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Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 24, 2008
Wicking Library, Grosse Pointe South High School
11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President Walsh called the meeting to order at 8:08 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Kosinski.

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

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT AND
RECOGNITIONS**

Trustee Kosinski welcomed guests to the meeting and proceeded to introduce special guests Chris Wigent, Wayne County RESA Superintendent; Dr. Joan Sergent, Executive Director of the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education; and Barbara Lott, Vice-President of the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education and Superintendent of Brownstown School District. Mr. Wigent said that the purpose of his visit was to honor Dr. Klein who had been selected as the Region 9 Superintendent of the Year by the Michigan Association of School Administrators (Region 9 encompasses Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties). Dr. Sergent and Mrs. Lott congratulated Dr. Klein.

President Walsh congratulated Dr. Klein and presented her with a bouquet of flowers from the Board, thanking her for her dedication to and leadership of the students and staff in the school district.

Dr. Klein thanked everyone for the honor.

A. Distinguished Service Awards Presentation

Vice-President Kosinski then went on to the recognition of the following employees receiving a Distinguished Service Award: Carrie Balderson, Teresa Davidson, Jessica DeWitt, Stephanie Erhard, Julie Foust, Diane Goodwin, Tricia Gout, Cynthia LaRue, Bonnie Middeldorf, Kathryn Murray and Beth Rainholt. Distinguished employee nominators also joined her and Dr. Klein at the podium to recognize those being honored.

President Walsh asked for a brief recess to greet those being honored.

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

<p>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEMS</p> <p>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS</p> <p>ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS</p> <p>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2008</p> <p>ACTION ITEMS FOR DECEMBER 8, 2008</p>	<p>B. Beautification Award – Trombly</p> <p>The Beautification Committee of Grosse Pointe Park recently presented Trombly Elementary School with their Annual Civic Award for efforts in becoming a “Green School”. The committee also recognized the planting of trees on the Trombly property and the median on Essex and labeling the drains around Trombly. Principal Walt Fitzpatrick accepted the Board’s congratulations on behalf of the Trombly staff.</p> <p>C. Board Election Results</p> <p>The Board election on November 4th resulted in the re-election of Mr. Ahmed Ismail and the election of Mrs. Judy Gafa to four-year terms on the Grosse Pointe Board of Education.</p> <p>Board members welcomed the return of Mr. Ismail and the appointment of Judy Gafa to the Board.</p> <p>No one came forward to comment.</p> <p>No one came forward to comment.</p> <p>There were no changes to record.</p> <p>The following items are contained in the Consent Agenda: A. Human Resources Report of October 20, 2008 B. Minutes of October 27, 2008 C. Bid for Parcels Middle School Technology Department Air Conditioning</p> <p>Moved by: Trustee Kosinski Supported by: Trustee Steininger</p> <p>THAT the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Ismail, Kennedy, Kosinski, Minturn, Steininger and Walsh Nays: None Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</p> <p>A. Approval of Human Resources Report of November 19, 2008</p> <p>The Human Resources Report contains the appointments of one office staff member, one plant position, four classroom assistants, and one non-instructional supervisor position. All appointments are</p>
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replacements or within the 2008-09 budget allocations unless otherwise noted.

B. Approval of Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2008

The minutes of November 24, 2008 will be available prior to the next board meeting.

C. Approval of G.A.A.A. #1

Deviations requested since the budget was approved on June 23, 2008 have been presented as part of the attached General Appropriations Act Amendment #1. Isha Smith, Director of Business Operations, addressed the five changes reflected in the report. The adjustments for beginning fund balance reflected the actual fund balance for the 2007-08 school year. The revenue section reflects additional grant monies from Title I Flowthrough Preschool and Early Childhood Grants. The district received additional funding for the grants which offsets expenditures for those grants. Additional tax revenues were received from the tax rate the Board approved in September, 2008 and also from the decrease in enrollment which caused the district's Hold Harmless to go down. The Board approved (at the end of the 2007-08 year), some additional funds for high school instruments, classroom furniture, textbooks, landscaping and also to replace a truck. Lastly, the reclassifications shown reflect the movement of monies from one program to another and has no impact on fund equity.

