



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2015
Brownell Multipurpose Room
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Gafa called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Board members present: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz,
Absent: Trustee Valente

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President, Judy Gafa

Also Present: Superintendent Niehaus; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR November 16, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn **Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board Agenda for November 16, 2015 be approved.

Ayes: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Valente

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. MESTA’s 2015 Outstanding Earth Science Teacher, Lisa Bouda

Mrs. Bur spoke about The Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association (MESTA) that has named Lisa Bouda as their Outstanding Michigan Earth Science Teacher for 2015. The award is presented at the MESTA Annual Conference held at Okemos High School. Ms. Bouda has taught Earth Science and Geology at Grosse Pointe South High School for 25 years. She continues to build excitement in the program with summer field trips and day trips. She strives to provide an experience that is both rigorous and fun.

B. SHAPE – Society of Health and Physical Educators Michigan, Gail Frederick

Keith Howell presented information regarding The Society of Health and Physical Educators-Michigan and their selection of Gail Frederick (Monteith) as their PE Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Frederick has displayed outstanding abilities as an Educator. She makes physical education Fun and feels that it supports relationships, health and wellbeing. She feels it is a life-long calling to support others.

C. Kevin Cole – Lifesaving Award

Superintendent Niehaus introduced Roberta Hall (Brownell) and asked her to tell her story of how Kevin Cole (Brownell) saved her life. She was having lunch, started choking and passed out. When she awoke, Mr. Cole was administering the Heimlich maneuver and saved her life. She was ever so grateful. Dr. Niehaus presented Kevin Cole with a certificate.

D. GPEA Good News

Mrs. Mikesel publicly thanked and acknowledged Dean Niforos and Dr. Jon Dean for partnering with the GPEA today to give our teachers a thorough question and answer session on the ins and outs of maternity leave and how it works in our school system. She appreciated the information so that our employees could make long term decisions that will allow them to make school and home decisions upon the birth of a new baby. Second, it is her pleasure to add to the already impressive list of accomplished faculty members. She introduced Sonja Franchett, Principal of Maire Elementary to introduce Ms. Barb Davis, 5th grade teacher at Marie. Ms. Davis has received several awards for teacher of the year in the last couple of years. Principal Franchett spoke about the wonderful qualities of Ms. Davis and that she has received awards at the State and National level. Ms. Davis' students come back years later and rave about her. Ms. Davis spoke about the many ways in which she enjoys the students and engages them to foster connections and blend literature with history.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

No speakers

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEM FOR November 16, 2015

A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for October 26, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Summerfield **Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for October 26, 2015 as presented.

Trustee Roeske mentioned that as Policy Chair typically they call out the students by first and last names and we do not do this on publications, is this something we want to amend tonight or perhaps for future reference. He states that he is a little troubled about this. President Gafa stated that she would rather see just first names of students on the minutes. Trustee Roeske brings this up for the minutes only. Trustee Summerfield has no issues with putting students names on the minutes, as we call out the names at the meetings and graduations as well as other functions.

Ayes: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 23, 2015

The following items will be presented to the Board for vote on November 23, 2015:

- A. Approval of Human Resources Report for November 23, 2015
- B. Approval of Closed Meeting and Regular Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2015
- C. Approval of Audit Reports from Plante Moran
- D. Approval of Board Policies
 - 1. 7540.02 District Web Page
- E. Course Proposals
 - 1. HS Global Issues (Pilot)
 - 2. Forensic Science (Pilot)
 - 3. High School Innovative Studies (Pilot)
- F. Curriculum Proposals
 - 1. 9-12 Social Studies Curriculum
 - 2. 6-8 Social Studies Curriculum
 - 3. HSAB Curriculum
- G. Approval of Resolution to Honor Distinguished Employees

VII. Information and Discussion

A. All-District Open House on November 15th from 1-3 p.m.

President Gafa stated how she enjoyed visiting the schools. Seeing new families walking through our district. Mrs. Fannon stated that she visited several schools. This may be our most successful open house yet in the district.

B. Course Proposals

1. HS Global Issues (Pilot)

Maureen Bur introduced teachers Dan Gilleran, Crosby Washburne and Alicia Carlisle whom brought forth to EPLC a proposal for a global issues course. This course does align with our District Goals 2 and 3. Mr. Washburn and Mr. Gilleran would like to propose a course where we include service learning and academics. Students take a look at the global issues and then go to work with organizations for service learning, not volunteerism.

