



V. B.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 27, 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 8:01 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Steininger.

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

**Absent:** Trustee Kennedy

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT AND  
RECOGNITIONS**

**A. Recognitions**

Dr. Klein asked President Walsh to join her in recognizing North and South's award winners. Principals Diver and Bearden also joined Dr. Klein to extend their congratulations and distribute certificates of honor to the following students:

**1. National Merit Scholars and Commended Students**  
***2009 National Merit Semi-finalists***

***2009 National Merit Commended students:*** Michael Matula from North, and Hannah Domin, David Krueger, Taylor Pratt, James Relich, Kyle Safran, Emily Schweissinger and Marybeth Train from South.

***2009 National Merit Semi-finalists:*** Jamie Ding, Maxwell Hunt and Matheus Simoes from North, and Emma Brush, Elizabeth Olson and John Sullivan from South.

***2009 National Achievement Scholarship as part of the National Merit Program students:*** Jasmyrn Samroo and Sarah Siwak from South.

***2008-09 Finalist in the National Hispanic Recognition Program,*** Matheus Simoes from North.

**2. North High School Yearbook Staff**

North Valhalla yearbook staff received the Gold Medalist Certificate from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association; First Class with one mark of distinction (design) from the National Scholastic Press

Association; First Place with Special Merit from the American Scholastic Press Association; and a Gold Medal from the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association: Shari Adwers (teacher), Raquel Burchett, Lauren Gilezan, Amanda Josefiak, Leah Maniaci and Caitlin Morath from North were honored.

### **3. Advanced Placement Scholars**

***Advanced Placement Scholars:*** Mark Balle, Paul Chabot, Raheeb Hasan, Jonathan Howlett, Maxwell Hunt, Samantha Matthew, Erin O'Keefe, Benjamin Schneedecker, Paul Schreiber, Stepahnie Schucker, Coleen Victor, and Chau Wong from North, and William Angell, Charlotte Berschback, Michael Cimmarrusti, John Davies, Daniel Dickson, Celeste Elsey, Meryl Ethridge, Robert Feller, Chelsea Gilbert, Evan Grunberger, Jane Harness, Sara Hess, Elizabeth Hyde, Lauren Jacob, Linnea Jimison, Fares Ksebat, Anna Liang, Pilar Mackey, Ellen Muniga, Elizabeth Olson, Gregory Papas, Molly Pertuso, Jana Peters, Taylor Pratt, Myah Ray, Chelsea Semmler and Andrew Simon from South.

***Advanced Placement Scholars with Honor:*** Matheus Simoes, David Ulmer and Amy Veltri from North; and Christopher Clement, Rian Dawson, Kendall Effinger, Dylan Glenn, Jasmyn Samaroo, Sarah Siwak and Marybeth Train from South.

***Advanced Placement Scholars with Distinction:*** Andrew Charnesky, Jamie Ding and Matthew Vengalil from North, and Lyle Baumgarten, Daisy Bledsoe-Herring, Joshua Creighton, David Dombrowski and Ivan Moshchuk from South.

The ***National Advanced Placement Scholar Award*** was given to Jamie Ding from North.

### **4. Presentation to Al Diver – Principal of the Year**

Mark Olson, representing the MET Life Company, recognized Mr. Al Diver with a certificate for Michigan High School Principal of the Year. Mr. Diver was recently recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. honoring the High School Principal of the Year from each state.

Dr. Klein then introduced Xinping Li, filmmaker from China; Giacomo Forte, Ms. Li's translator; and Tu Wei, the cameraman for the group. Ms. Li, who is visiting from China, is filming a documentary about education in the United States and is featuring the Grosse Pointe Public School System in the film.

### **B. District Website Update**

This update and recognition was done later in the meeting.

