



V. B.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 27, 2012
Multi-Purpose 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 7:07 p.m.

Board members present: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Dindoffer.

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton; Curriculum Directors Bur and Johnson

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR AUGUST 27, 2012

It was Moved by: Trustee Walsh

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board Agenda for Monday, August 27, 2012 be adopted as presented.

It was then,

Moved by: Trustee Dindoffer

Supported by: Trustee Valente

THAT the Board recommend that V. D., *Approval of Tuition Rates for Students Found in Violation of State Residency Requirements*, remain on the table.

In a roll call vote regarding the layered motion to leave Item V. D. on the table,

Trustee Dindoffer, Yes

Trustee Roeske, No

Trustee Jakubiec, No

Trustee Pangborn, No

Trustee Walsh, No

Trustee Valente, Yes

Trustee Gafa, No

Motion to leave item V.D. on the table until the September board meeting was defeated by a 5 – 2 vote.

The first motion to approve the Board Agenda for August 27, 2012 as presented returned to the floor for a vote.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske and Walsh

Nays: Valente

Motion carried by a 6 – 1 vote.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Legislative Update

Dr. Harwood noted that the key primary piece of legislature that has occurred recently is the Senate's approval of the new retirement reform, MPSERS Reform System, in regards to capping the retirement rate for the upcoming school year at 24.46%. MPSERS is the retirement rate districts are required to pay per employee. The Senate capped the MPSERS rate at 24.46% and this has now gone back to the House for review. Employees will have to notify the State of their final retirement plan decision by October 26, 2012. That decision, then, will take effect in December, 2012 capping the district benefits rate at 24.46%. Information suggests that the district can anticipate that there will be an appeal to the health care system that the employees have been contributing (3%) to since 2010. That appeal has been accepted by the court and is up to the State of Michigan to appeal that appeal to see if they can still impose that 3% contribution. If it is not, it could be reimbursed to employees.

Dr. Harwood also shared an update on The Oxford Foundation and its proposals for how schools should be funded. He noted that he would be watching that group and their proposals closely as they relate to school funding and the School Aid Act.

B. Good News Items

Superintendent Harwood shared the good news that Trombly's Susan Howey, one of 200 across the nation, was accepted for participation in the Exxon Mobil STEM (Science, Technology, English and Math) program. He also noted that South's cross country team was named number one in the nation. The Grosse Pointe Public School System's tuition-based preschool and child development program expanded to include children ages 6 weeks to 5 years.

Dr. Harwood thanked the Grosse Pointe Public Library for partnering with the Grosse Pointe Public Schools in continuing to offer their STEP program for after school activities at the Woods Library Branch to assist and provide students additional learning opportunities.

The Superintendent welcomed Tom Tobe as interim principal at North High School for the upcoming school year as the district continues to look for a permanent replacement.

An enrollment and residency update was provided noting that as of August 26, 2012 the district has over 5,000 families in the district with 8,387 students. At this writing, there are 431 new Kindergarten students and just a little less, 400 students, in 1st through 12th grades that are new to the district. All students are monitored for current residency. Dr. Harwood made note of the procedures and practices, both current and new, which are in place to verify residency for every student attending the Grosse Pointe Public School System. A landlord affidavit is one of the new forms needed for those that lease/rent within the district's boundaries. Policy 5111, regarding rights of the district to seek prosecution for fraud or perjury for making false statements on students enrollment forms has been reviewed and enforced as new students enroll. A proposal for a new additional affidavit for every family to sign for every student in the district has also been requested as part of the enrollment/residency process by the Residents for Residency group.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

Tom Lizza, Grosse Pointe Shores, spoke on behalf of the Residents for Residency regarding the district's adoption of the tuition rate for non-resident students and the proposed affidavit of residency document for all students in the district.

Guy Gehlert, Grosse Pointe Shores, also addressed the residency issue in relation to proficiency rates and readiness trends.

John Gallant, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his concerns on the district residency and re-verification process.

Linda Kusch, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared her support of the Residents for Residency statement and tuition rates for those in violation of the residency policies.

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR AUGUST 27, 2012

A. Approval of Gifts from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education

The Foundation's Grant Committee made recommendations to the Foundation Board at their meeting in August, 2012 to approve a group of grant requests which were submitted for their consideration. The Foundation Board then approved the following:

