



VII. B.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Session of September 12, 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 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Late Arrival: Kathy Abke

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deputy Superintendent Fenton

Also Present: Superintendent Niehaus, Deputies Superintendent Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

Trustee Roeske made a motion to amend Agenda Items VI. E-I to be added as a Consent Agenda item for approval September 26, 2016, these have been previously approved in another format and were consent agenda at that time. Trustee Pangborn asked if Item VII. C. Discussion to remove the Formula for the Executive Team, should be discussed in a Closed session? President Gafa mentioned that we are not discussing specific contracts, we will be discussing a philosophy of whether or not people are going to be in it or not.

THAT the Board Approve the Agenda with an amendment to include a Consent Agenda Action Item for September 26, 2016.

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

Absent: Trustee Abke

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Paul Wills, Plante Moran

Dr. Niehaus introduced Paul Wills, Plante Moran and mentioned that in the past, we had Mr. Fenton's expertise on enrollment numbers, so now in his absence, Grosse Pointe Public Schools has asked Mr. Wills to do them and show his methodology behind it. Mr. Wills talked about Plante Moran and how they provide School Districts with advice to insure Districts with success. They have been about 99% accurate with their numbers. Trustee Ismail asked about the cost for the service. Mr. Wills explained that the initial cost is \$1200 and with a renewal of \$150 each year.

Trustee Abke arrived at 7:15 pm

B. 2016 Summer Learning Program Report

Mrs. Bur asked the Summer School Directors to give reports to the Board this evening. Mr. Young could not attend, however Mrs. Bur noted that the secondary summer program had 286 enrollments, 15 staff members, five support staff and the largest number of National Honor Society student volunteers. Mr. Young felt that it had been a successful year again and has ideas for next year.

Mrs. Bur then introduced Nancy Rieth, Director of the English Language Learner program. This program is for students who come from homes that English is not the primary language. Ten different languages were represented in the classroom. A summary was provided to each member written by the students on what they learned in this program.

Molly Collins, Director of Camp Invention was next to speak to the Board. She noted that she has been a part of the Camp Invention Program since it came to Grosse Pointe Schools in 2003. Camp Invention is for students entering 1st through 6th grade and the camp was filled again to capacity of 120 students. Overall the program went very smoothly and looking forward to hosting again next summer.

Next was Shannon Holmes, the Director of ESY, Extended School Year. She stated that this summer the program was held for five weeks at Ferry Elementary and G.P. North HS. Over 80 students qualified for services with 40 staff members and 7 volunteers. All the secondary students were able to work with the Full Circle garden and all students had the opportunity to dine at National Coney Island.

Andrea Lappin, Director of the Elementary Summer Learning Program stated that the program ran for four weeks in July with approximately 200 students. At the end of the program, a survey was provided to parents for feedback and/or improvements for the upcoming years.

C. Good News Report from GPEA – Mike Rennell

Mike Rennell mentioned that these Directors did a phenomenal job with the summer learning program. He went on to explain what some of the teachers have been doing over their summer break, besides teaching summer school, some of their activities included webinars, taught classes, traveled with students, attended Leader-in-Me training sessions, participated in workshops and spoke at them, created a summer workshop and worked with 55 students to put on a summer musical and many more activities were attended or participated in.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

No speakers

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

A. Approval of Regular Session Minutes of August 22, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the regular session minutes for August 22, 2016 be approved as presented.

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

Absent: None

Motion carried by a 7– 0 vote.

VI. Agenda Action Items for September 26, 2016

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for September 26, 2016

Dr. Dean mentioned that some teachers have been hired last minute and that we were fully staffed on the first day of school. An additional Kindergarten teacher has been hired for Poupard.

- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2016
- C. Approval of 2016-17 Tax Rates

Deputy Superintendent Fenton explained that there are three methods of establishing the tax rates, as part of the budget process. The tax rates for the sinking fund and debt fund are going to be on target. The Homestead rate will be determined when we get our final enrollment numbers a little later.