	<p>Dr. Klein noted that Pierce Middle School had their fall induction of students who have been selected to be part of the National Junior Honor Society. This is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a middle school student. New Honor Society chapters will soon be chartered at Parcels and Brownell Middle Schools.</p> <p>Also of note, Dr. Klein said that North's play, "You Can't Take It With You" was a wonderful treat for all that attended.</p> <p>The community is invited to attend the many plays and concerts before the holidays to witness the artistic talents of the district's students.</p> <p>South's production of "Les Miserables", performed last winter, was recently listed by Showstoppers in the U.S.A. Today Weekend magazine for honorable mention as best musical performance in the state.</p> <p>School birthdays being celebrated with special activities are Brownell for 50 years, Parcels, 60 years, and Mason which is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.</p> <p>North High School just completed two successful Challenge Day workshops for 200 students who participated in a series of activities on creating a positive school environment.</p> <p>The district recently held the first of several informational evening meetings for parents regarding the elementary mathematics curriculum and instructional materials.</p>
<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEMS</b>	No one came forward to comment.
<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS</b>	No one came forward to comment.
<b>ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS</b>	There were no changes to record.
<b>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FROM SEPTEMBER 22, 2008</b>	<p>The following items are contained in the Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Revised Human Resources Report of September 15, 2008</li> <li>B. Regular Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes of September 22, 2008 and Closed Session Minutes of June 9, 2008</li> <li>C. Sixth Grade Honors Core Title</li> <li>D. Bids for Fire Alarms at Maire, Mason, Trombly, and Parcels, and Bid for Kerby Air Conditioning</li> </ul> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Trustee Dindoffer  <b>Supported by:</b> Trustee Minturn</p>

**REGULAR  
AGENDA ITEMS FOR  
OCTOBER 27, 2008**

**THAT the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Trustee Kennedy

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**A. Approval of Annual District Goals**

The Grosse Pointe Public school system serves approximately 8,700 students in nine elementary buildings, three middle schools, two high schools, and an Early Childhood Center at Barnes. The district offers a rigorous and comprehensive K-12 curriculum and a full range of special education services. The educational philosophy of helping every student achieve at his or her highest level is embodied in the district's practice of differentiated instruction. This "no walls, no ceilings" approach enables students to explore topics of personal interest and to move forward based on their own progress. District staff are focused on achieving the mission to provide the highest standards of instruction and learning in every class, every day so that each student is challenged to fully develop individual abilities, skills and character to succeed in life.

Developing goals provides a structure to improve the quality of education for students in the school district. The district has established goals through the Strategic Plan, the school improvement and the accreditation processes, the initiatives of the Educational Programs Leadership Council (EPLC), Community Education and a variety of partnerships.

The goals and initiatives presented comprise important priorities for 2008-09 on which the administration and teachers will be concentrating efforts and resources. Specific activities are noted under each to provide more detail on what will be done to achieve each of the goals. Taken together, administration believes that the goals will enable the district to provide the best opportunities for students to achieve a high level of proficiency in all academic areas, explore other areas of interest and talent as well as prepare for the challenges they will find as they move beyond their enrollment in the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Goal #1: As a result of challenging educational programs, high student achievement and outstanding opportunities available for all its students, the Grosse Pointe Public School System is considered the state's premier school district.

Goal #2: A highly competent staff, committed to the highest standard of excellence, creates a positive learning environment for all students.

Goal #3: Technology is effectively integrated to support the work of

students and staff so that learning results improve and productivity is enhanced.

Goal #4: The district's communication initiatives keep residents well informed, enhance community partnerships and attract new families to the district.

Goal #5: The district acts as a wise steward of its financial assets by following guiding principles to determine funding, controlling costs and maximizing the benefits received from its assets to support and enhance the instructional program and successfully cultivating new sources of revenue.

Accomplishing these goals will require the best efforts of all stakeholders and fulfill the vision and mission of the Strategic Plan for the district's students and community. Regularly scheduled reviews will ensure that these goals are met and the district continues to respond to the opportunities and challenges presented.

The Board is asked to approve the district goals presented for the 2008-09 school year.

**Moved by:** Trustee Minturn

**Supported by:** Trustee Kosinski

**THAT the Board approve the District Goals for 2008-09 as presented.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Trustee Kennedy

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

#### **B. Approval of School Improvement Plans for 2008-09**

Each elementary, middle and high school has developed a school improvement plan which sets goals and provides a structure to improve the quality of education for students in that school.

The goals and initiatives described in the school improvement plan summaries comprise important priorities for 2008-09 on which the schools will be concentrating efforts and resources. Specific goals are noted in each school's plan which provides more detail. Taken together, the district and school improvement goals will enable students to achieve a high level of proficiency in all academic areas, explore other areas of interest and talent as well as prepare for the challenges they will find as they move beyond their enrollment in the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

The Board is asked to approve the school improvement plans for the 2008-09 school year.

