



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 26, 2011
Wicking Library, South High School
11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

MEETING MINUTES	President Steininger called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER	<p>The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Minturn.</p> <p>Board members present: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh</p> <p>Also Present: Superintendent Klein; Assistant Superintendents Beels, Fenton and Harwood; and Executive Director Warras</p>
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT	<p>South Girls' Track Team, Division I State Champions President Steininger and Dr. Klein recognized the South Girls' Track Team, Division I State Champions and their coaches: Coach Zaranek, Assistant Coaches Leo Lamberti, Mike Novak, Theresa Schaible, and Shawn McNamara; girls' team, Sydney Burke, Carmen Engel, Natalie Gay, Emily Jackman, Madison Kaiser, Haley Meier, Hannah Meier (# 1 ranked sophomore distance runner in the country and holder of 8 school records), Marissa Monforton, Caitlin Moore, Lily Pendy, Mia Perkins, Aubryn Samaroo and Veronica Schacht.</p> <p>PA 25 Report Ms. Beels reviewed the district's annual PA 25 report for the Board and community. She noted that the reports are online at www.gpschools.org. All schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and earned an A of their Michigan report card for the 2010-11 school year. Parent participation was at 91%. Nine high school students participated in dual enrollment. The completion/graduation rate was 96%. Each building across the district has prepared their PA 25 Report to share with parents and all are posted on the district website.</p> <p>Ms. Beels then presented the district's test scores for MEAP, NWEA and Grosse Pointe Writing, MEAP, MME, ACT, SAT, and AP. School Improvement Plans will be discussed at the October Board meeting.</p> <p>Other News Dr. Klein said that last Friday evening the North/South football game was held as well as other exciting events to celebrate the district's 90th year. The Chamber of Commerce sponsored a Taste Fest of local eateries. A team of local photographers volunteered their time to capture "A Day in the Life of the Grosse Pointe Public School System" with pictures of students navigating their school day. These photos will be used in a district photo book that will be published and available shortly after Thanksgiving. Dr. Klein then thanked the photographers that participated in the event: Christine Crossley, Gary Duncan, John Greilick, Maryann Ismail, Dana Kaiser, Renee Landuyt, John F. Martin, Bill and Mary Scott, Sheila Springsteen, Cat Ruffner, Lisa Vreede, Brian Widdis and Kathy Widdis, assisted by Bob Schomer, who provided a cherry picker to capture photos of the North-South game. Thanks are also extended to the Chamber of Commerce; district PTO and booster groups; The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education; parent volunteers; and a number of staff and students who helped to tell the district's collective story.</p> <p>Dr. Klein then shared news on the proposed School of Choice Legislation, SB 624 which she noted, has been written about in the community's <i>Grosse Pointe News</i>. With active discussion occurring in the Senate Committee in Lansing, attendance has included various community and Board of Education members joining Dr. Klein at those hearings. Letters of opposition from community residents and the district's municipalities have been shared and forwarded to the</p>

	<p>Senate Education Committee. Cross-district enrollment currently is a matter of choice made by local school districts. She encouraged those interested to read more on the school district's website. Dr. Klein added that she and Mrs. Gafa will be attending the next session to speak at the hearing.</p> <p>The Grosse Pointe Foundation is hosting an evening of music featuring Jeff Fish on Saturday, October 8, 2011. Tickets are available from the Foundation office at 389 St. Clair.</p> <p>This Friday is the first school play of the year at North High School. Dr. Klein welcomed all to attend and enjoy this school production.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS	<p>Allan King, Assistant Principal of Parcels Middle School, spoke regarding Mrs. Gafa's proposal to restore the clerical staffing that was either cut back or eliminated.</p> <p>Brook Bertolini shared her thoughts on the Maire clerical staff and the need to reinstate those positions to their original status.</p> <p>Sheryl Hogan, President of the Clerical Bargaining Unit, encouraged the Board to restore all of the clerical cuts made in 2010.</p>
AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 2011	<p>A. Approval of Human Resources Report for September 26, 2011</p> <p>The Human Resources Report contained the appointments of twenty instructional staff members (seven from recall status), three plant personnel, and eleven classroom assistants; and the retirement, resignation or leave of absence of two instructional staff, one plant employee and one classroom assistant. All appointments are replacements or otherwise within the 2011-12 budget allocations unless noted.</p> <p>Mr. Harwood also shared information contained in an addendum provided to the Board that proposes a reduction in the technology staff as a result of the Board approved proposal for a decrease in the number of staff in the technology department.</p> <p>It was Moved by: Trustee Walsh Supported by: Trustee Minturn</p> <p>THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report as presented.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh Nays: None Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</p> <p>B. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of August 11, 2011 and the Closed Session, Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2011</p> <p>The Board was asked to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 11, 2011, the Closed Session, Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2011 as presented.</p> <p>It was Moved by: Trustee Walsh Supported by: Trustee Jakubiec</p> <p>THAT the Board approve the minutes of Special Meeting of August 11, 2011, the Closed Session, Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2011 as presented.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh Nays: None Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.</p>

