



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Work Session of June 8, 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 6:50 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, Director Warras</p> |
| ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS | <p>None at this time.</p> |
| UPDATE ON BUDGET PLANNING FOR 2009-2010 | <p>President Kosinski summarized questions about the proposed budget recommendations for the 2009-2010 school year discussed in the Board's previous work session.</p> <p>She asked the administration for an update on these issues of concern noting the Board will then review the revised 2009-2010 budget information and financial reports and advise the administration on any recommendations and concerns so that a final budget can be prepared for Board approval on June 22, 2009.</p> <p>Dr. Klein shared that after meeting with Representative Bledsoe earlier in the day, she learned that the state legislature is developing budget proposals regarding the amount of state aid per pupil for next year. He said that if all went well, there would be a state budget approved prior to the August recess. School budgets must be approved before June 30, while the state budget deadline is September 30.</p> <p>Dr. Klein also said that the administration is closely watching enrollment which is currently about 45 students under projection. From a statewide perspective, enrollment for 2009-10 is projected to decline by 29,000 pupils. Over the next several years, there will continue to be fewer students of school age.</p> <p>The district budget development process has phases that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Phase 1: the Board set parameters for next year's budget based on a \$5.4 million shortfall without adjustments to staffing and expenditures. This anticipated shortfall led to a staffing reduction of 37.5 full-time equivalency of the teaching staff;- Phase 2: early February involved meeting with the district budget council to identify areas for reduction to meet the shortfall;- Phase 3: the projected student counts were reviewed to determine class schedules and staffing; |

- **Phase 4:** March to April, involved reviewing staffing needs, certifications, NCLB, seniority and previous assignments;
- **Phase 5:** the Board acted on the layoff list resolution and notices were given to staff by principals;
- **Phase 6:** in late May, notices of tentative assignments to non-laid off staff for the upcoming year were distributed; and
- **Phase 7:** recalls will be done from the layoffs as decisions are made in regard to class sizes and programming.

Mr. Harwood noted that if all currently projected classes/sections are staffed, all 36 available FTE will be deployed leaving no FTE to allocate for any increase in enrollment or program restoration. Since staffing recalls will occur throughout the summer, student assignments will not be shared until right before school starts. The areas currently being monitored are the multiage at Trombly; kindergarten enrollment; 5th grade enrollment at Maire and Trombly; music at North; and programs for autistic students at Maire, Monteith and South.

Options for the Trombly multiage include: a returning to traditional grade level staffing without the multiage classroom resulting in an FTE of 10.50 in line with current budget parameters; retaining a multiage classroom at Trombly requiring an additional FTE at that building (11.50); combining the current multiage students into a 2nd/3rd grade classroom setting and incorporating all 1st graders into a traditional classroom setting (+1 FTE); or creating a 1/2/3 multiage and 2/3 split and staying at the 10.5 FTE. The administration plans to closely watch Trombly's and Maire's 5th grade enrollment figures.

Mr. Fenton added that the fees for the athletic programs remain the same and there will not be a tiered fee system as discussed at earlier meetings. There will not be a charge to parents for ice hockey time as it will be included in the budget. Full time paraprofessional piano accompanist's positions at the high schools have been reinstated.

Dr. Klein presented proposed budget changes that would reach the budget target for reduction: cutting 37.5 teaching positions; eliminating 10.7 classroom assistants/paraprofessionals; cutting 6.6 central office staffing, decreasing central office administration staffing; athletic cuts totaling \$138,000; cutting \$200,000 in Support Services; and finding \$682,000 in variable cost reductions.

President Kosinski then asked direction from the Board regarding whether the Board wishes to authorize further FTE's for any of the situations that have been presented.

Trustee Dindoffer said that her understanding (of the information presented) was that there was one elementary FTE that has not been slotted for a particular section. The FTE could be used for a multiage classroom, the expanding class sizes for 5th grade at Maire, Trombly or Monteith, or a kindergarten class at Defer. She said that it will not be an easy task to prioritize among all of the competing needs in the buildings, especially when

the Board does not know what the enrollment will be in September or when students actually walk in the school doors.

Mr. Harwood further explained the details of the teacher FTE's currently available and those already filled.

Trustee Walsh said that the proposed budget is based on projections for the 2009-10 fall enrollment of 8,141 general education students. Current enrollment for fall shows only 8,096 students at this time with elementary projections on target but the middle and high schools below what the district is projecting.

