



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Work Session of October 26, 2009
Library Media Center, 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 7:12 p.m.</p> <p>Board members present: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kratz, Kosinski, Steininger and Walsh</p> <p>Absent: Trustee Minturn</p> <p>Also Present: Superintendent Klein; Assistant Superintendents Allan, Harwood and Fenton; Executive Director Warras</p>
DISCUSSION OF BUDGET PLANNING PROCESS FOR 2010-11	<p>President Kosinski stated that the purpose of this Board work session is to discuss the process for the 2010-11 budget.</p> <p>Trustee Walsh said that at last month's work session, a timeline was agreed to for the budget process. He noted that the Board is taking a zero based approach to budgeting this year. The data is clear in identifying that human resources costs and their escalation is the primary source of the structural shortfalls in all public schools. Mr. Walsh displayed statistics that show that the increase in human resources costs is an unsustainable pattern. A detailed analysis of staffing levels in all areas will help the Board determine how to proceed in the budgeting process.</p> <p>Trustee Walsh then presented information he prepared for discussion about the budget process. He noted that the Board should optimize and organize the way they work through the budget process. That process is based on the non-negotiable goals of the district as clearly stated in the Strategic Plan. If budget and staff decisions threaten achievement of goals, then the tactics must change.</p> <p>The discussion proceeded with a discussion of the newly developed staff utilization report that includes each employee by function and funding.</p> <p>The intent of the work session this evening was to elicit feedback from the Board on the budget process and what questions they may have at this point so that the Board can compile a list of those areas they want the administration to focus on.</p> <p>Mr. Harwood reviewed the staffing utility document which displays where every employee in the district works and how they are funded and to whom they report. This document also shows the distribution of staff per building, whether an employee is hourly or salaried, their employee group and where each is located within the district. . This document also showed local, state and federal revenues; annual net and fund equity; student enrollment; employees by group; and other non-union human resources department expenses including summer school, summer maintenance, Kids Club, Camp O'Fun, community education expenses, temporary help and special education extended school year expenses.</p> <p>Trustee Gafa asked if the administration could provide recommendations on class sizes for staffing for the schools as it would be imperative to know before the Board looks at</p>

	<p>each staff function in the 2010-11 budget</p> <p>Mr. Harwood explained that that information will be provided on the completed staff utilization chart.</p> <p>Trustee Kratz asked about the possibility of modification of the federal grants to the district and the impact on the 2010-11 budget. Mr. Harwood replied that the district must apply for the grant money, justify how the money will be spent and the time frame for use of those funds.</p> <p>Trustee Dindoffer commented on the excellent reports created by the district administration. She said that some of the things listed would have a higher priority than others, but asked the Board if there was anything on the list that does not bear further investigation on the part of the administration. She said that she feels that everything on the list is worthy of investigating as “no stone is left unturned.”</p> <p>Trustee Dindoffer said that it would be helpful to her to have a sense of ranges of class size of elective courses as well as core classes, especially any singleton classes.</p> <p>Trustee Walsh noted that budget parameters will be more defined this year than in past years.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENTS	<p>Thomas Bruetsch, Grosse Pointe Park, shared his thoughts on the multi-age program at Trombly and how to market this program to other parent groups within the district.</p> <p>Dan Quinn, Grosse Pointe Farms resident and district teacher, spoke in favor of the November 3rd millage and support of the school system, noting that the schools are the focal point of the Grosse Pointes.</p> <p>Tom Jakubiec, Grosse Pointe Woods, asked that the Board of Education affirm and commit to the community publicly that they will not change their policy on allowing non- resident students into the district. Trustee Walsh responded that the assurance had been given months ago when the Board voted not to allow children of staff members to attend school in the district.</p> <p>Shantrell Griffin-McMillan, Grosse Pointe Park resident and district teacher, spoke in favor of the millage proposals on the ballot for November 3rd. She encouraged everyone to vote.</p> <p>Susan Dempsey, Grosse Pointe Park resident and district teacher, spoke in support of the millage proposals.</p>
ADJOURNMENT	<p>President Kosinski adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.</p>

Board Secretary