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

**THAT the Board approve the School Improvement Plans for 2008-09.**

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

**Nays:** None **Absent:** Trustee Kennedy

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**C. Approval of Modifications to Bank Line of Credit Borrowing**

Mr. Fenton presented a resolution amending the maximum rate to 18% for the line of credit for the school district. In June when the credit line was adopted, variable rates for this type of credit would have been under 2% and a 7% cap to provide room for movement. With the implosion of the financial markets, interest rates have risen dramatically. For variable rate instruments, which lines of credit usually are, 7% does not provide enough cushion for the banks for variable rates. The volatility of the markets means that banks do not want to take the risk that the cap will be too low. Amanda Van Dusen, bond counsel from Miller Canfield, is recommending that the resolution provided be adopted to amend the maximum rate to 18% which is the maximum under the Revised Municipal Finance Act. Since administration will need to close on the line before November 12<sup>th</sup>, the administration is requesting that the Board approve the amendment to the bank line of credit borrowing to facilitate the borrowing through the line of credit for the district.

**Moved by:** Trustee Steininger  
**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the Board approve modifications to the bank line of credit borrowing.**

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

**Nays:** None **Absent:** Trustee Kennedy

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR  
NOVEMBER 24, 2008**

**A. Approval of Gift from General Motors**

Dr. Delf Dodge from General Motors spoke about the inception of the Robotics team in the Grosse Pointe Schools as well as General Motors goal to continue as part of that program in the district. Among General Motors' commitments to innovation, is active support of science and technology education. Founded on the principle that we



get what we celebrate, FIRST Robotics (**F**or **I**nspiration and **R**ecognition of **S**cience and **T**echnology) inspires young people's interest in science by engaging them in corporate mentor based programs that build science, engineering and life skills through participation in the excitement of annual engineering competitions with the energy and enthusiasm of varsity sports. After a kickoff event in early January each year, teams have six weeks to design, engineer and fabricate a robot to meet the year's challenge, then meet at regional events with teams from around the world for friendly competition. In 2007, General Motors supported 67 FIRST Robotics teams, over 500 FIRST Lego League teams (**FIRST** for middle school students), several regional competitions and the FIRST World Championship.

To date, six alumni of Grosse Pointe's *gearheads* robotics team have earned university scholarships as a result of their participation while many more students have seen a range of academic and career options they never knew existed. *Gearhead* alums are pursuing degrees in such varying scientific fields as materials science, medicine, automotive design, and atmospheric engineering.

General Motors Research is proud to sponsor *the gearheads* this year, as it has the five previous years, for a total of over \$150,000 in cash support, over \$10,000 in equipment donations (mill, lathes, hand tools, chemical glassware, etc.) and countless volunteer hours from the GM engineers who mentor the team throughout the school year.

The Board was asked to accept a contribution of \$30,000 from General Motors Research to support Grosse Pointe South and North's FIRST team #1189, *the gearheads*, for the 2008-09 competition seasons.

**Moved by:** Trustee Dindoffer

**Supported by:** Trustee Steininger

**THAT the Board accept a gift of \$30,000 from General Motors Research to support *the gearheads* for 2008-09.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Trustee Kennedy

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

#### **B. Approval of Human Resources Report of October 20, 2008**

The Human Resources Report contains the appointments of one instructional staff member, three plant positions, and nine classroom assistants; the retirement, resignation or leave of one non instructional supervisor and two classroom assistants. All appointments are replacements or otherwise within the 2008-09

budget allocations unless otherwise noted.

### **C. Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2008**

The minutes of October 27, 2008 will be available prior to the next board meeting.

### **D. Approval of Bids**

#### **1. Parcels Middle School Technology Department Air Conditioning**

In late October, bids were received for air conditioning improvements in the Technology Department at Parcels Middle School.

This project will provide additional air conditioning, humidification and dehumidification to the technology server room at Parcels Middle School. It will also provide “free” cooling during the winter months using the economizer feature. The equipment is designed to protect the district wide expanded computer and telephone networks.

This project will be funding from the sinking fund.

The Board is asked to award the contract for the Parcels Middle School Technology HVAC project to Denny’s Heating, Cooling & Refrigeration Services, Inc. for \$56,500.

Dr. Klein then returned to the update of the new school district website being unveiled online to the community this week. She introduced Rebecca Fannon (Community Relations Coordinator), Mary Kilimas and Garrett Kelly (from the Technology Department) who worked to make the new website design a reality. Board Trustee Alice Kosinski described some of the features of the new website design and Mary Kilimas further described those features. Board members thanked all three staff members for their accomplishment and service to the district.

