



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 27, 2014
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 7:01 p.m.

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

Absent: Trustee Valente

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Gafa.

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR JANUARY 27, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Jakubiec

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board Agenda be adopted as presented for January 27, 2014.

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

Absent: Trustee Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS AND ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY 27, 2014

There were no speakers at this time.

IV. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

A. Election of Officers

Board Bylaw 0152 indicates that the Board shall annually elect Board officers at its organizational meeting.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

THAT Trustee Dindoffer be nominated as President of the Board of Education.

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

In a roll call vote,

Trustee Dindoffer, Yes

Trustee Gafa, Yes

Trustee Jakubiec, Yes

Trustee Pangborn, Yes

Trustee Roeske, Yes

Trustee Summerfield, Yes

Trustee Valente, absent

Motion to nominate Trustee Dindoffer as President of the Board carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

It was Moved by: Trustee Gafa

THAT Trustee Roeske be nominated as Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

In a roll call vote,
Trustee Dindoffer, Yes
Trustee Gafa, Yes
Trustee Jakubiec, Yes
Trustee Pangborn, Yes
Trustee Roeske, Yes
Trustee Summerfield, Yes
Trustee Valente, Absent

Motion to nominate Trustee Roeske as Vice-President of the Board of Education carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

It was Moved by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT Trustee Gafa be nominated as Secretary of the Board of Education.

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

In a roll call vote,
Trustee Dindoffer, Yes
Trustee Gafa, Yes
Trustee Jakubiec, Yes
Trustee Pangborn, Yes
Trustee Roeske, Yes
Trustee Summerfield, Yes
Trustee Valente, Absent

Motion to nominate Trustee Gafa as Secretary of the Board of Education carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

It was Moved by: Trustee Gafa

THAT Trustee Summerfield be nominated as Treasurer of the Board of Education.

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

In a roll call vote,
Trustee Dindoffer, Yes
Trustee Gafa, Yes
Trustee Jakubiec, Yes
Trustee Pangborn, Yes
Trustee Roeske, Yes
Trustee Summerfield, Yes
Trustee Valente, Absent

Motion to nominate Trustee Summerfield as Treasurer of the Board of Education carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

B. Declaration of Board Member Compensation Preference

Per Board Bylaw 0144.1, Board members individually declare their preference for distribution of their compensation by one of four options: A) Receive his/her per meeting compensation for the current year; B) Refuse compensation for the current year; C) Request that in lieu of his/her compensation for the current school year a like amount be directed to a program of the Grosse Pointe Public School System or a District

related school organization; or D) Request that the compensation be directed on his/her behalf to the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education.

Trustee Jakubiec opted to have his compensation go directly to the Parcels instrumental program.

Trustee Pangborn chose to receive her compensation payment.

Trustee Summerfield chose to submit his compensation to Defer's *One School, One Book* program.

Trustee Gafa will receive her compensation and, again, donate it to the Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.

Trustee Valente was absent.

Trustee Roeske declined compensation.

Trustee Dindoffer declined compensation.

C. Approval of Resolution of Continuance of Funds and Designation of Signatories on Accounts

A resolution provided to the Board names the funds and accounts that need to be established and/or continued for the calendar year 2014.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the Resolution of Continuance of Funds and Designation of Signatories on Accounts as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

D. Approval of Appointment of Christian Fenton, Isha Smith and Carolyn Kurtz as Representatives to MAISL for Property/Liability Insurance Underwriter

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Jakubiec

THAT the Board approve the appointment of Christian Fenton, Isha Smith and Carolyn Kurtz as Representatives to MAISL for Property/Liability Insurance Underwriter as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

E. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Calendar for 2014

Board members were provided a Board Meeting Calendar for the 2014 school year. Meetings will be held at the Brownell Multi-Purpose Room unless otherwise noted.

It was Moved by: Trustee Jakubiec

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve the Board Meeting Calendar for 2014 as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. School Board Recognition

Superintendent Harwood acknowledged that January is School Board Recognition Month in school districts across the state. He commended the Grosse Pointe Public Schools System's Board of Education on their continued diligence in making the Grosse Pointe Schools a premier school district as they lead with students at the forefront of decision-making. A token of appreciation was distributed to all Board members by Dr. Harwood.

