



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 22, 2014  
Multipurpose Room, Brownell Middle School  
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Dindoffer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Board members present:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Valente

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Gafa.

**Also Present:** Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendent Dean

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 2014**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Summerfield

**THAT the Board Agenda be approved as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Valente

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7– 0 vote.**

**III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**A. Good News Items**

Superintendent Harwood announced the prediction of a great weather forecast for the North/South football game on Friday, September 26, 2014 encouraging the community to join the festivities that evening.

Dr. Harwood recently received information from Artsonia, the world’s largest online kid’s art museum, highlighting Monteith art teachers, Natalie Zoufal and Laura Adams, who have been recognized for their outstanding leadership in the area of Arts Education. The Monteith online art gallery ranks #6 in the state according to Artsonia.

Mrs. Bur and Mrs. DiVirgil are involved in a Grosse Pointe Trading Post that helps staff share items needed by other employees in school buildings. Superintendent Harwood said that this is a great way to cut costs and recycle useable goods.

Superintendent Harwood also shared the great start to the new school year he witnessed as he visited school buildings around the district. Students acclimated to the new year smoothly which is a testament to the outstanding teaching staff in the district. He also recognized the wonderful student mentorship program led by the Parcels staff that assisted in welcoming incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders to their new surroundings.

**B. Legislative Update**

Superintendent Harwood shared that one piece of legislation school districts are watching is a package of 8 bills that would help identify, then “fix” districts that are heading toward financial ruin. One of those bills, SB 957, is called “Early Warning” Legislation that states that all districts must submit a report to the ISD with assumptions they used to build their budget at which time the ISD would determine if they are “reasonable” or unreasonable”. The district is opposed to this legislation as is Wayne RESA, our local intermediate school district.

Three other Legislative concerns: the EAA being codified before legislators leave on December 31 which the district’s local ISD also opposes; the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading bill that states that all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders must read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level before they pass to 4<sup>th</sup> grade; and the Sinking Fund legislation which would allow districts to put a sinking fund request on the ballot which would also include funding for technology and security. It would reduce the

number of years a district can request sinking fund dollars from 10 to 5 years and would reduce the mills request a maximum limit from 5 to 3 mills.

Superintendent Harwood said that he is also following the \$83 per pupil funding that was originally proposed by Governor Snyder. However, certain districts in the state now only receive a \$50 per pupil allocation. He is hopeful that the additional \$38 will be returned back into the funding provision for Grosse Pointe Public School students.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS**

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his thoughts on the complexity of the work that the Board Policy Committee deliberates on at their monthly meetings while remaining compliant to state mandates. He thanked Trustees Roeske and Dindoffer, Dr. Dean and legal counsel, Mr. McInerney for their dedication to this work. (22:20) ([click here to view video](#))

#### **V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 2014**

##### **A. Acceptance of Gift from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Valente

**THAT the Board accept the Gift of \$5,000 from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education to support the implementation of an “Innovation Lab” at North High School as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Valente

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

##### **B. Acceptance of Gift from Dr. Beck Memorial Trust Fund**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board accept the Gift from the Dr. Beck Memorial Trust Fund in the amount of \$250,000 for preservation and restoration at South High School as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Valente

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

##### **C. Approval of Human Resources Report for September 22, 2014**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Gafa

**Supported by:** Trustee Valente

**THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for September 22, 2014 as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Valente

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

##### **D. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2014**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Summerfield

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2014 as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Valente

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7- 0 vote.**

**D. Approval of Board Policies (second reading)**

President Dindoffer and Vice-President Roeske recommended voting on all three Anti-Harassment Policies in one motion.

- 1. Policy 3362, Anti-Harassment (Professional Staff)**
- 2. Policy 4362, Anti-Harassment (Classified Staff)**
- 3. Policy 5517, Anti-Harassment, (Students)**

Trustee Roeske noted that the Policies remain the same as the first reading but the Administrative Guidelines were revised to reflect a male and female compliance counselor. He also said that “bullying” will be addressed next and is different from “harassment” policies and guidelines. “Bullying” is defined in state statutes and “harassment” is not specifically defined in state statutes.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Gafa

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve Policies 3362, 4362 and 5517 Anti-Harassment as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Valente

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7- 0 vote.**

**F. Approval of Technology Wiring Bid (Phase 1)**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve the low bid with AMcomm, Inc. for the Phase I Technology Wiring Project at a total cost of \$227,210 as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustee Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske and Summerfield

**Nays:** Trustee Valente

**Motion carried by a 6– 1 vote.**

**G. Approval Resolution on Best Practice Incentive**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Dindoffer

**Supported by:** Trustee Roeske

**THAT the Board amend the Resolution on Best Practice Incentive to include in the “4<sup>th</sup> Whereas” to read, “Whereas, eligibility for the incentive payment is contingent upon adopting a resolution that states the district has complied with the following 8 of 9 best practice criteria” as having been met by the district.**  
(Instead of ‘7 of 9’)

**Ayes:** Trustee Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Valente

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7– 0 vote.**

**H. Approval of 2014-2015 Tax Rates**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Summerfield

**Supported by:** Trustee Jakubiec

**THAT the Board approve the 2014-2015 Tax Rates as presented.**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Dindoffer

**Supported by:** Trustee Jakubiec

**THAT the Board approve the Resolution for the Tax Rates presented to be written and recorded as “2014 Tax Rates”.**

**Ayes:** Trustee Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Valente

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7– 0 vote.**

**I. Approval of Superintendent Evaluation Instrument for 2014-2015**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Gafa

**THAT the Board approve the use of the MASA School Advanced Administrative Evaluation system with necessary customizations of the instrument for the evaluation of the Superintendent during the 2014-2015 school year as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustee Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Valente

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7– 0 vote.**

**VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 27, 2014**

- A. Approval of Human Resources Report for October 27, 2014**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2014**
- C. Approval of Board Policies**
- D. Approval of District Goals for 2014-2015**
- E. Approval of Federal Program Funding**

**VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

**A. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report**

Superintendent Harwood said that, in Mr. Fenton's absence, he would answer any questions on the variable cost report, check register and monthly financials that were provided to the Board. Dr. Dean noted that the Health Care Report showed numbers slightly over the budget due to summer hospitalizations which should correct themselves now that school is back in session and employees are back in classrooms. The next health care report should equalize and be back on track according to the budget model utility report.