- D. Approval of Superintendent Evaluation Tool for 2016-2017

President Gafa advised the Board that they have decided on the MASB Tool.

- E. Approval to Add Lisa Abbey as signatory for Bank and Investment Accounts
- F. Approval of Lisa Abbey as the MAISL rep with Isha Smith as Secondary
- G. Approval of Lisa Abbey as FOIA Coordinator
- H. Approval of Lisa Abbey as Election Representative
- I. Approval of Lisa Abbey as Homeless Liaison Coordinator
- J. Approval of Policy 7540.02 District Web Page

Trustee Roeske advised that this Policy brings us compliant with the Office of Civil Rights requirements regarding vision and hearing impaired access to the District website.

VII. Information and Discussion

- A. Enrollment Update/Class Size/Staff Allocation

Mr. Fenton says that our projection for enrollment was 7955 and we could be a little over/under, but pretty close to our projection. The number includes 286 special education students.

Dr. Dean previously reported that two new kindergarten classes were opened at Poupard and Maire that were above our projection. Poupard was far enough above projection that we added a new Kindergarten class. Maire was just slightly above so a Classroom Assistant was added. At the secondary level, this was the first time in a while that we did not have to scramble to add a class.

- B. AP Physics Textbook

Mrs. Bur advised that AP Physics was over 10 years old. A proposal was provided to the Board for review. This is an information and discussion item for the Board. No approval is needed. She commended both North and South High school for their collaboration on this.

- C. Discussion to remove the Formula for the Executive Team

This conversation started approximately five or six months ago, per Dr. Niehaus. The discussion is that the Executive Team, Dr. Niehaus, Mr. Fenton and Dr. Dean, should not be a part of the formula. Currently the Deputy Superintendent's positions are in the formula and Dr. Niehaus is the only one outside of that. 2017 we will be negotiating contracts, there was a discussion as to whether we should remove Dr. Dean and Mr. Fenton from the formula and therefore would not be a conflict of interest when negotiating contracts. The idea of this was to look at it as an option or point of discussion. An amendment would be needed to make any changes to

the contract along with an agreement for all those concerned. Trustee Summerfield feels that this is an important topic and that we are actually dealing with two formulas, a modified formula that expires in August of 2017 and the original formula that would come back in if we do not do a new contract. The Board of Education does need to start talking about this, but maybe in a closed session. It is important for our budget amendments, budget parameters and the contract discussions. Trustee Weertz says that we are discussing really for two individuals, not all five administrators and feels the discussion can take place in an open session. President Gafa advised that this is a Board issue and does need to be discussed. Trustee Ismail has a concern of an Administrator who will advise the Board on something that will directly affect their families. Would this not be a conflict for them? Trustee Pangborn agreed with Trustee Summerfield, that this is a contract issue and best discussed in a closed session. She mentioned that this is not only a financial matter but an emotional matter. Trustee Roeske feels that the audit will be an important key to having this conversation. The numbers will help drive the direction that the Board would like to go. Superintendent Niehaus reminded the Board that the November election with the Wayne County mills could have an effect on the decision as well as a change in the Board of Education.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

George McMullen, Hollywood, Grosse Pointe Woods, addressed the Board with a brief statement about future meetings, policy committee. He has attended many policy committee meetings over the last several years and he knows that policy is critical to the District. He would like to let people know this bit of information.

Mike Rennell, President GPEA, It seems that the discussion for the formula will be going behind closed doors, he wanted to remind people of the initiative here in Grosse Pointe "One GP, where all our arrows are going in the same direction". We the collective group of staff, administration, parents, community members and the Board of Education celebrate all of the great accomplishments of our staff and students. Accomplishments should be celebrated by all. With discussions this evening of removing the executive team from the formula, would be a mistake. Our arrows would no longer be aligned and would create a divisive divide between the superintendents and entire staff. He asked the board to please keep this in mind when considering these important issues and the possible consequences.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Policy Meeting, Monday, September 19, 2016, 6:00 pm, Board Room, 389 St. Clair
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, Sept. 26, 2016, 7:00 pm, South HS, Wicking Library
- C. Special Session of the Board, Monday, October 10, 2016, 6:00 pm, Brownell Library
- D. Regular Meeting, Monday, Oct. 10, 2016, 7:00 pm, Brownell Multipurpose Room

X. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Ismail advised Mr. Fenton that we will be looking to him on the 22nd for enrollment.