B. Legislative News

Superintendent Harwood shared current Legislative News with Board members noting: minimal damage on codifying the EAA with Wayne RESA who is asking for assistance in stopping the passage of the bill; the letter grades vs. color-coding bill and 3rd grade reading bill are on the House floor without enough votes to pass either; the House and Senate Education and K-12 Appropriations Committees are meeting to listen to data from the Michigan Department of Education on a report to determine which state assessment tool should be used to measure MI student progress - MDE is advocating for Smarter Balanced assessment; and the January Revenue Consensus shared that \$970 million is being added to education funding with local districts asking that the \$470 that was cut would be restored.

C. Good News Items

Superintendent Harwood shared good news: Defer's Yusuf Muhammad being one of 25 children portraying notable Detroiters on public service announcements designed to boost donations to the United Way of Southeastern Michigan; Paulina Jayne, South High School senior, will be appearing on American Idol; Pierce is hosting a fundraiser featuring "A Habeus Chorus Line" on February 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Pierce Auditorium; Full Circle is hosting Stone Soup on March 27th at the Tompkins Center in Grosse Pointe Park; 5th grade class at Trombly decided they wanted to help a 9 year old boy with a cleft palate through the Smile Train organization which raises money to operate on children with cleft palates.

VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY 27, 2014

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for January 27, 2014

Dr. Dean shared that there was no activity to report from the Human Resources Department this month.

B. Approval of Closed Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Board approve the Closed Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2014 as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

Trustee Pangborn asked to amend the regular meeting minutes of December 23, 2013. It was noted that those minutes had already been approved by all Board members at the January 13, 2014 meeting. President Dindoffer noted that the minutes being approved at this time were the January 13, 2014 closed session and regular minutes only.

C. Approval of Board Policy (Second reading)

1. Policy 5330, Medications

Trustee Roeske shared changes to Policy 5330, "Medications", noting that all revisions align with the State of Michigan Model Policy for Administering Medications to Pupils at Schools and are adopted as the District's Policy for medications at school, effective July 1, 2014. He added that "medication" includes prescription, non-prescription and herbal medications, and includes those taken by mouth, by inhaler, those that are injectable, and those applied as drops to the eyes, nose, or medications applied to the skin. As used in the Model Policy, the term "physician" means any health care provider licensed by the State of Michigan to prescribe medication.

It was Moved by: Trustee Gafa

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve Board Policy 5330, Medications as revised.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Roeske and Valente

Absent: Trustee Valente

Nays: Trustees Jakubiec and Pangborn

Motion carried by a 4 - 2 vote.

D. Approval of Budget Parameters Resolution for Budget Development for 2014-2015

To develop the budget parameters, administration gathers and reviews pertinent information using several sources. These include among other things: 1) Enrollment projections; 2) Updated Budget Model Utility Forecasts; 3) Foundation allowance changes; 4) Act 18 changes; 5) Retirement rate changes; 6) Federal, State and County grants updates/changes; 7) Benefit forecasts for health, dental, vision, life and LTD; 8) Other legislative changes that would impact budgets and forecasts; and 9) State of Michigan Department of Education financial comparison reports.

Budget Parameters:

For the various 2014-15 budgets, the Board of Education would like the administration to review and highlight:

- any expansion possibilities for tuition based preschool in other locations throughout the district
- any new technology-related General Fund expenditures in conjunction with the proposed Tech Bond proposals including equipment, staff, professional development
- any staff changes needed at the two high schools due to the current enrollment differential
- any changes needed related to the State hours and time requirements
- any other administrative proposals

Administration Budget Recommendations

The first draft of the budget recommendations of the administration should be presented to the Board by April 30, 2014. Included in the first draft should be the following: General Fund Budget Model Utility; Staff Utilization Report; Enrollment Projections; Class Size Projections; Debt Fund budget; Sinking Fund budget; School Service Fund budget; and Capital Project Fund budget.

Any changes to the various budgets will be made following Board of Education reviews and recommendations. Other changes will also be made based on directives from the State of Michigan. The final budget proposal will be presented for approval by the Board of Education no later than June 30, 2014, including the required Appropriation Act Resolutions for all funds.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Board approve the Budget Parameters Resolution for Budget Development for 2014-2015 as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

VII. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 24, 2014

- A. Approval of Human Resources Report for February 24, 2014**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2014**
- C. Approval of Reinstatement Panel**

President Dindoffer asked if this agenda item could be revised to reflect Trustee Gafa as the primary board member on the panel and Trustee Dindoffer as the alternate.

