



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 4, 2015
Brownell Middle School Multipurpose Room
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Gafa called the regular meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
([to view video click here](#))

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Gafa.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MAY 4, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Ismail

THAT the Special Meeting Agenda of May 4, 2015 be approved as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

Marie Boyle Reinman, Grosse Pointe Farms, shared her thoughts on how she felt the Superintendent candidates responded during the interview process. She shared her support for Dr. Matthews.

Joan Mason, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke in support of Superintendent Candidate, Dr. Steven Matthews.

Jennifer Munson, Grosse Pointe Park, thanked the Board for the inclusion of special needs parents in the search process. She spoke in support of Dr. Gary Niehaus.

Sheryl Hogan, GPAEOP President, thanked the Board for including the secretaries group in the Superintendent search and interview process.

Louis Theros, Grosse Pointe Farms, addressed both candidates' strengths and voiced support for Dr. Steven Matthews.

Joan Dindoffer, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her thoughts on the importance of choosing a candidate from a like-district. She spoke in support of Dr. Matthews.

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, commended the superior work done by School Exec Connect with the Superintendent search. He thanked President Gafa for the transparency during the process. He spoke in support of Dr. Gary Niehaus.

Chris Profeta, Grosse Pointe Woods, thanked the Board for the great job they did on the Superintendent search process. He spoke in support of Dr. Gary Niehaus.

Jen Evans, Grosse Pointe Woods, thanked the Board for the wonderful search process that was followed and spoke in support of Dr. Gary Niehaus.

Sheri Kam, Grosse Pointe Woods, thanked School Exec Connect for their work and implementation of the Superintendent search process. She thanked the Board for listening to the community and spoke in support of Dr. Gary Niehaus.

Julie Moe, Grosse Pointe Park, thanked School Exec Connect for the excellent search process. She shared her support of Dr. Gary Niehaus.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEM FOR MAY 4, 2015

A. Selection of Superintendent

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT Dr. Gary Niehaus be brought forward as the next Superintendent for the Grosse Pointe Public Schools.

In an amended motion,

It was Moved by: Trustee Ismail

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT Dr. Steven Matthews be brought forward as the next Superintendent of Schools.

Trustee Ismail presented information on both candidates and his reasons for supporting Dr. Matthews.

Trustee Summerfield spoke about both candidates and his reasons for supporting Dr. Niehaus.

Trustee Pangborn shared her reasons for supporting Dr. Matthews.

Trustees Roeske spoke about the information contained in the surveys and the Board's considerations about the attributes that all were seeking in the next superintendent. He shared his reasons for supporting Dr. Niehaus.

Trustee Weertz shared her reasons for supporting Dr. Niehaus.

Trustee Valente addressed her thoughts about the district's technology needs and considerations for all students and her reasons for supporting Dr. Niehaus.

Trustee Gafa thanked those involved in the planning and implementation of the Superintendent search as well as the candidates and her fellow Board members. She shared her reasons for supporting Dr. Niehaus.

In a roll call vote for the amended motion for Dr. Steven Matthews for Superintendent of Schools,

Trustee Ismail, Yes

Trustee Pangborn, Yes

Trustee Valente, No

Trustee Weertz, No

Trustee Summerfield, No

Trustee Roeske, No

Trustee Gafa, No

Motion failed by a 5 – 2 vote.

In a roll call vote for the original motion for Dr. Gary Niehaus for Superintendent of Schools,

Trustee Ismail, No

Trustee Pangborn, No

Trustee Weertz, Yes

Trustee Valente, Yes

Trustee Gafa, Yes

Trustee Summerfield, Yes

Trustee Roeske, Yes

Motion carried by a 5 – 2 vote to approve Dr. Gary Niehaus as the Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent.

President Gafa then called Dr. Niehaus to inform him of the Board's decision to name him next Superintendent of Schools pending approval of a contract.

V. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A.** Regular Meeting of the Board, May 11, 2015, 7:00 p.m., North High School
- B.** Regular Meeting of the Board, May 18, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON BOARD AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

Dominic Cusumano, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his concern about differences of criteria for the National Honors Society selection process between the two high schools. President Gafa responded that the guidelines to be part of the National Honors Society are very strict. She directed him to Dr. Dean who would investigate the issue.

Laura Mikesell, GPEA President, congratulated Dr. Niehaus at being selected as the next Superintendent. She thanked Dr. Dean and Mr. Fenton for providing bagels for tomorrow's National Teacher Day. She also thanked School Exec Connect and the Board of Education for their transparency in the Superintendent search process.

Louie Theros, Grosse Pointe Farms, asked if Public Comments at Board meetings could be made by the public after the Board discusses agenda items and prior to the Board voting.

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, said that a great decision was made on the Superintendent selection. He congratulated Dr. Niehaus.

VII. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Ismail asked if the Board could get copies of the policies on the criteria for National Honor Society. He thanked both candidates for applying for the position and wished Dr. Niehaus well. He also thanked his wife for putting up with the interruptions during the process.

Trustee Pangborn echoed Mr. Ismail's comments and addressed the work that the Board does and how they accomplish the business at hand. She said that even though Board members may disagree, they ultimately serve the public and work together to accomplish all that is in the best interest of the district.

Trustee Valente thanked everyone who provided input on the Superintendent search. She said that everyone's comments and thoughts were helpful. She congratulated the Board as they listened well to their constituents. She said that this is a pivotal time for the administrative, instructional and leadership team.

Trustee Roeske thanked Dr. Matthews and Dr. Niehaus for their time and commitment to the search. He wished Dr. Niehaus well on his transition to Grosse Pointe. The Board followed the process for the Superintendent search well and it worked in moving the district forward in the right direction.

Trustee Summerfield thanked Mrs. Gafa for her great leadership role. He thanked all Board members for their input and hard work in the process as well as the work of School Exec Connect. He also thanked his wife.

Trustee Weertz said that all Board members and the community worked hard to accomplish the best decisions during the process. She felt Dr. Niehaus was the best choice for the district at this time.

President Gafa thanked everyone again for their participation and input in this process to make sure that the Board did the best job they could in making this decision. She thanked the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week noting that it was also Nurses' Appreciation Week.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Margaret Weertz, Board Secretary