

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education****Minutes of the Work Session of May 18, 2009****Library, Grosse Pointe North High School
707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES CALL TO ORDER	<p>President Kosinski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Board members present: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh</p> <p>Also Present: Superintendent Klein; Assistant Superintendents Allan, Harwood and Fenton; Executive Director Warras</p>
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2009-10	<p>President Kosinski reviewed the last discussion regarding the proposed budget for the 2009-10 school year. She noted that remaining areas of concern were the ice time rental for the hockey team and paraprofessional accompanists for the choir program at both high schools. These two areas totaled \$185,000. Since that time, the Board and administration also looked at the 4/5 split classes at Richard and Ferry, identifying them as an additional area of concern. One Board Trustee was also concerned about support of the SAFE Program at Poupard Elementary School. The lack of an enrollment variation account was also a cause of concern. The budget proposal offered this evening from the administration addresses those concerns and how they will be covered. Trustee Walsh also provided a budget spreadsheet showing input for potential areas of savings evaluated up to this point in the process or for action in future budget planning. She hopes that at the end of this meeting there will be agreement for budget approval at the regular meeting on June 22, 2009.</p> <p>She also hopes that discussion this evening will result in a foundation for the beginning of budget planning for 2010-2011.</p> <p>Dr. Klein said that the district is monitoring the final amounts for the district's grants which will provide funding. The stimulus funding remains uncertain as there are no final guidelines on what is appropriate for funding.</p> <p>Mr. Fenton then shared budget alternatives to respond to Board concerns. Mr. Fenton noted budget restorations include the accompanist at North and South for \$96,000; ice time for hockey at \$120,000; and also a staffing reserve of approximately \$93,000. The principals and athletic directors were asked to look at cost savings for athletic transportation (\$20,000) and equipment reductions (\$12,000). High School EPED will be reduced \$20,000 total. Changing the board meeting from the current location at North High School to South because of the cost of air conditioning will also save money. There will be central administration cuts in contractual purchased services, including postponing hiring the special education director, which will save approximately \$158,000. Since the last time the Board met, administration has also looked at a preschool proposal at Barnes that could generate about</p>

\$39,000; centralization of building rentals to bring in some additional revenue; the hockey costs and piano accompanists would be reinstated to .8 FTE at both schools.

Trustee Walsh asked what the total of the costs savings would be. Mr. Fenton said the total would be \$309,039.

Trustee Walsh asked about the impact of 4/5 stacked classes at Richard and Ferry not being required to run on the \$309,000 amount. He asked what the overall savings that the Board is trying to target. Mr. Fenton responded that the additional cuts were sought to address the accompanists at North and South and the ice time knowing that the 4/5 split at Richard and Ferry and the SAFE position at Poupard were addressed. Mr. Fenton added that more cuts were made than necessary to provide a staff reserve of \$92,000. Trustee Walsh noted that that reserve was not a Board directive and should not be listed as a Board request. Mr. Walsh also asked Mr. Harwood how the 4/5 split issue was addressed.

Mr. Harwood said that he worked closely with Mrs. Bur from Kerby and Mr. Fitzpatrick from Trombly looking at student counts and their projections for each class section at the elementary level. He explained the worksheet provided to Board members showing student FTE's projected, the number of sections, and teacher FTE's needed for each grade. He said that there was an FTE that could be used to eliminate the 4/5 splits at Ferry and Richard, but there are still "hot spots" needing attention.

Board members asked questions of Mr. Harwood regarding student and teacher FTE's. Mr. Harwood said that the district has in this year's budget 603.65 teachers; next year's projection includes a reduction of 37.5 teachers. The 74 teachers were laid off to hit that 37.5 mark with some of the teachers being called back. This plan will allow an allocation of 566.15 teachers for next year, with 2.0 FTE extra after this calculation. Multi-age has not been factored in to these calculations.

Mr. Harwood said to plan carefully, the administration needs to go a little deeper in regards to layoff lists and then recall based on enrollment.

Trustee Minturn asked what problems remain with the budget that have not yet been solved now that the Board knows that the 4/5 split is off the table. Mr. Harwood said that the 5th grade enrollment numbers at Trombly are still a problem as well as the multi-age program at Trombly. The other elementary building that has "hot spots" is Monteith. Both middle school and high school are set.

Trustee Minturn said that the Board could say that it has a budget based on the two extra teachers allocated in the budget and the "hot spots" at Trombly and Monteith. He noted that subject to enrollment variations down the road, these issues would need to be revisited.

President Kosinski noted that the high school administrators need to leave soon due to honors awards at their buildings.

Trustee Dindoffer said that allocating staff now can be a concern as student enrollment could change between now and the beginning of the school year. Split classes can work well if the district has smaller classes, but the Board is not in a position right now to know the enrollment next year.

Discussion then moved again to the multi-age class and options.

It was Moved by: Trustee Walsh

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Board reject the recommendation for the 4/5 split at Richard and Ferry in the 2009-10 budget.

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

Nays: Trustee Dindoffer

Motion carried by a 6-1 vote.