Trustee Abke stated that we have extraordinarily complicated issues and that Mrs. Pangborn is correct in saying that it is not just philosophy, but emotions and people's lives. She thanked the teachers that spoke about the excellent summer programs and Mike for coming up giving his thoughts on One GP.

Trustee Pangborn welcomed everyone back to school. She was amazed at how good the schools and playgrounds look. How nice it is that we keep our schools and community looking nice.

Trustee Summerfield wanted to thank Mrs. Sullivan and her staff and Mr. Clark and his staff for the great back to school nights. Looking forward to my first back to school night at Grosse Pointe South.

Trustee Roeske welcomed everyone back to school. He stated that we heard a lot about the summer school programs tonight and he wanted to do a special call out for the extended year school service for our Full Circle students. Last week was the 2016 Summer Garden party, where students in the program celebrated their work

and shared their experience. Patty Allemon who worked with the students rain or shine, Riverview Health is where the garden is located and also thanked Mahindra Urban Agriculture Division for providing a grant to the Full Circle Foundation garden and Rick Haas, the President and COO and Rich Ansel the Vice President of Marketing who were involved throughout the year and provided a very generous donation.

Trustee Weertz said she is very heartened by the wonderful learning experiences that both our staff and students engaged in over the summer. It really underscores the excellence of our school district.

Superintendent Niehaus stated that he, Jon Dean, Sara Delgado, Mary MacDonald-Barrett and Rodger Hunwick were at a School Advance training session learning how to evaluate Administrators. One of the challenges was to list out our District Goals and we all realized that we were rewriting our Strategic Plan. He reemphasized the One GP that Mr. Rennell brought up. It makes us who we are and what we are. Maybe it would be worth the Board members time to go back and revisit the Strategic Plan and think about how you can contribute. It is easier for a Superintendent to write goals when you have direction and know where you are going. We have had a great start to the new school year and as he had stated on the first day, we have to quit apologizing for being a great school district. We need to say thank you and affirm that they are right, not shying away about what we are doing. Let's own the great district title.

Another thing to advise is that we have started two new contracts this year. We renewed the contract with Trinity and Director Stefanie Hayes has been working with them all week for schedules, drop offs, pickups and getting them where they need to be. We also started a new food service with Chartwells. It will take a while to establish them within the district.

Lastly, I emailed with the Administrators last week with the consensus that we had a good great start last week. And now the question is why? Why do you think we had a great start? The idea is that we do something here in this district that other districts have frowned upon. We give teachers three full days and a week-end ahead of the first day of school. Guaranteed 100% of the teachers had their classrooms up and ready. Giving that planned time before the students come in, really makes a difference. He congratulated all 14 Principals for a great start and a great opportunity and congratulates all of staff and faculty for being ready.

President Gafa thanked Mrs. Rieth, Ms. Collins, Ms. Holmes, Ms. Lappin and Mr. Young for running the summer learning program. She congratulated Mr. Young on the new member of his family, 11 days old. She personally thanked Stefanie Hayes for handling the bus issues on the first day of school. Congratulations to the Boys North Cross Country team and the Girls South Cross Country team, 1st place in Algonac. She reminded everyone that the North/South game is September 23rd. Stop in at the Chamber's tailgate party before the game. Lastly, she wanted to encourage everyone to come by the South Commons, prior to the next Board meeting at South High School to recognize Mr. Fenton.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Cindy Pangborn, Board Secretary