Board members had an opportunity to ask questions of Mrs. Smith.

D. Approval of Extended Day Kindergarten Program

The fee rate for the 2009-2010 Extended Day Program will be set at \$3,840. The fees will be reduced and credit given on the mid-year payment if the following enrollment levels occur in the fall of 2009. If enrollment is 76 – 80 students, the cost will be \$3,840; if enrollment is 81-85, the cost will be \$3,610; if the enrollment is 86-90, the cost will be \$3,390.

The fees are used to pay the costs of classroom salaries and benefits, and extra supplies for the additional half-day the children are in school in a child care setting. This does not include indirect costs such as heat or lights.

The Board is asked to approve the Extended Day Program rates for the 2009-2010 as presented.

E. Approval of New High School Courses

1. Pictorial Literature: A Comparison of Classical Literature and the Emerging Genre of Graphic Novels

Pictorial literature has existed for many years, but has recently emerged as a serious art form and genre in its own right.

This course will provide an intensive study of the pictorial literature so that students understand formal narrative and theoretical characteristics. Students will also read traditional texts with graphic counterparts and discuss the differences in narrative. The proposed readings for this course have been carefully selected to ensure that they are serious works that deal with important and conceptually complex themes and the works represent a high level of the genre.

The course has been aligned to the State of Michigan content standards for English.

2. Business Finance

This course is focused on building students' knowledge of financial markets, accounting principles, budgets, payroll, stocks and bonds, international banking, credit principles, insurance and data analysis in the context of relevant real life problem solving situations appropriate to the business world.

This course will use guest speakers who have careers in the finance industry and students will develop their technology skills through the use of the Internet and Excel for spreadsheets and graphing. Students will also explore careers in the finance world.

Since the course incorporates substantial amounts of mathematics, it has been approved by the Educational Programs Leadership Council (EPLC) as an option for the fourth year math related course requirement.

3. Theory of Learning

Theory of Learning is an interdisciplinary approach to curriculum that provides students with a deeper understanding of knowledge acquisition and of the underlying nature of diverse disciplines. Although it is modeled after the Theory of Knowledge course taught within the International Baccalaureate Programme, standards for the course are drawn from the existing standards for Advanced Placement courses.

During an initial four week seminar students will study methods of epistemological analysis. They will then rotate through an interdisciplinary study while examining methods of scholarship within the domains of knowledge, concepts, truths and beliefs within

<p>INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION</p>	<p>the core content areas. Students will also have an opportunity to choose a topic of inquiry based on their personal interests, develop a substantive paper and present it to a symposium of Master teachers.</p> <p>Theory of Learning is intended to be a component of the international diploma being developed by the district as part of High School 2.0 initiative.</p> <p>Board members discussed the title of the course suggesting alternatives.</p> <p>F. Approval of Contract with Just5Clicks</p> <p>Just 5 Clicks is a service that the district has used for the past five years that provides outstanding capabilities for warehousing, analyzing and disaggregating student achievement data. Administrators and teachers use Just 5 Clicks to access data on their desktop computers and can view student achievement averages as well as performance of individual students on specific skills. A service of this type is essential in the district's continuing efforts to improve teacher instruction and student learning.</p> <p>Last year Wayne County RESA introduced a data warehousing and analysis service called CLASS A that does much of what Just 5 Clicks currently does for the district. WCRESA has indicated that at the present time there is no additional charge for CLASS A and it does not anticipate an increase in our annual fee to the county for this enhancement. Due to the inception of CLASS A, the district has studied its capabilities and concludes that it has the potential to replace Just 5 Clicks at considerable savings. As the transition is being made to CLASS A there will be a continuing but abbreviated need to work with Just 5 Clicks. It is recommended that the district continue to use the services of Just 5 Clicks through February 2009 at half the annual rate.</p> <p>The Board is asked to approve the contract with Just 5 Clicks for \$30,003 for services through February, 2009. This figure is based on a student population of 8,634 students at a cost of \$3.475 per student, which is half the annual rate.</p> <p>A. Financial Reports</p> <p>President Walsh asked that the Audit Report be reviewed prior to the financial reports. Dr. Klein asked Mrs. Isha Smith, Director of Business Operations, to begin the discussion with representatives from BDO Seidman, Doug Huevera, partner with the group, and senior manager, Christy Vandermolen, who oversaw the audit. Ms. Vandermolen thanked the Board for the opportunity to present an overview of the audit as well as Chris Fenton and Isha Smith for their hard work and cooperation in the audit process. She noted that all</p>
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reports were within compliance.