Mr. Fenton said that the recommendation from the administration will include: a two-tiered system for athletic fees -- \$115 per student per sport and \$350 for hockey participation; practice time reduced from four times to three times per week for hockey, saving \$20,000; a reduction in transportation to events saving \$20,000; reduction in purchasing athletic equipment, saving \$12,000; reduction in some EPED athletic activities, saving \$20,000; change in location of the Board meetings, saving \$4,000; central office reduction for purchase services contracts, saving \$58,000; postponing hiring the special education central office position, saving more than \$100,000. It is also recommended allocating funds for a preschool program at Barnes will provide a revenue of \$39,000, \$6,000 will come from building rentals, for a total revenue of \$309,000 to reinstate the accompanist at .8 FTE at both high schools and the ice-time for hockey at \$120,000.

It was Moved by: Trustee Minturn

Supported by: Trustee Steininger

THAT the 2.0 paraprofessional choir accompanists at the high schools be restored to their current positions.

Trustee Dindoffer noted that the restoration of these two positions are for the delivery of classroom services, not extra-curricular time.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

Board members then discussed the proposal for ice time for hockey.

Trustee Ismail does not think the ice time issue should be handled as a separate item as it is part of athletics. He said that the \$120,000 could be added back into the athletic budget.

North High School Principal Tim Bearden commented that regardless of which model the Board decides to use, the district would essentially be placing the cost of ice time on other athletes, to a greater or lesser degree depending on the methodology used. Today, the district provides only coaches salaries for athletic budgets. The rest of the athletic budget is made up of ticket fees and gate receipts which cover the difference.

Trustee Minturn said that the district not raise athletic fees this year and agrees with the \$20,000 for ice time.

Trustee Steininger recommends that the ice time be allocated to the athletic budget.

Trustee Walsh said eliminating the choir accompanist and charging for ice time is not a favorable solution. It is unfortunate where one team is pitted against another team as it is a fact that sports have different costs. Since the district is at a net cost of \$1 million for athletics, if only 10% of the coaches could be put on a 1099 basis, that could be a \$15,000 savings. The EPED cost for ticket takers could be reduced or eliminated. A transportation contract has already been renegotiated for a net reduction of \$18,000. He said that if the Board looked at \$120,000 as a target, there are other opportunities rather than looking at ice time. Trustee Walsh concluded that there is an opportunity to reduce the athletic budget without increasing participation fees and is opposed to any solution that increases participation fees. He would like to see a list of the coaches and whether they are employed in the district.

Trustee Steininger is also against a 2-tier fee system for athletics.

Mr. Harwood said that the district has already explored contracting out a portion of the coaches who are not part of the bargaining group and is working with an agency interested in exploring a solution.

It was Moved by: Trustee Ismail

Supported by: Trustee Dindoffer

THAT the Board direct the athletic department to reduce \$120,000 within the athletic budget without raising participation fees or eliminating any currently running program.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

Trustee Minturn asked if there were anything else proposed by the administration that any Board members would like to discuss.

Mr. Minturn asked Mr. Fenton about the proposal to move the board meetings to South. Mr. Fenton responded that from May to October, board meetings would be held at South because the library there can be air

	<p>conditioned without the need to air condition the whole building (as is the case at North) thus providing a cost savings for the district.</p> <p>It was Moved by: Trustee Kosinski Supported by: Trustee Minturn</p> <p>THAT Board meetings from May to October be held at South High School, and Board meetings for the months of November through April be held at North, resulting in a cost savings of \$4,000.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh Nays: None Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</p> <p>Dr. Klein noted that the idea to change the meeting schedule resulting in the \$4,000 cost savings was proposed by South head engineer, Jay Jeffrey.</p> <p>Trustee Minturn asked if there were any other recommendations for the budget.</p> <p>Trustee Walsh said that there needs to be a long term solution for the Special Education Director position. Dr. Klein responded that the study done at WCRESA on ACT 18 Programs funded by county monies is not completed and includes a section on allowable administrative costs. The district will wait to find out what costs the district can claim. Mr. Harwood has been assisting with those responsibilities along with co-directors, Rose Mendola and Sue Banner.</p> <p>President Kosinski asked about special education funding and its impact on layoffs for those teachers. Mr. Harwood explained the special education funding resources available to the district and how they are allocated for teaching staff. With the use of the Preschool federal grant money, the district can retain special education teachers currently teaching in programs for students with autism for next year.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENTS	<p>Rebecca Pappas, shared her thoughts on the multi-age program in the district.</p> <p>Mickey Shield shared her thoughts on hockey ice time.</p> <p>Sarah Glasser commented on the district's multi-age program.</p> <p>Mr. Bruetsch spoke in support of the multi-age program.</p> <p>Mary Trost commented on district decisions regarding grade 4 at Trombly, the arts and athletics.</p> <p>Anne Mills shared her thoughts on the multi-age class as well as other issues</p>

	<p>regarding class size.</p> <p>Pam Montgomery thanked the Board for their decision on the high school accompanists.</p> <p>Laura Huebner commented on the 4/5 split class at Richard as well as shared her support of the arts and athletic programs.</p> <p>Steve Saigh shared his thoughts on cost savings, administrative job sharing, as well as class size.</p> <p>Al DeClerc commented on programs currently handled through the Community Education department, suggesting that the administration of those participation fees be shifted to different clubs.</p> <p>Maggie Miller spoke regarding ice hockey and the fees to participate in that sport.</p> <p>Michelle Konieczny shared her thoughts about the multi-age program for elementary students.</p>
ADJOURNMENT	President Kosinski adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Board Secretary