- **Barnes – Peer to Peer Program** – This request for **\$4,900** will benefit North, South, Parcels, Poupard and Maire to educate students about special needs learners to allow them to interact more naturally together. The program is modeled after the “LINKS” program which has been successfully implemented at a number of schools through-out the state.
- **Barnes – Cozy Corner** – a request of **\$12,800** has been made to facilitate the development of an interactive sensory classroom area at Barnes for Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Disorder, Sensory Processing Disorders, Emotional Regulatory Difficulties and other general development students.
- **Ferry – FAST Spelling Pilot Phase 2** – This request of **\$1,393** is for a continuation of the spelling pilot GPFPE supported in 2011-12 for 1st and 2nd grade students.
- **Kerby – “FISH” Philosophy for the Classroom** - This is a “Pilot Program” to address larger class sizes and demanding curriculum and the need to teach students about personal responsibility and accountability. The amount of **\$225** will be used at the 2nd grade level at Kerby Elementary.
- **North – Grosse Pointe North School Store** – The amount of **\$4,000** is requested to provide start-up funding for a school store at North which will be entirely run by Business class students (and their teacher) for a hands-on experience.
- **Richard – FAST Spelling Pilot Phase 2** – This request for **\$1,393** is a continuation of the spelling pilot GPFPE supported in 2011-12 for 1st and 2nd grade students.

An additional directed gift was presented by Christy Scoggins, Vice President of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education, for the North and South High Schools art work auction in the amount of \$2,050.

It was Moved by: Trustee Dindoffer with gratitude

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve the Gifts from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education in the amount of \$26,761 as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

B. Approval of Human Resources Report for August, 2012

The Human Resources Report contained the appointments or recalls of five instructional staff members and the resignations/retirement or leave of four instructional staff. All appointments are replacements or otherwise within the 2012-13 budget allocations unless noted.

It was Moved by: Trustee Jakubiec

Supported by: Trustee Walsh

THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

C. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of July 2, 2012 and Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2012

The minutes of the Closed Session of July 2, 2012 and Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2012 were presented for approval. Corrections to the July 23, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes were noted, corrections were made and revised copies of the July, 2012 minutes were provided to the Board .

It was Moved by: Trustee Walsh

Supported by: Trustee Jakubiec

THAT the Board approve the Minutes presented as amended.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Walsh

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

D. Approval of Tuition Rates for Students Found in Violation of State Residency Requirements

At the July 23, 2012 meeting, the Board of Education approved tuition rates (for legal residents as defined by State law) for those students moving in and out of the district and for high school seniors.

According to Board Policy 5111, "...the Board may establish a higher tuition rate for those who are found to have enrolled or remained a student in the District without any right to do so."

In accordance with that language the administration is recommending a tuition rate of \$13,030 be approved by the Board to address those students who have violated State residency laws and District requirements. It is the administration's belief that this higher tuition rate will be an additional deterrent to those parents/guardians thinking about or willing to try to enroll students to circumvent and violate State law and District requirements.

This amount, once approved by the Board, will be included on the enrollment affidavits that are signed and notarized. It will also be included on our web site.

This tuition rate and any costs associated with the investigation and removal of a student will be assessed against those who have violated State residency laws.

That the Board of Education approve the tuition rate of \$13,030 to be used as the basis for charges against those in violation of residency requirements.

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve the Tuition Rates for Students Found in Violation of State Residency Requirements.

In a roll call vote,

Trustee Dindoffer abstained from voting due to unanswered legal questions

Trustee Roeske, Yes

Trustee Jakubiec, Yes

Trustee Pangborn, Yes

Trustee Walsh, No

Trustee Valente, No
Trustee Gafa, Yes

Motion carried by a 4 – 2 vote.

VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 24, 2012

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for September, 2012

The Human Resources Report for September will be provided prior to the September, 2012 regular meeting.

B. Approval of Closed, Special Meeting, Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of August, 2012

The Meeting Minutes for August, 2012 will be available prior to the next regular meeting of the Board.

C. Approval of Tax Levy

Mr. Fenton said that the specifics of the tax levy will be available to the Board prior to the regular meeting in September, 2012.

He noted that there are four levies that will be brought to the Board for information and vote in September are the Debt Fund, Sinking Fund, Non-Homestead Tax Levy and Homestead Tax Levy. The Homestead Tax Levy is based on enrollment.

D. Approval of Revisions to Board Policies

The Policy Committee will make a recommendation if a meeting is needed to discuss possible revisions to policies that may require school district policy changes. The date and time of that meeting will be posted on the district website.

E. Approval of Superintendent Goals for 2012-2013

Dr. Harwood noted that the Superintendent Goals have been established by Board policy. Some are new goals while others have been in place. Dr. Harwood will be meeting with President Gafa to review those goals prior to the next regular meeting of the Board.

F. Approval of Federal Program Funding

Dr. Harwood noted that the district receives funds through Title I which provide support to identified buildings for reading support for students in buildings (part of the WCRESA and Federal Funding). The district also receives Title II funding which provides Professional Development funds and is also still up for review. Funding from the government for Special Education funds for a Preschool Grant and Flowthrough Grant are also provided to the district and this information will be provided prior to the next meeting of the Board to update the Board on federal program revenue.

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report

Mr. Fenton said that there was not the usual financial activity in July with most of the staff off for the summer and building activity was slow. A report for variable expenses is now provided showing purchased services, supplies, capital equipment and is in line with our budget model utility to date. Mr. Fenton also provided an update on the Parcels pool and waterproofing project and the South greenhouse project which are both still in progress.