Trustee Walsh said that he does not feel that the district will be able to staff every "hot spot" and that not everyone will be happy with the final budget. He said that the district also cannot afford to run small classes any longer.

Trustee Minturn asked about the parent opinion of dual-age classes. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that he would be concerned whether he could get 25 parents to agree to have their children go into a 2/3 split. He would not want to put a student into a split without parent approval.

Trustee Minturn would like a conclusion on the multiage issue this evening.

It was Moved by: Trustee Walsh
Supported by: Trustee Steininger

THAT the Board allocate the available remaining general education FTE to the Trombly multiage classroom for the 2009-10 school year with no guarantees for the following year; that (the Board) direct the administration to pay close attention to class size and enrollment levels in middle school and high school with any eye towards potentially using any available resources to address hot spots that may arise elsewhere.

Trustee Minturn asked if the administration could see if 23 families are interested in a 2/3 split.

Trustee Walsh indicated that his motion did not include that direction.

Trustee Dindoffer asked for a revision to Mr. Walsh's motion which he declined.

Trustee Steininger said that this motion would set the direction and give principals the opportunity to poll their own community to solicit support for the multiage classes in 2010-11.

Trustee Ismail asked Mr. Fitzpatrick if he anticipated any influx into the fifth grade for next year beyond what has already been projected. Mr. Fitzpatrick said he anticipated two fifth grades of 31-31 for next year.

Mr. Harwood said that classroom assistants could be added for "hot spots".

Trustee Ismail asked about non-core classes in the high schools running under 20 students. Dr. Allan noted that most pilot classes are running at full level except for the North medical investigations class which is under 20 students.

President Kosinski asked if there were a way to pay for a centrally controlled FTE that would be specific to a multiage classroom and take that position out of the equation. Dr. Klein responded that the central office administration has looked for monies noting, however, that the total amount needed for a 1.0 FTE has not yet been found.

Trustee Dindoffer said that she agrees that, moving forward, the Board should consider funding the multiage on a central basis. For centrally funded programs the home school does not get funding for staffing for students no longer in their classroom.

President Kosinski said that the question is whether or not the Board wants to commit the last remaining FTE to solve this problem before the end of the meeting.

Trustee Walsh noted that that was the motion on the floor.

Trustee Minturn said that the Board is committing one FTE to one program but is still committed to looking for freeing up more FTE's for other "hot spots".

Trustee Gafa suggested reducing Spanish program in the elementary level.

Trustee Steininger commented that not handling any of the "hot spots" this year paralyzes the rest of the process.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

(Trustee Dindoffer's vote included the caveat that extra resources have been dedicated to Trombly and therefore, in her mind, it is unlikely that there would be additional resources for "hot spots" at Trombly.)

President Kosinski noted that the Board will continue to look at ways to solve other "hot spots" within the district with the parameters already defined by the Board.

Trustee Walsh congratulated the high school Athletic Directors, Carmen Kennedy and Brandon Slone, for their work on the budget in finding ways to cut \$138,000, outline increased revenue possibilities without increasing participation fees, and deliver a budget that was asked for by the Board.

President Kosinski echoed Mr. Walsh's comments and said that the administration now has the ability to produce a finished product that meets