C. Approval of Tax Levy for 2011-12

Taxes continue to go down, and in real dollars, tax revenue is 25% less than the high-water mark of 2004.

Since Proposal A, local districts are almost exclusively dependent upon state funding which is based on student enrollment. The resolution provided approving the 2011 tax rates has been prepared for the Board's review. A truth in taxation hearing was not necessary since operating tax revenue has decreased for 2011.

TAX LEVY

	2010	2011	DIFFERENCE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
Homestead-General and				
Commercial Personal Property (CPP)	\$15,407,127	\$15,351,830	\$ (55,297)	(.4)
Non-Homestead	\$ 7,313,183	\$ 7,253,979	\$ (59,204)	(.8)
CPP	\$ 157,576	\$ 151,855	\$ (5,721)	(3.6)
Sinking Fund	\$ 2,711,636	\$ 2,600,350	\$ (111,286)	(4.1)
Debt	<u>\$ 4,200,000</u>	<u>\$ 4,355,586</u>	<u>\$ 155,586</u>	<u>3.7</u>
Total	\$29,789,522	\$29,713,600	\$ (75,922)	(.3)

Listed below is a summary of the categories and effective rates on those categories for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

<u>HOMESTEAD</u>	<u>2010-11</u>	<u>2011-12</u>
"GAP" Hold Harmless Operating	6.4713	6.9040
Sinking Fund	.9738	1.0000
Debt Millage	<u>1.5083</u>	<u>1.6750</u>
Total	8.9534	9.5790
 <u>NON-HOMESTEAD</u>	 <u>2010-11</u>	 <u>2011-12</u>
Non-Homestead Millage	18.0000	18.0000
Sinking Fund	.9738	1.0000
Debt Millage	<u>1.5083</u>	<u>1.6750</u>
Total	20.4821	20.6750

COMMERICAL PERSONAL PROPERTY

	<u>2010-11</u>	<u>2011-12</u>
Homestead Commercial Personal Property	6.4713	6.9040
Non-Homestead Commercial Personal Property	6.0000	6.0000
Sinking Fund	.9738	1.0000
Debt Millage	<u>1.5083</u>	<u>1.6750</u>
Total	14.9534	15.5790

Trustee Walsh reviewed items relative to school financing and the tax levy. The presentation is available at www.gpschools.org under School Board – click Reports.

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Walsh

THAT the Board approve the resolution for the 2011 tax rates as presented.

In a roll call vote,

Trustee Dindoffer, Yes

Trustee Gafa, Yes

Trustee Jakubiec, Yes

Trustee Minturn, Yes

Trustee Pangborn, Yes

Trustee Steininger, Yes

Trustee Walsh, Yes

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

D. Approval of Legal Counsel for Special Education Matter

Over the past few years, the majority of the district's special education legal services have been performed primarily by LaPointe and Butler located in Lansing, Michigan. Due to the complexity of special education laws over the past several years it continues to be ideal to have a firm that is familiar with and specializes in special education regulations and laws. The district's special education legal fees have run approximately \$ 65,213 per year.

The central administration felt that the district could be better served by having LaPointe and Butler as well as a local firm available for assistance on these important matters. On August 10, 2011 the Requests for Proposals were received for special education legal services. Five firms submitted proposals: LaPointe and Butler, Clark Hill, Thrun, Lusk and Albertson and Keller Thoma.

Although the hourly rate is lowest for LaPointe and Butler, the administration feels it would be in the best interest of the district to also have a second firm approved by the Board of Education available to assist the district.

Of the firms, Lusk and Albertson is also the firm that our insurance pool uses for legal work. Hence, they would be the ideal firm to add as it would be seamless transition when switching to the insurance firm that provides coverage.

The administration is very familiar with the work and reputation of Lusk and Albertson especially pertaining to special education and would like to retain their firm as a second legal firm authorized to serve as counsel for the School System's special education legal issues for

the next three years.

Trustee Jakubiec requested that the time frame of “three years” be stricken from the conditions for retaining Lusk and Albertson.

