



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2015
Multipurpose Room, Brownell Middle School
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: Trustee Pangborn

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Weertz.

Also Present: Deputy Superintendent Fenton; School Exec Connect Consultants, Dave Peterson and Larry Lobert

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR MARCH 23, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Ismail

THAT the revised Board Agenda for March 23, 2015 be approved as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Pangborn

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

There were no comments at this time.

IV. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH 23, 2015

A. Approval of Closed Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Valente

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the Closed Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2015 as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Pangborn

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

V. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Superintendent Profile Review

Mr. Dave Peterson from School Exec Connect provided the Board with information on the data collected from the focus groups that met and the survey data results. He shared the overall thoughts of the community regarding their expectations for the next superintendent. Mr. Peterson noted that there were 680 responses from the survey and 23 focus groups hosting 215 attendees. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions about the responses from the focus groups and survey and thanked Mr. Peterson and Mr. Lobert for the compilation of information and the

concise way it was provided. President Gafa thanked Mr. Fenton, Mrs. Fannon and Mrs. Kilimas for the work with the Search firm regarding the focus groups and survey while posting all of the information on the district website. She asked that the survey comments also be posted on the website with the removal of two comments. Trustee Roeske asked that IP and ID addresses should also be removed. Trustee Summerfield asked that personal information be redacted.

Mr. Larry Lobert then discussed the recommended interview process. He noted: questions be drawn from the profile created by the survey and focus groups; interviews be about an hour in length with approximately 15-20 questions; first interviews should commence by April 20 and 21, 2015; second interviews, the week of May 4th with meet and greet opportunities; and the Board's vote for a new superintendent voted on at the May 11, 2015.

After Board discussion and a School Exec Connect recommendation, President Gafa asked Board Trustees Summerfield, Weertz and Valente to compose a subcommittee to take candidates to 2-3 schools before facilitating a question and answer session. She then noted that Trustees Roeske, Ismail and herself would be part of another subcommittee to negotiate a contract. It was recommended that legal counsel attend the closed session of the Board on April 13th.

Mr. Lobert said he would provide a bank of possible questions for the interviews. He asked Board Trustees to develop and forward any questions they would like used in the process to President Gafa by Thursday, April 2, 2015.

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Board Policy Committee Meeting, Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Board Office
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, April 20, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, April 27, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Jennifer Munson, Grosse Pointe Park, commended the Board for selecting a search firm for the Superintendent search that is dedicated to including a range of residents to attend focus groups including parents of special needs students. She thanked Stefanie Hayes, Lilly Loder and Sue Lucchese for their work to ensure that administrative staff and teachers receive appropriate training and co-teaching methods in special education topics to make the transition of incorporating more special needs students into general education classrooms.

Julie Moe, Grosse Pointe Woods, was also impressed with the search firm for including special education parents. She highlighted the excellence of the district to all incoming candidates. She recommended a diverse slate of candidates including a woman and someone with potential to work with special needs issues.

Joan Dindoffer, Grosse Pointe Park, complimented School Exec Connect consultants on an excellent process. She reviewed aspects of the Open Meeting Act noting that subcommittees created to assist in the search process would need to be publicly posted and recorded with minutes.

George McMullen Jr., Grosse Pointe Woods, said that the Superintendent search was progressing great so far. He added that consultants from the School Exec Connect search firm stayed as long as needed with focus groups to answer every question from their audiences.

Matt Wettstein, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his experience with the Early On Program saying that they denied his son speech services. He added that special education team meetings were not equitable for parents.

VIII. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Ismail apologized for speaking with his back to the audience in attendance. He also said that it was good to see former Board member, Joan Dindoffer, thanking her for staying connected.

Trustee Weertz thanked School Exec Connect for their work with the Superintendent search. She shared that she read all of the comments received in the survey results.

Trustee Valente said she looks forward to pursuing the Superintendent search and coming up with a great candidate who can lead the district into the future and make the school system a lighthouse district again.

Trustee Roeske said that the next forty-five days will be taxing on the Board to get things right with the Superintendent search and selection. He noted that all Board members are committed to the search and he looks forward to coming up with the best candidates for the Grosse Pointe Schools. He thanked School Exec Connect for their work on the process.

Trustee Summerfield thanked School Exec Connect for their diligence and work on the superintendent search. He said it is an exciting time to come to the district and he is looking forward to the next phase of the search.

Mr. Fenton had no comment.

President Gafa thanked the 680 people who took the survey and the 215 people who attended the focus groups who will guide the Board into the next phase of the search. She said that she agrees with Mrs. Moe and Trustee Summerfield that Grosse Pointe is a great place to come and work. While there is a lot of hard work to do, there is an excellent teaching staff, great students and great parents. This is an opportunity for someone to come and help set a vision for the district.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Margaret Weertz, Board Secretary