



V. B.

Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Work Session of September 17, 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 8:06 p.m.

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

Absent: Trustee Walsh

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton; Elementary Curriculum Director Bur

II. SPECIAL EDUCATION DISPROPORTIONALITY UPDATE

Superintendent Harwood presented data of Special Education students in Grosse Pointe Public Schools from 2009-2010 through 2011-2012 noting that the information this evening was to present the depth of why the district received a “disproportionate” status in the Student Services department. He noted the disproportionate representation indicators for the school district and their impact on the Federal IDEA funding grant that is received for student programs. In the portrait presented, Dr. Harwood highlighted headcounts of special education and general education students and percentages related to the district’s special education count compared with the state average special education count. The district’s enrollment for special education students was then broken down by disability including: speech and language impairment; specific learning disability; autism; other health impairments; cognitive impairment; emotional impairment; and early childhood developmental delay. He said that the district identifies more students as speech and language impaired with fewer learning disabilities as compared with the state enrollment numbers. While noting the total student population of both special education and general education students, Dr. Harwood also presented a view of each population by ethnicity and grade level.

The Continuous Improvement and Monitoring System (CIMS) and State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators reflect the state’s reconciliation of district plans for compliance that are in place. The U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the state look at 20 indicators for disproportionality. Monitored areas are: 1) discipline; 2) educational environments; 3) identification for eligibility for special education services; and 4) identification for a specific area of disability. Superintendent Harwood then delivered the Disproportionate Representation Indicators for Grosse Pointe Public School students. He stated that the current disproportionality is based on the 2010-2011 school year in the areas of discipline and identification for a specific area of disability. He added that the weighted ratio for discipline of African American students was 5.2201 and the weighted ratio for identification of African American students in EI was 3.54. Dr. Harwood said that due to the disproportionality, 15% of \$297,319 of the allocation must be used for Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS). Early Intervening Services will work with elementary students to address at-risk population in areas of learning and speech development per emphasis of CEIS for intervening at K-3rd grade level. Also to be implemented are: continued implementation, support, and improvement of the use of Positive Behavior Support programs across the district in regard to preventative disciplinary measures for all students and continued review of identification procedures and practices for diverse racial/ethnic groups.

III. UPDATE AND REVISION OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Superintendent Harwood addressed the five overriding areas that will be the focus of the Continuous Improvement Plan for the 2012-13 school year:

- Teaching and Learning Focus Area
Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction
- Teaching and Learning Focus Area
Literacy
- Teaching and Learning Focus Area
Professional Learning Communities
- Leadership Focus Area
Establishing a Culture of Shared Leadership
- Leadership Focus Area
Operational Integrity and Marketing

He shared a quick thumb-nail sketch of each area and the short term goals and targets for each.

Dr. Dean shared information regarding the Leadership Focus Area and its marketing goals. He noted that on Sunday November 11, 2012, the district will be hosting, with the Chamber of Commerce, an Open House for all current and potential families. All Grosse Pointe Public School buildings will be open to showcase the extraordinary things that are happening in classrooms throughout the district.

IV. 21st CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL REVIEW TEAM

Dr. Dean said that given the recent mandates from state and federal government, changing expectations from the parent community and post secondary institutions with developments in educational research, a team is being created to consider how to structure the high school experience to best meet the needs of all Grosse Pointe Public School students. This 21st Century High School Review Team will include: Dr. John Dean; Mr. Aaron Johnson; Dr. Matt Outlaw; Mr. Terry Flint; Mrs. Kate Murray; Mr. Tom Beach; 7-9 North teachers; 7-9 South teachers; four North parents and four South parents; two students each from North and South; and two community members. The parameters of the team will be to focus on making decisions in the best interest of all students. Interest will be given to the needs of sub-groups including high achieving, under achieving, special education and students “in the middle”. Gathered data will be used whenever available and applicable. Although financial stewardship is always a consideration, it will not be a primary focus in decision making.

The purpose of this team is not to create curriculum or recommend specific instructional practices or methodologies. Instead, the goal will focus on how GPPSS can create structures and opportunities that maximize student opportunity while preserving rigor for all students. The following areas have been preliminarily identified as areas of focus for this team; **Blended Learning** (the mixing of various instructional delivery methods including, but not limited to, face-to-face instruction, on-line instruction, remote instruction and experiential instruction); **Dual Enrollment**(opportunities for students to enroll in courses in traditional post-secondary institutions and receive both high school and college credit simultaneously); **High School Schedule** (the structure of the school day and year that the GPPSS high school experience is provided to students); **Graduation Requirements** (the high school credits and activities required to graduate from North or South with a high school diploma); and **Credit Recovery** (the process by which students can re-take courses for either an improved grade or credit after not being initially successful in the course.)

The purpose of the 21st Century High School Review Team is to carefully consider the needs of the district’s students and determine how to best meet the various interests.

The 21st Century High School Review Team will use data to investigate a series of focus areas. After careful consideration and review the 21st Century High School Review Team will make a series of recommendations that should be carefully considered by the internal and external stakeholders of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Those areas of focus include:

- General 21st Century High School Review Team Parameters
- Specific 21st Century High School Review Team Areas of Focus
- Data Gathering and Use
- 21st Century High School Review Team Work Structure
- 21st Century High School Review Team Work Plan
- Steps Following Recommendations

Trustee Dindoffer asked administration how the school Board will be involved in the development of this process. Dr. Dean shared that he had hoped that as the process unfolds, the Board would direct any ideas they have to him so that those on the committee could incorporate the information and review Board input during the progression of the data gathering rather than at the end of the process in the hopes of incorporating Board data during the process rather than after the process.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Diane Karabetsos, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke about the administration implementing the Residents for Residency affidavit that was brought to the Board at the end of August.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Board Secretary