Mr. Huevera also gave the school district a high rating on the audit report, especially regarding the district's debt level and fund equity standing. He noted it was an unqualified audit.

Trustee Minturn noted that the district added \$2 million to the fund equity this year.

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 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.

The School Services Fund provides for all operating activities of the cafeteria, middle school athletics, high school athletics and club sports.

The Sinking Fund is used primarily for repairs and improvements to buildings and grounds. These funds come from a specially voted millage (1.0 mill for 6 years) that was approved by the Grosse Pointe Public School System district voters on March 16, 2004.

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.

An energy bond in the amount of \$7.3 million for 15 years was approved by the Board of Education in January 2001. The bond is being used to improve heating and ventilation, replace doors and windows, and install energy management systems.

A \$62 million bond was approved by voters in September 2002. The bond is being used to pay for various projects and improvements such as middle and high school science labs, athletic fields, and facilities, and fine and performing arts facilities throughout the district.

<p>FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS</p> <p>OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT</p>	<p>B. Policy Committee Update</p> <p>Additional discussion of proposed regulations for board policies will continue at a work session on December 8, 2008.</p> <p>President Walsh announced the Work Session and Regular Meetings of the Board on Monday, December 8, 2008 at 6 and 8 p.m. respectively in the South High School Library.</p> <p>No one came forward to comment at this time.</p> <p>Trustee Ismail welcomed Mrs. Gafa to the school board. He thanked the residents that re-elected him to another four-year board term as well as those who wished him well during his recent hospital stay.</p> <p>Trustee Dindoffer congratulated Mr. Ismail and Mrs. Gafa on their election to four year board terms. She also congratulated all of the staff who received recognition as distinguished employees. She said she is excited about the new student courses being reviewed this evening. Mrs. Dindoffer also thanked Mrs. Isha Smith and BDO Seidman representatives for the unqualified audit just received for the district. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!</p> <p>Trustee Steininger congratulated Mr. Ismail and Mrs. Gafa for their board elections. He thanked the staff members honored this evening for their service to students in the district.</p> <p>Trustee Kosinski echoed congratulations to Mr. Ismail and Mrs. Gafa, as well as to Dr. Klein on her award and the distinguished employees recognized. She also congratulated the Pointe Players for their extraordinary performance over the weekend.</p> <p>Trustee Minturn had no comment.</p> <p>Trustee Kennedy also congratulated Mrs. Gafa and Mr. Ismail. She commented on the Fall Follies performance she attended two weeks ago, noting it was the best Fall Follies she had ever attended. She also attended Pops and Pastries which was also the best she had every attended. She congratulated all of the students that made them so wonderful.</p> <p>Dr. Klein said that the South High School Tower Newspaper staff attended a Regional Conference in St. Louis and came away with a prestigious award as First Place in Best in Show which means the school newspaper is one of the best in the nation.</p> <p>At South High School there have been a series of open swims for the</p>
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<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>community in the new pool which will continue on Sundays through December 14.</p> <p>The annual Christmas Holiday Concert will be on Wednesday, December 3rd at North High School in the Performing Arts Center at 1 p.m. She welcomed all who wished to attend.</p> <p>Dr. Klein also congratulated those students who were recently inducted into the Junior National Honor Society at Parcels Middle School. She noted that 87 7th and 8th graders received this prestigious honor and became the first Parcels students to participate in this new tradition.</p> <p>President Walsh congratulated the North Girl's volleyball team on their recent win. He also echoed other congratulations to Mr. Ismail, Mrs. Gafa, and to Dr. Klein on her distinguished award.</p> <p>There being no further business, President Walsh adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m.</p>
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Board Secretary