D. Approval of Policies (first reading)

Trustee Roeske noted that there were no policy changes to share at this time.

E. Approval of E-Rate Bid for Cell Phones

Mr. Woloszyn explained the process to obtain the E-rate Bid for cell phones in the district.

VIII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report

Dr. Dean said December was a good month for health care expenses and recently spoke to our health care provider, Brown and Brown to review other statistics and information. He noted he would be meeting on Wednesday of this week with central office administrators to further discuss the Budget Model Utility and how health care affects that report.

Mr. Fenton said that the budget figures are on target for variable expenses. Monthly bills utilities and overtime for maintenance crews are somewhat higher than in past winters due to the extreme cold weather. He added that a G.A.A.A. #2 would be forthcoming for March to reflect these changes in the budget.

B. Middle School Program of Studies

Mr. Johnson noted the most current revisions to the Middle School Program of Studies. The only major change in this year's program is the removal of the Chinese courses due to lack of interest and teaching personnel. Other minor changes were to the Introduction which cited updated Board members, administrators, department chairs and summer school dates and an updated course description of 6th Grade Art.

C. Upcoming Professional Development

GPEA President Cheri Burley, Special Education Director Stephanie Hayes and Elementary Curriculum Director Maureen Bur provided information on the District's January 24th Professional Development Day and upcoming Goals: Technology Integration; Instruction and Learning; Assessment and Data; and Diversity. They highlighted Elementary Professional Development topics that were provided on the 24th as well as a list of those facilitators. They will be meeting with the District Professional Development Committee on February 27th to begin the process of planning for 2014-2015 Professional Development and beyond.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, February 10, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room**
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, February 24, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room**

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Jennifer Munson, Grosse Pointe Park, said that she is the parent of twins, one with Down's syndrome and is the facilitator of the Grosse Pointe Down's Syndrome Guild and a member of the Parents Association on Inclusion. She noted that on January 15, 2014, the Parent Association on Inclusion met with Superintendent Harwood, Special Education Director Stephanie Hayes, and Special Education Supervisor, Sue Lucchese hoping to hear the district's plans to address parent concerns. They were disappointed when the three district leaders arrived ready to listen to parents instead of offer solutions. The parent group, again, shared their many concerns including: inclusive education for Down's syndrome students; least restrictive environment; accountability with IEP's; and a 3rd party Ombudsman for special education. She thanked the Board for their concern on these matters and asked that all further Board discussion on inclusion for Down's syndrome take place during televised meetings.

Ann Hern, Grosse Pointe Park, said that she is a parent of four children with varying degrees of learning challenges. She hopes tonight to be part of a positive force for change. She asked that a new framework for special education in the district, based on special education law, be built. She asked that instead of spending money to defend the district against infractions, please ask district legal counsel to create legally sound special education programs and policies. She said that this is not a parent vs. teacher issue, nor is it a general education vs. special education issue.

Julie Moe, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke on behalf of herself and her husband, Philip Moe, promising to return to Board meetings until their son, Max, gets the education he deserves in the district, fighting for special education programs. She knows that the Board is aware of the facts and that the administration looks for every legal loophole they can but there is no moral loophole for what the district does to the children. She said that the district knows that mechanical restraints are routinely used on preschool students, not for safety reasons, and that is against state policy. Children are shut in seclusion rooms, effectively locking them in a closet. A 5 year old student was locked in a closet for an hour. This is despicable. The district is not even complying with the special education laws. Many students have been lost by the district because of inadequate training of staff. Parents have been bullied by the administration to put their children into categorical classrooms. It is clear where the districts priorities lie, when administrators are asking for iPads for every student. We should not have to beg the district to follow state policies. We have a big problem here and you know how to fix this, it is a leadership problem.

Karen Grobbel, Grosse Pointe, she would like the district to set new goals to improve the services for students in special education programs. Consider eliminating the practice of counting the time a special education student spends with a general education teacher as spending time with general education students. Be up front with parents and let them know when their child is spending time with a special education teacher and not a general education teacher or general education students. Please consider that general education teachers need special training to know how to work with special needs students and how to make accommodations in the classrooms so special education students can be included.

Joanne Murphy, Grosse Pointe Park, said that the Grosse Pointe Schools paid over \$460,000 to attorneys in the past four years to settle settlements with parents over special education issues. She shared that she thinks the district's attorneys are unethical. She noted that the peer model noted by another speaker does not follow any model offered in the state. She added that she too, feels the district has a leadership problem.

