquiry-based philosophy which has been highly successful at the elementary level, the district is proposing that Delta Science Kits be used to teach the new middle school content expectations in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

To create a smooth transition from the current curriculum to the newly realigned curriculum, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers have agreed to teach the new middle school content this spring. This will serve as a pilot situation so that the curriculum lessons can be fine-tuned for the next school year.

The total cost of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science Delta Science Module: Plants in Our World will cost \$8,400 for 16 kits at \$525 each kit. The Delta Science



Module: You and Your Body will cost \$6,064 for 16 kits at \$379 per kit. Additional teacher guides cost \$492. The order includes complimentary staff development, complimentary additional readers, four additional complimentary teacher guides and shipping charges which brings the total amount to \$15,704.

Christine Geerer, Cheri Trefny, Pam Liagre, Karen Sullivan and Pat Blazinski were available to answer questions.

### **E. Approval of Curriculum Revisions – K-7 Science**

The district has made revisions and improvements on the curriculum for K-7 Science in response to new Michigan K-7 Science Grade Level Content Expectations released last January.

The grade 8-12 portions of the curriculum were approved by the Board last spring. Since the state expectations for the lower grades were not released until January, the K-7 portion is being brought forth separately. The proposed K-7 Science curriculum is thoroughly aligned with state standards which were developed in accordance with national and international recommendations.

The K-7 Science Curriculum was presented at a public forum on January 15, 2009, approved by the EPLC on January 21<sup>st</sup>, and presented to the Board this evening.

Significant curriculum changes in K-7 Science include one new unit at most grade levels. Current curriculum was reviewed and aligned with the new grade level content expectations, resulting in the dissolution of several units. Because the MEAP testing window for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science has moved from January to October, several of the district's current units had to be moved to an earlier grade level, and two new units were developed: sixth grade *Astronomy* and fifth grade *Living Systems*.

All K-5 units will continue to be taught using either FOSS or Delta science kits, which use inquiry-based experiments and activities along with appropriate reading materials. Elementary committee members also developed an interdisciplinary approach to teaching the environmental content standards that stretches across a student's elementary experience. Each elementary school will celebrate Earth Week in April with school-wide environmental science activities that also incorporate math and social studies standards. Middle school committee members developed and compiled numerous hands-on activities to engage sixth and seventh grade students in their new units as well.

### **F. Approval of Bids**

#### **1. North Asbestos**

#### **2. North "B" Building First Floor Interior Improvements**

Information on these bids will be forwarded to the Board prior to the meeting

<p><b>INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION</b></p>	<p>on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.</p> <p><b>G. Approval of Gift from Defer PTO</b></p> <p>Information on this gift from the Defer PTO will be available prior to the next Board meeting.</p> <p>President Kosinski recommended placing items A) Human Resources Report; D) Grade 5 Science Textbooks; and E) K-7 Science Curriculum Revisions on the consent agenda for the March 23, 2009 board meeting agenda.</p> <p><b>A. Financial Reports</b></p> <p>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.</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 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> <p><b>B. Report on Struggling Learners</b></p> <p>Dr. Allan commented on the Report on Struggling Learners and test scores for the district. She noted that the district is aware of some students whose learning needs are greater than those of the general student population who often don't qualify for special education services. These students need some support to help them to be successful in the general education curriculum. The range of these students is great: some only need a little occasional extra help; some need support in a target area; and there are some they will need support through their entire high school career to be successful. A staff work</p>
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	<p>group was formed a few years ago to plan how to best help these students. This group generated ideas and developed plans and solutions such as: Freshman Academic Success Teams at both North and South; expanded transitions across the K-12 level; Elementary Homework Club (with middle school student volunteers); Reading Specialist Programs at the elementary level; FAST reading support; and additional support classes at the middle and high school level in math and English.</p> <p>Support of the reading program at the elementary level is one of the highest priorities. The secondary literacy support is also important. The district is also considering mandatory 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade summer reading and math workshops for those needing the skills to transition to the high school level. Another idea is to expand summer school options for struggling learners.</p> <p>The blueprint for what is working with struggling learners has been posted on the district website as well as resources for that help.</p>
<b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b>	<p>President Kosinski announced the Work Session and Regular Meetings of the Board for Monday, March 23, 2009 at 6 and 8 p.m. respectively in the North High School Library. The work session will be a budget planning update.</p>
<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS</b>	<p>Allison Baker, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about the upcoming 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Auction for South High School on March 14, 2009. This includes an on-line auction for those who cannot attend on March 14<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>John Smith, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about the comments from previous speakers who said they had not known about the vote this evening on the proposal to enroll children of non-resident employees, noting that information had been discussed at various meetings including PTO Council meetings and Board Observer meetings.</p>
<b>OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT</b>	<p>Trustees Minturn and Gafa had no comment.</p> <p>Trustee Dindoffer thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education for their latest generous donation to the district F.A.S.T. initiative. She also thanked the residents who attended the meeting this evening and expressed their opinions. Mrs. Dindoffer also thanked Rebecca Fannon for organizing a tour last week allowing her to visit Mr. Bill Thompson's and Ms. Sue Howey's classrooms where the technology funded through the Section 99 Technology Grant has been piloted.</p> <p>Trustee Ismail thanked everyone that came to speak on the proposal to enroll children of non-resident staff. He asked that the community "stay in touch and keep the comments coming."</p> <p>Trustee Steininger also thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education as well as all of the residents that attended the meeting this evening, including those that sent emails, about the proposal to enroll children of non-resident staff. He also thanked the Science Committee for</p>

<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p>their presentation.</p> <p>Trustee Walsh said that he hopes people remain engaged in discussions about the budget as tough budget choices continue to be brought to the Board. He encouraged people to stay informed, noting that the budget issue is a very serious one.</p> <p>Dr. Klein thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education. She also highlighted the upcoming Distinguished Volunteer Recognition in April honoring volunteers throughout the district.</p> <p>Dr. Klein mentioned the parenting seminar sponsored by the Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 8 – 12 p.m. in the Grosse Pointe South Auditorium. Pre-registration is required.</p> <p>President Kosinski reminded community members about the election tomorrow in many of the municipalities and encouraged everyone to vote.</p> <p>Mrs. Kosinski noted that she was looking forward to attending the North High School production of “Thoroughly Modern Millie” being presented on March 4, 5 and 6 , next week. The League of Women Voters will be sponsoring a workshop this Friday for students on “Running and Winning” where Dr. Klein will be one of the speakers.</p> <p>There being no further business, President Kosinski adjourned the meeting at 10:52 p.m.</p>
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Board Secretary