



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 28, 2013
Multipurpose Room, Brownell Middle School
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Dindoffer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Jakubiec.

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 28, 2013

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Board Agenda be adopted as presented for October 28, 2013.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Good News Items

1) National Merit and Commended Students

Superintendent Harwood shared information about students recognized as National Merit and Commended students based on their performance on the PSAT that they take in the fall. National Merit Scholar Awards are based on their scores and students are qualified as being in the top percentage of performers on that test. There are 1.5 million students in the nation that take the test and 50,000 of those students have been recognized for their high performance. The students recognized from North High School as Commended are Emily Always, Michael Makowski, and Harrison Campion. North's Semi-Finalists are Carrie Rakowicz and Pearce Reickert. Commended students from South High School are: Genevieve Hummer; Sophia Lianos; and Jack Strachan. Semi-Finalists from South are: Jeannine Degnan; Francesca DiJulio; Archibald Hauck; Claire Huebner; Isaac Piecuch; Tenley Shield; Kaitlin Dalman; and Brian L'Heureux. The National Achievement Semi-Finalist is Jordan Spratt.

Dr. Harwood highlighted the work of Ms. Kari Manino's classroom as they were learning about how to write a persuasive paper about their State government proposing a change in the State's symbols. She introduced three students in her class, Jake McBride Hayden Berry and Luke Srebernak, who wrote letters to Senator Bert Johnson, who facilitated the reading of that bill on the Senate floor, as they worked to make Mackinac Island fudge the new State symbol.

Superintendent Harwood also recognized Grosse Pointe North and South football teams that made it into the playoffs as well as Lilly Pendy, who received the top medal for achievement in Women's Golf for the season and Tenley Shield, who finished in fourth place for Women's Golf.

2) Distinguished Employee Recognition, November 25, 2013

Distinguished employees will be recognized at the November 25, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board.

3) Grosse Pointe Schools' Open House, November 10, 2013

The school district's Open House will take place on Sunday, November 10, 2013 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The community Board of Realtors are also holding open houses throughout the community at that time for prospective buyers.

B. Legislative Update

Dr. Harwood highlighted topics of interest from the Legislative Update: Common Core, which passed the House; Epi Pens to be housed in every school with the question being, who holds the prescription and who pays the cost; Accountability Scorecard (currently color coded), and whether or not the district will go back to a letter grading system; College endowments of \$8.4 billion at one school were discussed and how that college funding impacts the amount K-12 schools receive from the School Aid Fund.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

There were no comments at this time.

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 28, 2013

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for October 28, 2013

Dr. Dean shared information from the Human Resources Report identifying the appointment of the Mandarin Chinese teacher who is uniquely qualified to teach the Chinese classes.

It was Moved by: Trustee Gafa

Supported by: Trustee Valente

THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for October 28, 2013.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

B. Approval of Closed and Regular Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2013

It was Moved by: Trustee Valente

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Board approve the Closed and Regular Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2013 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

C. Approval of Resolution to Honor Distinguished Employees

It was Moved by: Trustee Gafa

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

Trustees Gafa and Pangborn amended their original motion from just tabling the Resolution to Honor Distinguished Employees to include a date when the resolution would be presented to the Board for approval.

That date would be the regular meeting on November 25, 2013.

THAT the Resolution to Honor Distinguished Employees be Tabled and brought forth at the November 25, 2013 Regular meeting.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

D. Approval of Literature for Strategies for Reading and Writing Course

Information on each of the Literature selections was provided to the Board by Mr. Aaron Johnson and Ms. Taryn Laughlin.

1. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT the Literature selection, The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian, be approved as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

2. The Hunger Games

It was Moved by: Trustee Gafa

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Literature selection, The Hunger Games, be approved as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

3. Slam!

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Literature selection Slam, be approved as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

E. Approval of Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The month of October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Mrs. Judy Gafa, GPPSS Board Treasurer, with support from Mr. Dan Roeske, GPPSS Board Vice President, presented a proclamation to the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This agenda item seeks the approval of the GPPSS Board of Education to adopt this proclamation and recognize

October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

It was Moved by: Trustee Gafa

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month be approved as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 25, 2013

- A. Approval of Human Resources Report for November 25, 2013**
- B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2013**
- C. Approval of Board Policies**
- D. Approval of Resolution to Honor Distinguished Employees**
- E. Approval of Audit Report from Plante Moran**
- F. Approval of Resolution to Submit Bond Proposal**

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report

Mr. Fenton shared information about the Monthly Financial Report noting that September was the first month of activity with school back in session leaving nothing unusual to report. The variable cost report was also provided for Board review. Dr. Dean reported on the Health Care Report noting that a meeting was scheduled with Brown and Brown on Tuesday of this week to discuss the status of the Health Care Reports. Documents on both topics are provided on the district website.

B. Enrollment Update/Class Size/ Staff Allocation

Mr. Fenton noted that enrollment counts were presented at the last meeting with actuals from the first count date. He noted that the district is up 29 FTE above budget projections but 18 FTE lower than last year's actual enrollment count.

C. Technology Update

Superintendent Harwood said that a report is expected by a 3rd party this Friday and will be reviewed over the weekend. Requests for questions will be responded to with a finalized report to the Board on Wednesday or Thursday of next week.

On November 11, 2013, the Board will meet as a whole with the 3rd party to discuss a Bond proposal. On November 18th the 3rd party will meet with Amanda VanDusen from Miller Canfield on suggestions for bond language and a legal perspective. On November 25th the final report will be presented at the Board's regular meeting for approval of a resolution for a February 25th Bond Election.