2. High School Innovative Studies (Pilot)

Sean McCarroll, Teacher GP North says this course is really a three (3) package course. Innovative Technical-ITECH, Innovative Design-IDesign and Innovative Creation-ICreate with a follow-up course. He is looking to increase our innovative studies with new experiences for our students at both GP North and GP South. The first level, Innovative Technical-ITECH will replace course Digital Seminar. These courses are structured to move from a teacher guided course to a more independent based learning method. The goal is to provide students with the opportunity to acquire and refine 21st century skills.

3. Forensic Science (Pilot)

Maureen Bur advised that this course has gone through EPLC. The science department at both high schools would like to be able to give students more choices and exposure for courses that they may wish to take in college. Forensic Science is one of those courses. This is a semester course primarily for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Initial cost to start would be approximately \$1700 with a yearly cost of approximately \$700.00.

C. Curriculum Proposals

1. 9-12 Social Studies Curriculum

Terri Steimer and DeEtte Nardone worked with every member of their department to update the Social Studies curriculum review. They have aligned this proposal with the C3Michigan Standard for Social Studies. Ms. Steimer spoke that the C3 is to better prepare students for college readiness, future careers and civic participation.

2. 6-8 Social Studies Curriculum

Rodger Hunwick, Pete Dettlinger and PJ Palen have been working on reviewing the Middle School Social Studies program for over a year. The C3 component was a factor in the review as well as the State Standards. They worked to have the curriculum flow from elementary to middle to high school.

3. HSAB Curriculum

Mrs. Bur explained that in 2006, the HSAB curriculum was adopted by the district and three years ago the High School was reviewed and updated. Mr. Dan Griesbaum has been teaching the program for many years. The committee has discussed the current program for elementary, middle and high school. A new video for

the high school was approved with their review in 2011. The elementary program has been going very well and needs small changes. Main focus was to improve the middle school program, but not to update or reinvent the wheel.

D. Approval of Resolution to Honor Distinguished Employees

Trustee Ismail commented difficult choice. Lot of good people to choose from.

VIII. Future Meetings

- A. Regular Meeting of the Board, November 23, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Brownell MultiPurpose Room
- B. BOE Policy Committee Meeting, November 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at 389 St. Clair
- C. Strategic Planning, December 1st, 6:30 p.m. at Wicking Library, South High School
- D. Regular Meeting of the Board, December 14, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Brownell MultiPurpose Room

IX. Public Comments on Non-Action Items

No speakers

X. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Pangborn congratulated the faculty on their award and efforts this evening.

Trustee Ismail thanked everyone for all the curriculum changes and let everyone know about two unsung heroes that was lost from the community, Dr. and Mrs. Woe. They have been under the radar supporters of the GP students. They will be sorely missed.

Trustee Summerfield thanked all the people who have worked on the curriculum. He attended the Young Author festival at the University of Michigan Dearborn, four of our students from Defer won awards there including one receiving the grand prize. What impressed him even more was that Ms. Mannino, who had four students attending showed up as well as Mrs. Sullivan to support their students. This is outstanding and exemplifies our staff here in Grosse Pointe. I appreciated them coming.

Trustee Roeske thanks all the families who attended our open house. Especially thank our partners at the Grosse Pointe Realtors. It was fun to see five of the open houses. We heard about curriculum, lots of good work going on there. And congratulate Kevin Cole on his quick thinking, he is a true hero for the day.

Trustee Weertz commended the staff for the curriculum work and all the wonderful things they do and commends Mrs. Fannon for the wonderful open houses this week-end.

Deputy Fenton and Dean had no comment.

Dr. Niehaus wanted to remind the public that at the next meeting we have the Plante Moran audit report. It is in our hands. He met with the finance committee and this is a public document. Mr. Fenton will be available should anyone have questions. It is also on the GP school website. We have Strategic Planning meeting coming up and have met four times. Also his weekly calendars show that he has visited Brownell Middle School on a meet and greet and Poupard this afternoon. Continuing this week with Defer, Ferry and North. It has been enjoyable fun for me.

President Gafa thanked everyone on their curriculum work. The Pilot classes sound amazing and Mrs. Bur and Mr. Howell thank you for heading that up. Great leadership on guiding everyone through this. She also thanked Rebecca Fannon and agreed with Trustee Weertz on the excitement of seeing the schools during the open house.

XI. Adjournment

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Margaret Weertz, Board Secretary