| | |
|---|---|
| | the parameters set by the Board and can be voted on at the Board meeting on June 22, 2009. |
| POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE | <p>Trustee Dindoffer said that the Policy Committee met on May 27, 2009 to review existing Policy 2624, Providing Meaningful Feedback on Student Work with the two high school principals. For the past year, teachers had developed a variety of instruments to provide meaningful feedback in lieu of actually returning test and quizzes. It was felt by the Policy Committee that at least a number of families still felt that their needs were not being met based on the recent survey results. The Policy Committee is recommending therefore, that the Board consider a revision of Policy 2624 entitled <i>Return of Student Work</i>. The policy changes would require that all student assessments be returned to parents upon request except for 100% common assessments across both high schools or across all three middle school and except for final semester assessments. As already exists, all work produced at home would be returned. Even assessments that are exempt from return could be reviewed in the school by the parent and the student. The committee hopes that the Board would consider it and take action on June 22, 2009 so there would be certainty for staff and students before the start of school in the fall. Trustee Dindoffer invited the GPEA and their representatives to provide any comments or observations.</p> |
| DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH PROOF OF RESIDENCY/ ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY | <p>In February, 2009, Board Trustee Gafa brought a resolution for the administration to develop a method for regular system-wide enrollment eligibility verification to be implemented. The Board voted in favor of this resolution.</p> <p>In March, 2009, Mr. Fenton brought a proposal to the Board for random enrollment eligibility checking of 20% of the K-12 households plus all new enrollments. More information was requested and presented in April when the discussion was tabled.</p> <p>In response, Board Trustee Minturn brought a motion in May, 2009, for annual enrollment eligibility verifications to be done by staff at the school building level for which there was not support by the majority of the Board (3-4 vote).</p> <p>President Kosinski said that at the conclusion of the last business meeting in May, 2009, a motion was left unfinished that needs to be resolved. A request was made by the administration to approve the administrative proposal for random testing of a sample of all residencies and re-verification. It was moved and seconded but never voted on.</p> <p>Trustee Dindoffer explained that, if the Board were ready to vote now, there needs to be a motion to take that proposal off the table and bring it onto the floor for discussion and voting. The Board would not be voting on the substance of the motion at this time, just on the removing of the motion from the table.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Steininger and Walsh Nays: Trustees Ismail and Minturn</p> |

Motion carried by a 5 – 2 vote.

The proposal set forth by the administration to do random testing of a sample of all residencies was then open for discussion.

President Kosinski asked if there were a motion to approve administration's recommendation to establish proof of residency through random testing of a sample of all residencies and re-verification.

Trustee Ismail layered a motion on to the administration's recommendation that the Board accept his resolution. It stated: that Mr. Jordan's base of operations be relocated to Grosse Pointe North High School prior to the start of the 2009-10 school year; the administration and Mr. Jordan's office be charged with developing a pilot enrollment eligibility verification program including a regular re-registration to satisfy Mrs. Gafa's original resolution; the administration shall develop this program using one elementary, one middle and one high school as their pilot schools. The statistics provided by Mr. Fenton identify that Poupard Elementary, Parcels Middle and Grosse Pointe North High School are the logical pilot schools and hence they shall be used as the pilot schools to be used in developing a viable annual enrollment eligibility verification methodology; the efforts of Mr. Jordan and his department shall be focused on maintaining their present enrollment eligibility verification efforts as well as on developing an annual enrollment eligibility verification by working in direct concert with the building level administration, staff and parents of the pilot schools; the administration coordinate the efforts as needed to effect a complete re-registration of these three pilot schools to give the administration a base line for their efforts prior to the start of the 2009-10 school year in the most cost efficient manner within the budget suggested by Mr. Fenton for the random enrollment eligibility verification proposal; and the administration provide the Board with a report on these efforts to the Board at the April 2010 Board meeting with their data driven recommendation as to how the enrollment eligibility verification methodology shall be revised for the entire school system.

It was Moved by: Trustee Ismail

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Board approve the above resolution as presented.

Trustee Steininger asked if it was clear that this was a one year pilot program with funds approved if needed. He said that in discussion with Mr. Fenton it is necessary for Mr. Jordan to maintain the district-wide enrollment responsibilities at central office during summer hours. He suggested that Mr. Jordan not be sent to Grosse Pointe North until the school year begins in September and that his office over the summer period be at 389 St. Clair. Once the school year begins, Mr. Jordan can go to the three schools mentioned in the proposal to develop the pilot program for review in April.

Trustee Ismail said that he would have no problem amending his motion in that regard.

Dr. Klein asked Trustee Ismail to clarify if it was his intent that the re-registration for the three schools listed be completed before the start of school. Trustee Ismail replied that, yes, he expected the registration would be completed for those three schools at registration time but prior to the school year starting. Trustee Steininger asked Trustee Ismail if Mr. Jordan would be piloting the program or registering the students at Poupard, Parcels and North this summer. Trustee Ismail said that it was his intention that Mr. Jordan complete the registration and re-verification for students at those three school buildings prior to school starting for the year.

President Kosinski was concerned that the Board was trying to redefine an employee's job at this point in time. She noted that this move may affect Mr. Jordan's ability to complete his duties at central office. Trustee Kosinski was also concerned about taking this type of action on an employee's job at a work session as well as voting on an action without prior community awareness of the Board's proposal or an opportunity for feedback from residents who may be affected by this action.