D. Calendar of Assessment Activities .

Superintendent Harwood provided information on assessment activities in the district and said that a calendar of assessment activities would be provided annually.

E. Summary of Scheduled Professional Development Program on November 5, 2013

Cheri Burley presented the background on how information on offerings available to all Grosse Pointe Public School employees was developed for a scheduled Professional Development Program on November 5, 2013.

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Secondary Curriculum Director, Aaron Johnson, explained that a Committee of teachers and administrators was developed to address topics that aligned to District Goals and were recommended for district instructional staff: Assessment; Diversity; Instruction/Learning; and Technology/Resources. Within these four areas, topics were identified using input from staff to create Professional Development opportunities. A “conference style” Professional Development Day was then recommended for November 5th. Special Education Director, Stephanie Hayes, shared how keynote speakers and facilitators were then identified by the Committee to present topics. Elementary Curriculum Director, Maureen Bur, noted that a schedule was then created and topics were shared with staff with many sessions being videotaped for future reference. Feedback will be reviewed by the Committee and used to guide decisions for future Professional Development offerings. Mrs. Bur invited Board members to join one or more of the Professional Development offerings on the 5th as their schedules permit.

F. Board Policies (first reading)

Vice-President Roeske said that the following policies were presented to the Board Policy Committee for review and will be updated and brought to the Board for approval at the next Board meeting.

1. Rescinding Board Policy 2430 – District Sponsored Clubs and Activities

Trustee Roeske noted that Policy 2430 is being rescinded because it is being replaced by Policy 5840 which is more expansive and includes more groups of district student sponsored clubs. He noted that Policy **2430.01**, however, which is **Special Programs by Community Volunteers** and will continue to be addressed.

2. Revised Policy 5330 – Use of Medications

The administration approached the Board Policy Committee about the method by which medication is administered in schools noting that current policy does not address this issue. Policy 5330 was also brought forward by the state with three new state statutes and asked that each district adopt a model policy of Use of Medications. Administrative Guidelines will also accompany this policy. The timing of addressing this policy at this time is so that it can be reviewed and approved in order to give parents time to plan ahead for its inclusion in the next school year. A requirement of this policy will include a parent and physician signed medication form for any student needing prescribed and over-the-counter medication administered during the school day.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Board Policy Committee Meeting, Thursday, November 6, 2013, 6:00 p.m., Board Room
- B. Meeting of the Board as a Whole, Monday, November 11, 2013, 6:00 p.m., 389 St. Clair, Board Office
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, November 18, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- D. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, November 25, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Joann Murphy, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about local control in the face of inclusion for all students and the importance of two-year degrees for all classroom assistants.

Karen Lawrence, Grosse Pointe Farms, shared about the technology needs in the district and the importance of voting “yes” for a technology bond.

Tish Hasting, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke about “Uniting the Farms” for those residents living in the north end of the Farms district.

Karen Strehlke, Grosse Pointe Farms, also spoke about “Uniting the Farms” for north-end Farms residents.

Allyson Rockwell, Grosse Pointe Farms, shared her thoughts about “Uniting the Farms” residents.

Mike Buckley, Grosse Pointe Farms, asked for a proposal to have the Moross/Cook Road – Chalfonte/Mack students officially attend Grosse Pointe South High School.

Julie and Philip Moe, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke regarding inclusion for special needs preschool students.

Jennifer Munson, Grosse Pointe Park, also shared her views on inclusion for special needs preschool students.

Kara Shall, Grosse Pointe, addressed the inclusion issue for special needs students.

William Shall, Grosse Pointe, also addressed special needs student inclusion for preschool children.

Karen Grobbel, Grosse Pointe, shared her views on integration for students receiving special education services into general education program.

Cynthia Misuraca, Grosse Pointe Park, addressed the special education student inclusion issue.

Mike Monette, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke regarding special needs students.

Eileen Wullschleger, Grosse Pointe Farms, shared her views on the Grosse Pointe high schools open campus policy for the lunch/recess program creating problems for the community.

Brett Mitchell, Grosse Pointe Farms, shared his views on inclusion for special needs students.

Patti Ritter, Grosse Pointe Farms, addressed the Board on the “Unite the Farms” initiative.

X. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Board members congratulated National Merit and Commended students as well as the North football team for making it to the playoffs. They thanked Ms. Manino for exposing her students to the democratic process and the administration for the upcoming Professional Development Program that was presented this evening. Residents who spoke this evening were also thanked and encouraged to continue to express their views at future meetings. The concerns of those speakers regarding “Unite the Farms” and inclusion for special needs students will continue to be examined by administration. Condolences were extended to the graduate from the South High School class of 2013 who passed away this past week.

Superintendent Harwood shared that a recent dialogue occurred with administration regarding Special Education needs and a cultural shift for special needs students, ensuring that it filters to staff. The new Special Education administrators are taking the issue very seriously. Limited funding remains a concern regarding the cost of a new preschool for special needs students and Ms. Loder, Ms. Lucchese and Ms. Hayes will continue to meet with staff to have future conversations about IEP needs and recommendations.

Dr. Harwood attended choir programs and South Pops and Pastries, with North’s Pops and Pastries this Saturday. He thanked those involved in the Professional Development Program planning and he looks forward to the event on November 5th. He also welcomed all residents to the Open House on November 10th in school buildings across the district.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Dindoffer adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

Board Secretary