



V. A.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Session of November 28, 2016  
Brownell Multipurpose Room  
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Gafa called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Board members present:** Trustees Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Roeske

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Weertz

**Also Present:** Superintendent Niehaus, Deputy Superintendents Lisa Abbey and Jon Dean

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 28, 2016**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Pangborn

**Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

**THAT the Board Approve the Agenda for November 28, 2016 as presented**

**Ayes:** Trustees Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Roeske

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**III. SPECIAL AGENDA ACTION ITEM**

**A. Approval of Resolution to Honor Distinguished Employees**

During the 2008-09 school year, the Grosse Pointe Board of Education established the Distinguished Employee Service Awards Program to recognize distinguished service by employees in various programs and activities sponsored by the public schools. Board-level recognition is intended to reward those employees who have initiated a new program, service, or activity and/or who have served the district above and beyond their daily employee responsibilities.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Abke

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the employees recommended by the Distinguished Employee Recognition Committee noted in the resolution be awarded for their service to the school district.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Roeske

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

The Board Accepted with Gratitude the Gifts from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education in the amount of \$84,128 for the programs and materials listed:

iPads Lending Library (K-5<sup>th</sup>) LRC Rooms in each Elementary Building (\$4,795)

Peer to Peer Program (K-12<sup>th</sup>) Entire School District, Special Education (\$2,500)

Creating A Culture of Leadership (K-5<sup>th</sup>) Ferry (\$11,850)  
 Dot and Dash Wonder Workshop (2<sup>nd</sup>) Maire (\$960)  
 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning with Classroom iPads (1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>) Mason (\$2,970)  
 Handwriting without Tears (K) Monteith (\$1,285)  
 Math Workshop (2<sup>nd</sup>) Poupard (\$489)  
 Twelve iPad Minis for the Classroom (4<sup>th</sup>) Trombly (\$3,563)  
 Project Based Learning-Inspire Kindness (3<sup>rd</sup>) Trombly (\$450)  
 Life Skills Supplies for the Classroom (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) Brownell (\$2,300)  
 Purchase of a 3D Printer (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) Brownell (\$1,300)  
 Machines and Testers (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) Parcels and Pierce (\$2,524)  
 Blown Fuses, FIRST Tech Challenge Team (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) Parcels (\$1,200)  
 Sewing Machine Maintenance (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) Parcels (\$1,300)  
 Gearheads (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) North/South (\$2,000)  
 Chromebooks for Counseling Center (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) North (\$1,000)  
 GPN Model Classroom (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) North (\$4,400)  
 ARTFEST Boards (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) South (\$7,000)  
 Recording Equipment to Improve Choral Instruction (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) South (\$3,000)  
 Computers Everyday (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) South (\$7,465)  
 Solar Car (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) South (\$2,000)  
 Makerspace (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) South (\$3,000)  
 Makerspace Student Grant (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) South (\$2,000)  
 Milling Machine Upgrade (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) South (\$5,249)  
 Chromebooks for the English Department (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) South (\$9,528)

Ms. Christie Scoggin presented the above awards.

#### **B. National Science Teacher Association (NSTA) Presentation – Chris Geerer and Chris Maison**

Chris Geerer and Chris Maison thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to share with them their presentations at the NSTA , National Science Teacher Association. Chris Maison, Teacher at Parcels says that the best reason for attending these conferences is to continually find new ways to reach our students ever changing needs. Chris Geerer shared that they have also attended NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) training sessions. NGSS is like no other science curriculum ever seen. Both appreciate the District supporting them to attend these conferences.

#### **C. Good News Items – Mike Rennell**

Mr. Rennell, GPEA President, advised the Board of many many good news items within the District, from plays in the middle school, Parcels and Brownell students cooking up and carving 75 turkeys to feed 750 people at Cross Roads., Instrumental concerts, South Girls Cross Country Team, all 120 of them, earned Academic All- State Honors with a 3.911 accumulative GPA and many other things happening in each school.

#### **D. Ninth Annual Awards for Distinguished Employee Services**

Board Trustees Abke, Pangborn and Roeske reviewed the nominations for Distinguished Employee Service and recommended the following employees to the Board for recognition: Andrea Bolton, Pierce; Karen Cole, Mason; Barbara Davis, Maire; Ryan Francis, Mason; Janette High, Defer; Elizabeth Michaels, North; Bryan Peterson, Central Office, Jill Rotole, South; Rebecca Ruth, North and Lisa Sickelsteel, Kerby. A brief reception was held to honor Distinguished Employees.