After Board discussion and clarification,

It was Moved by: Trustee Dindoffer

Supported by: Trustee Walsh

THAT the Board approve the appointment of the law firm of Lusk and Albertson as an additional legal firm authorized to serve as counsel for the school system’s special education legal issues.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Minturn, Pangborn, Steininger and Walsh

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

F. Approval of Resolution to Restore Clerical Staffing

At the July 25th Regular Meeting of the Board, clerical staff was reduced. At the same time the Board approved the free breakfast program at three elementary schools which qualify for Title I support. The breakfast program is staffed by an employee, who arrives at school at 7 a.m., to supervise the students who attend the breakfast which affects how the office is staffed for the rest of the day.

On the middle school level approximately 31 students come to the school office each day to receive medication. Some of these students are diabetics who also need blood sugar monitoring and there are several students who have emergency medication plans for such things as seizures and cardiac issues.

In light of current budget constraints, Mrs. Gafa stated she continues to feel strongly that the safety of our students exceeds all other issues. Therefore, she requested that the Board return the clerks to their pre-reduction levels, i.e., Poupard to 0.8, Mason to 0.6 and Defer to 0.8, to help staff the breakfast program and the office appropriately.

Trustee Gafa also requested that the middle school clerks be returned to their pre-reduction levels of 1.0 FTE and that the clerks in the elementary schools qualifying for Title I funding be reinstated to their pre-reduction levels.

In an amended motion,

It was Moved by: Trustee Gafa

Supported by: Trustee Minturn

THAT the Board layered the motion to consider restoring the clerical staffing levels of 2010-2011 to 4.0 FTE’s.

In a roll call vote,

Trustee Dindoffer, Yes

Trustee Gafa, Yes

Trustee Jakubiec, Yes

Trustee Minturn, Yes

Trustee Pangborn, Yes

Trustee Steininger, Yes

Trustee Walsh, Yes

Nays: None

	Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.
ACTION ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 24, 2011	<p>A. Approval of Human Resources Report for October, 2011</p> <p>This information will be available to the Board prior to the October, 2011 meeting.</p> <p>B. Approval of Minutes for September, 2011</p> <p>Minutes of the September 26, 2011 Work Session and Regular Meetings will be available prior to the next regular meeting.</p> <p>C. Approval of School Improvement Plans</p> <p>As provided in Board Policy 2120, School Improvement, each elementary, middle and high school has developed an updated school improvement plan which reflects student achievement data, sets goals for 2011-12 and provides a structure to improve the quality of education for students in that school.</p> <p>The goals and initiatives described in the school improvement plan summaries comprise important priorities for 2011-12 on which the schools will be concentrating efforts and resources. Specific goals are noted in each school's plan which provides more detail.</p> <p>Taken together, the district and school improvement goals will enable students to achieve a higher 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.</p> <p>D. Approval of Annual District Goals</p> <p>Board Policy 1110 indicates that the Board of Education shall provide time to assess the progress of the district and set goals for the current school year. The district's Annual Report, required by Public Act 25 is being given on September 26, 2011 and provides data on various measures of student achievement from the past school year and also sets the stage for the development of district goals and school level improvement goals for 2011-12.</p> <p>Developing goals focuses the district on the most important issues to improve the quality of education for students in our schools. The district has established goals through our Strategic Plan, the school improvement and the accreditation processes, the initiatives of the Education Programs Leadership Council (EPLC), and partnerships with parents and community members.</p> <p>District goals for 2010-11 were drawn from the current Strategic Plan and other ongoing initiatives. District goals for 2011-2012 will be those identified by the Board of Education in the Strategic Plan currently under development with the facilitation of Banach and Banach.</p> <p>Accomplishing these goals will require the best efforts of all stakeholders to fulfill the vision and mission of the Strategic Plan for our 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.</p> <p>E. Approval of 6th and 7th Grade Novels</p> <p>1. <u>Peak</u> by Roland Smith, 6th Grade and 6th Grade Honors Course</p> <p>This book for 6th graders is described as an excellent book to use at the beginning of sixth grade to introduce/reinforce basic literary elements of a novel. The ending has a meaningful lesson and provides a good writing opportunity for students. It has been recommended by a committee</p>