## **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. Financial Report**

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,



<p><b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b></p>	<p>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>President Walsh announced the Regular Meeting of the Board on Monday, November 24, 2008 at 8 p.m. in the South High School Library.</p>
<p><b>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS</b></p>	<p>Tim Cardy, custodial union president, spoke in support of board candidates Judy Gafa and Darryl Miller in the upcoming election.</p> <p>Lori Ann Richard, Grosse Pointe Farms, shared her thoughts on the recent letter written to the Board and district principals by Mr. Walsh.</p> <p>Kevin Krease, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke about the upcoming election.</p> <p>Chandra Elskins, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke in support of Ahmed Ismail for a board seat in the upcoming election.</p> <p>Steven Gualtieri, Grosse Pointe, shared his views on board member behavior and district policy.</p> <p>Richard Shettler, Mason Elementary School Boy Scout, shared the history, goals and structure of Boy Scouts.</p> <p>Chris Lucander, District Representative for the Boy Scouts, also shared that the philosophy and goal of scouting was to help the community, which includes the school district, whenever possible.</p> <p>Al Diver, South High School Principal, read a letter recently sent to the Board of Education by Mark Mulholland, Parcels Middle School Principal. Mr. Diver spoke on behalf of district principals, many of whom were present, in support of the communication from Mr. Mulholland regarding the recent revision to the due process hearing requirements for students separated for more than two school days.</p> <p>Members of the Board engaged in conversation with Mr. Diver regarding the issue.</p>
<p><b>OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT</b></p>	<p>Trustee Ismail reminded the community to vote on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> for two candidates who will serve 4 year terms. He thanked the administration for their hard work and support over the last four years he served on the Board and read his thoughts regarding his role as a board member.</p>

Trustee Steininger commented on the Boy Scout leader and student in attendance noting that, he had been a scout in Troop 34 as a youth.

Trustee Steininger then commented on a letter authored by the Grosse Pointe Board of Education President that was forwarded in an email. He said that he would be petitioning the Secretary of State for a declaratory ruling of a possible violation of Section 57 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

Trustee Kosinski congratulated the Brownell Middle School for a terrific tag sale and tin can auction. She then spoke on the aforementioned letter distributed to Board members. Trustee Kosinski went on to refute an allegation made on a televised Board candidate forum regarding the reversal of a long-standing Board ByLaw to allow a certain candidate to run for the Board. Mrs. Kosinski stated strongly that there was no reversal of any Board Bylaw, nor any intent by the policy committee to change the policies of the district. The manual and the bylaws were reviewed and approved by the entire board with the exception of one board member who was absent for both meetings. She asked that the community bear this fact in mind when they vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Minturn congratulated the student scholars honored this evening, Mr. Diver on his award as Michigan Principal of the Year and Dr. Dodge from General Motors. He congratulated the four community members who were running for seats on the Grosse Pointe Board of Education and thanked them for their support of the school district. He encouraged everyone to vote on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Minturn commented that he enjoyed North's play, "You Can't Take It With You" in which his daughter was a lead actor.

Trustee Dindoffer thanked Mr. Shettler and his son for attending the meeting in support of the Boy Scouts. She congratulated all of the students honored this evening along with Mr. Diver and his achievement. She also encouraged the community to vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>, noting that the League of Women's Voters candidate forum is available on the school district website podcast.

Trustee Dindoffer also addressed the amendment to the Due Process Policy 5611. She commented on the letter received from Parcels Principal, Mark Mulholland in which it was stated that the decision to amend the due process policy was viewed by the principals as a lack of trust by the Board. Trustee Dindoffer said that this should not be the thought taken, but instead, that the amendment to the policy strengthens, rather than diminishes. She said she was distressed that the President of the Board would write a letter confirming that those Board members voting for the amendment lacked confidence in the building principals.

Dr. Klein announced that many residents have driven by inquiring

<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p>about future open house dates to view the new John and Marlene Boll Athletic Center at South High School. Dr. Klein said that on November 2, 9 and 23 from noon to 4 p.m. there will be free open swim dates for community members to tour the facility and swim if they would like. She also noted a program of interest for college bound students and their parents at North High School on November 19<sup>th</sup>. At the end of November, there will be a special program for soon to be kindergarten parents co-sponsored by the Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods at the Barnes Early Childhood Center.</p> <p>President Walsh then commented on his recent letter with an apology to Mr. Cornwall. He noted that the current Board is a strong one with members who are passionate about what they believe in and vowed to promote greater degrees of trust with the administration and the Board. Apologizing again to those he may have offended, he said he looks forward to the Board healing and moving forward. Mr. Walsh encouraged the community to vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>There being no further business, President Walsh adjourned the meeting at 10:11 p.m.</p>
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Board Secretary