Mary Beth Langan, Grosse Pointe, said that her son attends a classroom at Parcels and has had no problems due to the staff. She learned that there was a seclusion room at Ferry Elementary School and, because she was against that practice, made sure that it was written into her son's IEP that he not be put in the seclusion room for any reason. She is embarrassed to admit that our district has seclusion rooms.

Kara Shall, Grosse Pointe, said that the district only does only enough, or the minimum, for special education programs and students to meet law requirements.

Kristy Pappas, Grosse Pointe Farms, feels that her child has not been safe in the Grosse Pointe Public Schools. She said her son has been beaten and bullied for things he didn't do. She thought that the leadership of the district would provide a safe environment for all children. She said her son has a constitutional right to a safe environment. She said a special education advocate for the district received a grant to provide bullying training in the district and the offer was turned down by Dr. Harwood.

Dominic Cusumano, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his opinion about the dangers of Wi-Fi and other technology being introduced in the schools that is dangerous. In a meeting with Drs. Harwood and Dean he was told that this claim would be investigated by the district's technology staff. He asked what was done with the information provided to the district's leaders and was it forwarded to Board for review. How and why was the ball dropped?

Lillian Cusumano, Grosse Pointe Woods, also shared her thoughts about the dangers of Wi-Fi in the district. She said that Drs. Harwood and Dean are a disgrace to the district. She said that she and her husband gave them scientific data that Wi-Fi would be dangerous to the students in the district. She said that the information was not shared with the Board. She would be glad to see the resignations of Drs. Dean and Harwood tomorrow. She also came to speak about Core Curriculum, noting there is no benefit to students in the district with Core Curriculum. Common Core was not field tested and when tested in New York it was found to be a failure. She said it is a disgrace that the district is not helping the special education parents.

Gerald Coyle, Grosse Pointe, shared his perspective about rumors regarding a high-profile administrator in the district and the district's responsibility to *not* let this issue turn into a "circus" and how the Board will be handling the validity of these rumors.

Eric Warren, Grosse Pointe Park, said he is an information technology professional and is an IT pro. He operates a private data network. He could meet or exceed the entire scope of the bond proposal for \$10 million. Only \$10 million is required. He said vote "No" on this proposal, it is a bad deal, vote "No".

Mickey Montagne Shield, Grosse Pointe Park, co-chair for Residents for Responsible Spending said that her group supports the need for technology and supports the schools. She asked the community to "wake up" and addressed the increase to school taxes. She said the technology proposal was vague without being told what is in the bond. A "No" vote is not a vote against the schools, students or technology. It is a vote for the district to go back to the table and come up with another plan.

Jennifer Greenwell, Grosse Pointe Park, she is embarrassed to be a school taxpayer in Grosse Pointe tonight. Many residents do not know what is on the ballot for the technology bond. She sees no evidence of what the district is planning to do. She asked residents to vote "No" on the February 25th bond proposal. She told the Board to get a new superintendent quickly.

Judy Sheehy, Grosse Pointe Woods, was almost in tears after listening to the special education parent issues. To spend money on technology when the special education parents can't get education for their children brings her to tears. She also addressed concerns about students taking their tablets to other countries, including Canada, and having that iPad confiscated by border patrol officials.

Jay Hackleman, Grosse Pointe Park, said that the district needs a more responsible spending plan for district technology. He said that his family will be voting "No" on the bond proposal asking the administration to come up with a more responsible bond proposal for the district's technology.

Diane Karabetsos, Grosse Pointe Woods, said she is not in favor of a "blank check" for the bond proposal funded by taxpayers. She also spoke to the bond's proposal to include lighting, security, carpeting and painting in the bond amount. Mrs. Karabetsos then addressed the district's 2002, \$62 million sinking fund bond that was "rolled over" in 2007. "How close are we to paying those off" she asked. "We still owe \$45.5 million." This community has many financial and IT experts that would like to work with the school system. Please don't ignore them. Residents for Responsible Spending are voting "No" on the technology bond on February 25th.

Peter Spencer, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke in support of, and asked residents to vote “yes” for the Technology Bond. He said that he feels that this bond is what is needed right now. He believes that those in opposition of this bond do, still, want the best for the district’s technology plan. He did add that he feels that doors and cameras and lights will help with security and cut back on incidents happening. He thinks this will be fantastic for the district and he will be voting “Yes”.

