



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2013
Brownell Middle School MultiPurpose Room
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Roeske

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendent Fenton
Deputy Superintendent Dean arrived at 8:05 p.m. from the Parcels PTO Meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2013

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Board Agenda for Monday, November 18, 2013 be approved as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Harwood noted that the House and Senate passed resolutions to support the implementation of the Common Core for all children except those that are home-schooled. They did not acknowledge Smarter Balanced assessment or a specific assessment tool, but believe that any state assessment used should be a computer-adaptive test that provides real time results twice a year and assists in the evaluation of teachers.

Dr. Harwood also said that testimony in the House Education Committee regarding a change from MDE's current color system to a letter grading schools A – F. Wayne County RESA is opposed to this change as the new color system was just implemented.

Testimony is taking place on retaining any third grader who cannot read at a third grade level. The Michigan Council on Educator Effectiveness has completed their recommendation and presented them to a joint session of the House and Senate Education Committees. Each superintendent is asked to contact their House Representative and request that the requirement that 25% of the teacher evaluation based on student growth this school year be continued through the 2014-15 school year.

Legislation continues to introduce and pass bills exempting some items/property from either sales or property tax and communities should know that each exemption puts less money into the School Aid Fund.

B. District Open House, November 10, 2013

On November 10, 2013, 152 children visited the Grosse Pointe Public Schools as part of the Second Annual

Open House. Elementary families came from Birmingham Public Schools, Bright Horizons, Grosse Pointe Academy, Liggett, Maple Park Montessori, St. Clare, St. Paul, St. Peter Lutheran and Star of the Sea.

Two children who attended the Open House will start school in the district on December 1. All families that attended will be contacted within a couple of weeks, thanking them for visiting our district.

C. Summary of November 5th Professional Development Day

Members of the Professional Development Committee, Aaron Johnson, Maureen Bur, Cheri Burley, and Stephanie Hayes highlighted feedback from the recent Professional Development Day on November 5th. Comments from attending staff were extremely positive. Many facilitators were Grosse Pointe Public School teachers and staff that shared their ideas and strategies that are currently being used in their classrooms. Anecdotal feedback identified a wide range of interest from those that attended. There were 75 sessions with 50 topics and 85% of facilitators were Grosse Pointe Public School staff. The committee will meet on November 20th to desegregate the data provided from Kalpa surveys and begin planning for the January 24th Professional Development Day for elementary school staff.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

There were no public comments at this time.

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2013

A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2013

It was Moved by: Trustee Gafa

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT the Board approve the Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2013 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

B. Approval of Human Resources Report for November 18, 2013

Superintendent Harwood provided information contained on the Human Resources Report for November 18, 2013.

It was Moved by: Trustee Jakubiec

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for November 18, 2013 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Review of Technology Pre-Bond Election Planning/Millage Rate and Bond Language Proposal

Superintendent Harwood introduced district legal counsel, Amanda Van Dusen and Ryan Bedzynski, who highlighted the critical points of the Technology Pre-Bond Election planning and Millage Rate and Bond

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Language proposal. In summary, the Technology Bond Proposal allows the Grosse Pointe Public School System to "...borrow a principal sum of \$50,280,000 issuing a general obligation unlimited tax bonds for the purpose of defraying the cost of remodeling, equipping, furnishing, re-equipping and refurnishing existing School District buildings, including security, media center, computer lab, classroom and technology infrastructure improvements; acquiring and installing instructional technology equipment; and associated site improvements in the district.

The estimated millage to be levied in 2014 to service this issue of bonds is 2.2839 mills (\$2.2839 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds of this issue is 2.2942 mills. The bonds may be issued in multiple series, payable in the case of each series in not to exceed ten years from the date of issue of such series. The debt millage levy required to retire the proposed and outstanding bonds of the School District is expected to be at or below 4.0091 mills."

Also provided to the Board were: documents with the timeline for submission of the bond proposal; a resolution to submit bond proposal for February 25, 2014; and a multi-series schedule of anticipated debt service and millage requirements.

Board members had an opportunity to express their concerns and recommendations.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Sheryl Hogan, President of the Grosse Pointe Association of Educational Office Personnel, shared her views on the need for additional staffing of clerks in the elementary schools.

Mary Jo Johnson, Grosse Pointe Farms, addressed the Board on clarification of financing and the scope of planned distribution of the personal devices for students.

John Shook, Grosse Pointe, spoke to the Board about the technology bond proposal noting that he was in agreement with Trustees Pangborn, Valente and Jakubiec.

Wilfred Steiner, Grosse Pointe Farms, shared his concerns about the technology bond proposal raising his taxes.

Laura Monahan, Grosse Pointe Farms, shared that she feels the district's computer capability at this point is dismal and the need to pass the technology bond in critical.

Andrew Dervan, Grosse Pointe Farms, expressed his concerns about the suggested technology bond proposal.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Board Policy Committee Meeting, Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 6:00 p.m., Board Room, 389 St. Clair
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, November 25, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Brownell MultiPurpose Room

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustees Jakubiec, Pangborn and Summerfield had no comment.

Trustee Gafa thanked the students and staff who came to the Open House and helped introduce people to their schools and activities.

Trustee Valente said she was every excited about the recent Professional Development Day for staff noting it was a great idea and a great program. She thanked the team that developed the opportunity for all staff.

Trustee Roeske also noted that the Professional Development Program was off to a great start and he is anxious to watch how the Committee builds on the success of that day as they prepare the next PD day in January.

Superintendent Harwood thanked the committee that put the Professional Development Day together adding that the team will continue to offer expanded programs for staff in the future. Dr. Harwood also thanked Ms. Van Dusen and Mr. Bedzynski for their work on the Technology Bond Proposal resolution and bond language.

President Dindoffer thanked those community members who shared their thoughts with the Board this evening. She congratulated the staff who presented the Annual Open House on their successful event as well as the team that facilitated the well-received Professional Development Day.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

President Dindoffer adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Lois Valente, Board Secretary