	<p>teachers and parents. <u>Peak</u> has met the requirements of teaching the adventure genre and introduces students to the elements of a plot, exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution.</p> <p>2. <u>Warriors Don't Cry</u> by Melba Patillo Beals, 7th Grade Honors Course</p> <p>This book has been brought to the Board in the past. It is a memoir detailing the story of a student of the Little Rock Nine, the first African Americans to integrate the public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas. It portrays emotions, actions and reactions at a pivotal point in U. S. history. <u>Warriors Don't Cry</u> was approved by parents and teachers for the 7th grade Honor's English course.</p> <p>F. Approval of G.A.A.A. #1</p> <p>The G.A.A.A. #1 will be provided to the Board before the October 24th regular board meeting.</p>
INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION	<p>A. Enrollment Update and Class Size/Staff Allocation Report</p> <p>Enrollment information and class size/staff allocation was provided to the Board as of September 20, 2011. Enrollment overall for general education and special education FTE's has increased by 40 students over the projections, but is down 20 over enrollment numbers from last year. At the elementary level the projections were for 3,254 students and the district is actually up three students from that projection but down 62 (or 3 classrooms) from last year. This means that elementary class size averages are going down on an average. At the middle school level enrollment numbers are down 28 students from projection but are higher than last year's actual count by 12 students and 42 students higher than projected at the high school level. This calculates to 17 students over projections of June, 2011. Mr. Fenton noted that these numbers will most likely change after the October 6, 2011 count day.</p> <p>Dr. Klein noted that Trustee Walsh prepared an update of elementary class size in both head count and teacher/student ratio terms over the last three years. In addition, background information was received, per Trustee Jakubiec's request, for available class size space throughout the district.</p> <p>B. Monthly Financial Report</p> <p>Mr. Fenton noted that there is not a lot to highlight this month. The information provided covers July and August. A great deal of the expenditures is in the Support Services department.</p> <p>C. Health Care Report</p> <p>Mr. Harwood noted that two reports were distributed to Board members, the plan year report from April 1 to March 31 provided by Browne and Browne and the fiscal year report from July 1 to June 30. He noted that calculations are below projection.</p> <p>D. League of Women Voters Board Candidate Forum</p> <p>The League of Women Voters will be holding a Board of Education candidate forum on Thursday, October 6, 2011 at South High School in the Library for three candidates who are running for the two open Board seats. The candidates are Diane Karabetsos, Daniel Roeske and Lois Valente.</p>
FUTURE MEETINGS	<p>President Steininger then announced that there will be a Work Session at 6:30 p.m. and a</p>

	Regular Meeting of the Board at 8 p.m. on Monday, October 24, 2011 in South Wicking Library.
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS	<p>Tamara Wilson, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her concern about the student ratios in the 5th grade at Maire Elementary School.</p> <p>Daniel Walz, Grosse Pointe Park, also spoke about his issue with the 5th grade class size at Maire.</p> <p>Kathy Abke, Grosse Pointe Woods, commented on the district's preschool program and the proposal to establish a committee to address at-risk students entering kindergarten in Grosse Pointe who are at a disadvantage.</p> <p>R. J. Fattore, Rochester, shared his concerns about the districts' policies as they relate to non-custodial parental rights.</p>
OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT	<p>Trustee Minturn had no comment.</p> <p>Trustee Gafa welcomed everyone back to the new school year.</p> <p>Trustee Jakubiec echoed Mrs. Gafa's comments wishing everyone a great school year and congratulated the girls track team and its coaches on their success.</p> <p>Trustee Pangborn had no comment other than to invite community members to join her for a general school district discussion at Bigby Coffee on Mack on Monday, October 17th from 7 – 8 p.m.</p> <p>Trustee Walsh had no comment.</p> <p>Trustee Dindoffer welcomed everyone back to a new year.</p> <p>Dr. Klein stated that as part of the district's financial audit the auditors will be providing a wide-range of information including an update on grants available to the district. One of these grants available to the district is the Cash-Match grant that targets the special education department for which we received over \$200,000 last year. Staff are re-applying this year for additional funding.</p> <p>Dr. Klein also spoke to the issues surrounding the high enrollment in the fifth grade class at Maire noting that there is a student teacher in the classroom working with the teacher and students.</p> <p>Dr. Klein said that the district was saddened to learn of the death of 5th grade Kerby student, Samantha Yee, who will be greatly missed by her friends and family.</p> <p>President Steininger congratulated the South Girls Track Team and Hannah Meijer on her accomplishments. He also recognized South High School on their consecutive second win at the North/South playoff football game on Friday. He addressed the class size issue and, although he supported the clerical staff restoration, he noted that the need for staff reduction will be coming more increasingly in the next few years with more difficult decisions ahead.</p>
ADJOURNMENT	There being no further business, President Steininger adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Board Secretary