Trustee Steininger would like feedback from the administration on the viability of the proposal before a vote. He suggested the Board vote on June 22, 2009 at the regular meeting if additional information could be provided before that time. He was also not aware that Mr. Ismail's intention for the proposal was to register students at the three buildings this summer.

Trustee Dindoffer said that she has a concern targeting particular schools. She noted that the district established an enrollment/re-verification program uniformly and consistently across all buildings. Mrs. Dindoffer said that it troubles her to arbitrarily select particular schools and she could not support the proposal to do that.

Trustee Minturn advocates re-verifying every student in every building every year and supports doing the pilot program recommended by Trustee Ismail. Mr. Minturn added that he does not care where Mr. Jordan sits or establishes his office, as long as the three schools noted are responsible for signing up their students which is critical to the residency/re-verification process.

President Kosinski said that the people trained to do this type of re-verification are housed at central office, as the staff in the school buildings are not specifically trained to do detailed residency checks. Mrs. Kosinski agrees with Trustee Dindoffer and is opposed to any methods of implementation which might be questioned. This process needs to be fair and equitable and the proposal presented is not in her opinion.

Trustee Walsh asked those advocating this proposal for its criteria for success of the pilot. Trustee Ismail said that the criteria would be to have the methodology in place so everybody in the system is re-registered and the district uses the most cost efficient way to do that on an annual basis. Trustee Minturn said that an outcome metric can be developed. Trustee Walsh noted that most pilot programs already have one established and

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| | <p>asked what is the data driving this decision.</p> <p>President Kosinski stated that Mr. Jordan is doing a good job working with the process currently in place.</p> <p>It was Moved by: Trustee Dindoffer Supported by: Trustee Kosinski</p> <p>THAT this matter be referred to legal counsel for review.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Kosinski, Steininger and Walsh Nays: Trustees Gafa, Ismail and Minturn</p> <p>Motion to refer to legal counsel carried by a 4 – 3 vote.</p> <p>President Kosinski suggested the Board receive more information regarding this proposal regarding the costs and the viability of implementing the pilot program as presented. She also wanted to acknowledge to the public that the Board does not “do business in the dark” without adequately notifying the public. Trustee Kosinski added that this proposal can be returned to the regular agenda for June 22, 2009.</p> <p>The question arose about the first motion, to which Trustee Dindoffer said to be consistent and to clarify procedurally where the Board is, the first motion is also tabled until after Mr. Ismail’s motion is taken up by the Board on June 22, 2009.</p> <p>It was Moved by: Trustee Dindffer Supported by: Trustee Walsh</p> <p>THAT the original proposal by the administration be tabled until Mr. Ismail’s proposal is taken up by the Board on June 22, 2009.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh Nays: None</p> <p>Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</p> |
| PUBLIC COMMENTS | <p>Tom Jakubiec, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his thoughts on the proposed budget for next year and cost saving ideas as well as residency and enrollment issues.</p> <p>Mark Davids, South High School teacher, spoke on behalf of the South teachers regarding Policy 2624, Return of Student Work, and their opposition to that policy.</p> <p>Kellie McCline, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her thoughts on the residency process and on school supply lists being available in early summer.</p> <p>Rebecca Papas, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke about creating multiage programs in elementary schools in the district.</p> |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| | <p>Cindy Pangborn, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared her thoughts on district budget cuts and proposals for future cost savings.</p> <p>Sarah Dajani-Glasser, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke on issues regarding the multi-age classroom.</p> <p>Wendy Bruetsch, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her thoughts on the multi-age program at Trombly.</p> <p>Tom Bruetsch, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke regarding maintaining and expanding the multi-age program in the school district.</p> <p>Mary Trost, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her thoughts on staffing of teachers at Trombly for the 2009-10 school year.</p> <p>Nancy Nihem, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke on class size in the district.</p> |
| ADJOURNMENT | President Kosinski adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m. |
| RECONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION | <p>It was Moved by: Trustee Walsh Supported by: Trustee Dindoffer</p> <p>THAT the Board reconvene into closed session to discuss negotiations.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn and Walsh Nays: Trustee Steininger Motion carried by a 6 –1 vote.</p> |
| RETURN TO OPEN SESSION | <p>It was Moved by: Trustee Minturn Supported by: Trustee Steininger</p> <p>THAT the Board return to open session at 9:35 p.m.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Ismail, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh Nays: None Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</p> |
| ADJOURNMENT | President Kosinski adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m. |

Board Secretary