Dr. Dean said that although the health care costs usually run approximately two months behind, they now show active funding numbers as opposed to targeted numbers in expenses. The health care costs at this point have come in close to what was projected with a minimal difference of only about \$100,000.

B. Board of Education Trustee Election

The Board election for two open seats on the Board of Education will be part of the general election in November and three candidates have indicated interest in running for those seats: Judy Gafa, Cindy Pangborn and William Broman.

C. League of Women Voters Candidate Forum

The League of Women Voters will hold a candidate forum for the Board election sometime in October. That date will be posted on the district website once it has been established.

D. Enrollment Update/Class Size/Staff Allocation

An enrollment and residency update was provided noting that as of August 26, 2012 the district has over 5,000 families in the district with 8,387 students. At this writing, there are 431 new Kindergarten students and just a little less, 400 students, in 1st through 12th grades that are new to the district. Middle and high school enrollment numbers are on target with projections. Mr. Fenton noted that approximately 25 students are enrolled each day.

Dr. Dean spoke to the class size statistics. He noted that elementary class size is excellent at this time and consistent with projections (off by only by one tenth of a percent). Kerby third grade and Richard kindergarten have a higher enrollment and teachers have been added to each of those schools to accommodate that increase. Due to the size of the Ferry, Kerby, Maire and Mason kindergarten classes, a classroom assistant has been added to each of those classes. Dr. Dean noted that the administration will continue to closely monitor enrollment and class size.

E. Focus and Reward School Update

Dr. Harwood shared an update on Focus and Reward schools highlighting that focus schools are located all along the top-to-bottom rankings from the 5th percentile and the 99th percentile. Focus schools have students that are performing at the bottom 30% within the school and also in the top 30%. Dr. Harwood identified the districts' focus schools as Defer, Ferry, Trombly, Parcells and Pierce.

A Reward School is recognized as being in the top 5% of the state per student performance where there is not an identified data-based achievement gap. Reward schools in the district are: Kerby; Maire; Monteith; Richard; and Brownell. Four schools not on the list of Focus and Reward Schools are Mason, Poupard, North and South.

F. Residency Process Update

Superintendent Harwood noted that residency issues and plans were discussed earlier in the meeting. President Gafa shared that residency issues will be addressed throughout the year at every board meeting.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

President Gafa announced there will be a Work Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 17, 2012 and a Regular Meeting of the Board at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 24, 2012 in the Brownell Multipurpose Room.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Lisa Carmer, Grosse Pointe Woods, asked for information regarding the Residency Affidavit and whether or not it was a form per family or per student. Dr. Harwood noted that the new proposed residency affidavit made it necessary to fill out a form for each child attending school.

Luis Garcia, Grosse Pointe Park, commented on the Magnet program at Defer and the residency issues being addressed this evening.

Diane Karabetsos, Grosse Pointe Woods, commented on speculated residency fraud in the district and the new residency affidavit being proposed for all students.

X. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Dindoffer welcomed everyone back to a new and exciting school year. She wished all the new administration, students and teacher well as they being the year. Mrs. Dindoffer thanked those residents that spoke this evening and made proposals regarding residency.

Trustee Roeske said that he appreciated those who attended the meeting this evening and spoke. He noted that he also appreciates and acknowledges the affidavit being proposed by the Residents for Residency. He thanked Mrs. Howey and all staff who attended summer training courses and enrichment classes as they bring their skills back to the classroom for students. He congratulated the fall athletic teams and welcomed back the staff and students.

Trustee Jakubiec echoed the previous Board member comments, appreciation and congratulations.

Trustee Pangborn thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education for their generosity. She shared her thoughts on the proposals from the Residents for Residency and encouraged the community and Board to move forward and set the verification process in motion.

Trustee Walsh thanked the administration for the good data presented this evening. He thanked Superintendent Harwood for keeping the focus on the continuous improvement plan and keeping the main business of the district – teaching and learning the priority.

Trustee Valente had no comment.

Dr. Harwood thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education and their contributors for the continued support and generosity they offer to the district. He welcomed Cheri Trefney, the new GPEA President. He shared information on the Welcome Back breakfast for all district staff on Wednesday, August 29, 2012 in the Brownell multi-purpose room.

Superintendent Harwood also noted that he would be speaking on the Craig Fahle radio show this Thursday about school events and Pointe of Pride. He highlighted the wonderful school events, *Summer Select Choir* and *That's Entertainment* that occurred over the summer. Dr. Harwood reminded the community that Back to School Nights would be coming up in a couple of weeks and the date for each building would be posted on the district website.

President Gafa thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for their generous gifts to the school district. She encouraged the community to read the Oxford Report that Dr. Harwood referred to earlier in the meeting. Mrs. Gafa welcome back students and staff and is excited for the new school year that is about to begin.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Board Secretary