**B. Enrollment Update**

Superintendent Harwood shared the key date for student enrollment which is October 1, 2014 when every student in attendance will be counted for a state report. He noted that in speaking with other superintendents recently, most indicated a similar drop in kindergarten enrollment most likely due to a low birth rate five years ago.

**VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Board Policy Committee Meeting, September 30, 2014, 6:00 p.m., Board Room, 389 St. Clair  
Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, October 20, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room  
Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, October 27, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS**

Jeffrey Hall, Grosse Pointe Park, stated that he was a candidate for the Michigan State Senate District 2. He noted that if he gets elected for a Senate seat in the November election, positive changes will be forthcoming for the Grosse Pointe Public Schools. (1:45:15) ([click here to view video](#))

Jen Evans, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke in support of the millage renewals that will be on the November ballot. (1:48:38)

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared a letter in a recent *Grosse Pointe News* that was authored by Trustee Pangborn citing the errors that were contained in that letter. (1:49:18)

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## **X. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Trustee Valente loved the idea of the Trading Post for Grosse Pointe Public School employees to recycle, reuse and share resources. She noted that the Wayne County President of the PAC for Special Education lost one of its advocates, Celina Barnes, who recently passed away and will be greatly missed. She added, "Go South."

Trustee Jakubiec highlighted the great work done by the teachers and students in the art program. He shared his thoughts and support of the millages that will be on the November ballot, asking voters to become educated about what the loss of that funding would mean across the board. He also shared his perspective of the *Grosse Pointe News* article mentioned by a previous speaker and his thoughts that it was not meant to criticize any other Board members.

Trustee Pangborn addressed the article in the *Grosse Pointe News* spoken of by Mr. McMullen noting that she was sharing her perspective on Board Policy, not on any Board member. She added that her letter to the editor was changed in two places by the editor, and clarified what she meant by her comments, stating that she did not break a policy in her letter.

Mrs. Pangborn also shared that she was grateful to the community, the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education and Dr. Beck for giving back to the community they love. She added, "Go South."

Trustee Summerfield addressed the article and statements by Mrs. Pangborn, saying that there are inferential duties of the Board Treasurer. He said that the community should be educated on the duties of Board members holding an officer position, and that the Board should let Mr. Fenton speak for himself and his department about what they do and what the Treasurer on the Board does regarding the budget. He said that Mr. Hamka and Mrs. Murray, South and North High School Principals, gave a great message on the upcoming North/South game.

Trustee Gafa, congratulated Natalie Zoufal on her accomplishments with student on-line art. She said it was a fabulous idea to create the Trading Post for district employees to share resources.

Mrs. Gafa thanked the Foundation for Public Education and the Beck family for their generosity to the district. She thanked Mr. Summerfield for clarifying the responsibility of the Board Treasurer. She encouraged the community to come out this Saturday at 9 a.m. and support the South Booster Fun Run which benefits the student at South. She added, "Go North."

Trustee Roeske thanked Mrs. Zoufal and Mrs. Adams from Monteith for their outstanding on-line art. He also thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education and the Beck Family for their generosity to the district students. He said that he will be walking on Saturday for the Grosse Pointe South Football team and the Juvenile Diabetes Association. "Go Blue Devils."

Superintendent Harwood echoed Mrs. Valente's recognition of Mrs. Barnes, Wayne County PAC President, and the loss of a strong advocate for students with special needs. He also noted the loss of one of the district's own students: Brent Applewhite who recently passed away and will be missed. He recognized and thanked the Board Policy Committee for the dedicated work they do keeping up with changing policies and revising and/or creating new ones as needed. He thanked Mr. Hamka and Mrs. Murray for their message on the upcoming North/South game as they laid the foundation of collaboration and team spirit.

Dr. Harwood also recognized Trustee Summerfield's work on the budget with Mr. Fenton and himself and their efforts to troubleshoot issues of concern and find ways to condense processes while working as a team to conform to the most current budget guidelines and mandates.

President Dindoffer shared that Dr. Dean's daughter would be performing in North's play this weekend. She also sends condolences to the special education advocate, Mrs. Barnes, and the family of special needs student, Brent Applewhite.

Mrs. Dindoffer thanked the Foundation for Public Education and the Beck Family for their generous contributions. She highlighted the League of Women Voter's Candidate Forum on October 7, 2014 at South High School at 7:30 p.m. in the Library. Mrs. Dindoffer also highlighted the District's Open House on November 16, 2014 and the North/South football game on Friday, September 26, 2014. She said that proceeds from the tailgate event on the 26<sup>th</sup> go to the Foundation for Public Education which benefits the schools. She will be cheering for South that day. President Dindoffer also congratulated Mr. Hamka and Mrs. Murray on their wonderful video highlighting the North/South game. She added that a wonderful administrative team has been put in place at the high schools.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

President Dindoffer adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

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Judy Gafa, Board Secretary