#### **Brief Reception to honor Distinguished Employees**

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 28, 2016**

No speakers

**VI AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 28, 2016**

**A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2016**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Weertz

**Supported by:** Trustee Abke

**THAT the Regular meeting minutes of November 14, 2016 be approved as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Roeske

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**B. Approval of Human Resources Report for November 28, 2016**

Dr. Dean advised all routine in nature.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Pangborn

**Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

**THAT the Human Resources Report of November 28, 2016 be approved as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Roeske

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**C. Approval of Audit Reports from Plante Moran**

Ms. Abbey advised that we are asking the Board of Education to approve the financial statements for 2015-16. The financial report has already been provided, as well as the Federal Awards Report and the Report to the Board of Education prepared by Plante Moran Cressa. An Unmodified or “Clean” opinion was given. We are approximately \$600,000 over budget than expected with a fund balance of a little over 6.9 million dollars or just under 7% of our budget. Trustee Summerfield advised that Dr. Niehaus had an administrative meeting that included him with a couple other Board Members present. Deputy Superintendents are busy putting some numbers together to bring to the Board by the goal date of December 5<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Pangborn says that the Audit brought up a lot of questions, especially the deficit from PreK. Dr. Niehaus says that the PreK committee has a recommendation to raise the tuition 7.5% for the next two years.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Summerfield

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Audit Reports from Plante Moran be approved as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Roeske

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**D. Approval of GP South Social Studies Department –  
Out of the Country Field Trip to China, February 16-24, 2017**

Trustee Ismail is concerned that we have mechanisms to assist a student should they want to attend this field trip and cannot afford to attend? Mrs. Bur advised that most of the students who plan to attend the trip are sophomores and have already studied the World History class. Ms. Caralis has options available for a student who may not be able to afford to go.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Weertz

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the GP South Social Studies Department, Out of the country Field Trip to China, February 16-24, 2017 be approved as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Roeske

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**E. Approval of Resolution to Refinance Bond Debt**

Ms. Abbey reminded the Board of Education that we have had discussion about the Refinancing the Bond Debt. Currently we are looking at a 3 million dollar savings to the tax payers.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Pangborn

**Supported by:** Trustee Abke

**THAT the Resolution to Refinance Bond Debt be approved as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Roeske

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**F. Approval of Cisco Managing Contract**

Deputy Superintendent Abbey had discussed this at the last meeting that the Administration recommends Presidio for the Maintenance contract for the district's CISCO Maintenance. Presidio also maintains the warranties on the network equipment installed at South HS and Parcels MS.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Pangborn

**Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

**THAT the Cisco Managing Contract be approved as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Roeske

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**VII. Agenda Action Items for December 12, 2016**

**A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2016**

**B. Approval of Human Resources Report for December 12, 2016**

**C. Approval of General Appropriations Amendment Act #1 (GA.A.A. #1)**

## **VIII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. Monthly Financial Report**

Nothing significant to report.

### **Health Care Report**

A copy of the September, 2016 actual costs for health insurance was provided to the Board. September, 2016 was a good month for the District. This came in slightly under budget. Dr. Dean cautioned the Board that any changes to the Affordable Care Act may not impact the District.

### **B. High School Program of Studies**

Mrs. Bur explained that the Program of Studies has gone through the EPLC process. No major changes, just some cleanup in wording to make more clear descriptions.

## **IX. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, December 12, 2016, 7:00 pm, Brownell Multipurpose Room
- B. Work Session of the Board, Monday, December 19, 2016, 6:00 pm, Board Room, 389 St. Clair
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, January 9, 2017, 7:00 pm, Brownell Multipurpose Room
- D. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, January 23, 2017, 7:00 pm, Brownell Multipurpose Room

## **X. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS**

George McMullen, Hollywood, GPW, as a candidate of the School Board he shared a few thoughts with the Board of Education regarding the recent campaign and the District. He congratulated the candidates that were chosen by the voters. The Grosse Pointe Board of Education does have a boss, the residents of the Grosse Pointe community.

## **XI. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Trustee Ismail thanked Mr. McMullen for his comments. He mentioned that there are many things coming up in the community. He also thanked Mr. Rennell for his comment about Grosse Pointe South Girls Cross Country team and their combined GPA.

Trustee Abke says it was an honor to be part of the Distinguished Employees committee. We have tremendous employees in this District. She mentioned that the Parcels Bazar is still in need of volunteers.

Trustee Pangborn commented that this was another fun meeting with people who have accomplished so much. She let seniors of the community know about the Gold Card.

Trustee Summerfield, no comment

Trustee Weertz thanked our Distinguished Staff members and commended the Grosse Pointe Foundation; it is obvious that we are doing some very innovative things in Grosse Pointe. And she thanked Mr. Rennell for sharing all the wonderful news in the District.

Superintendent Niehaus also congratulated our Distinguished Employees this evening and our grant award winners this evening. He spoke about the lessons that occurred in our classrooms on Veterans Day and every classroom he seen that day had something going on regarding veterans. He thinks that it is important to continue to have school on Veterans Day and bring the Veterans in to the classrooms. He also reminded the community of the upcoming Town Hall meetings.

Trustee Gafa congratulated the Distinguished Employees. It is one of her favorite nights. She thanked the GP Foundation for their generosity to help the District get the tools that are needed to help our students succeed. Another thank you to Mr. Rennell for all of his good news items this evening.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

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Cindy Pangborn, Board Secretary