Catherine Saurbier, Grosse Pointe Farms, said she feels that somehow there will have to be answers by the Board to Moody’s downgrading of the school’s bonds. This downgrade and negative outlook was a sign on August 27, 2013 that the proposed technology bond was not the right amount at the right time. She is shocked and astounded by the district’s level of debt and will be voting “No” on February 25th.

Laura Monaghan, Grosse Pointe Farms, thanked the Board for recognizing the severity of the technology deficits in the schools and acting upon it. She spoke to a woman with children in another district where students already have individual school-issued iPads and other updated technology tools. She added how this lack of technology in our district will affect home values. She encouraged “no” voters to ask questions about the specifics of the bond and make a truly informed decision. This vote on February 25th is as much about what the district ‘has to gain’ as it is about what the district ‘has to lose’ if the bond is not passed.

George McMullen, Jr., Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke about public comment decorum, how the Board speaks to each other and offers input to the administration and residents and how the audience addresses the Board and administration. He wondered what a first time viewer would think after watching a Board meeting. He also addressed his support of the Technology Bond noting he would be voting “Yes” offering his assistance in answering any questions by the community.

Bob Haran, Grosse Pointe Farms, said that technology in the classrooms in buildings is basically non-existent with the limited technology currently in place. He said that it is time to vote “Yes” on February 25th to pass this bond.

Bill Shield, Grosse Pointe Park, addressed School Board member Dan Roeske who addressed a page on his Facebook page saying that those in opposition to the bond are spreading lies and misinformation contained in a community-wide robocall. Mr. Shield said that he made the recording for the call that went out to community members explaining his views as it affects district residents’ information on the bond’s tax hikes and asking residents to vote “No” on the bond proposal on February 25th.

Kelly Boll, Grosse Pointe Park, said that the most alarming feature of the bond is that the school intends to issue personal computing devices to students in grades 3 – 12. Are parents really comfortable with their child walking to and from school carrying this personal device having used it all day in school and then tethered to it again when they return home to complete homework. How about the safety risk to the child walking to and from school with this device? A “No” vote sends the Board back to the drawing board to come up with a more reasonable proposal centered on technology with a vote in November when the majority of taxpayers can be focused on the issue.

Virginia Joliet, Grosse Pointe Woods, although in favor of technology, she feels this bond proposal is “too big, too broad and too long”. She asked residents to vote “No.”

Garrett Myers, Grosse Pointe Woods, believes in the power of technology to enhance education, but spoke against the proposed Technology Bond saying it was not well-planned. He said the proposal as it stands would be an inefficient use of the bond proceeds. He added that there was no apparent plan for refining the plans and costs. He provided alternate ways to meet the needs of the bond at a lesser cost.

Allison Baker, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her support of the Professional Development opportunities for staff in the district noting that many revolved around 21st century technology opportunities. Without the passing of the bond, many of the opportunities for staff and students will be lost. Currently, computers in classrooms are not equipped or reliable enough to handle the technologies for students and staff. She asked residents to vote “yes”.

Karen Ridgway, Grosse Pointe, shared her thoughts against the Technology Bond, sharing that it was “too big”, “too broad” and not responsible. She wants the School Board to be more careful in how they spend community dollars. She asked the district to take care of the special needs students and that she is supportive of the special needs parents.

Lisa Kotula, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her experience with her daughter’s testing, and lack of testing, in the district. She shared that she was scolded by a principal for taking her issues to the Board. She said it is time for a change in leadership and in administration with the district’s special education services staff.

Ginny Hayden, student, spoke in support of South High School administrator, Mr. Flint.

Kelyn McKnight, student, spoke in support of the South High School administration, Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint.

Katie Kish, student, spoke in support of the South High School administration, Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint.

Carmella Goree, student, spoke in support of the South High School administration and to work together and reach for higher goals.

Aynslie Fritz, student, spoke in support of the South High School administrator, Mr. Flint.

Angela Kennedy, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke in support of South High School administration, Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint. She asked for a written assurance of the Board’s support and commitment of both South administrators.

Cynthia Sohn, Grosse Pointe, spoke in support of the South High School administration. She said that Grosse Pointe has fantastic families that care about their children’s education and fantastic administrators. She spoke in support of Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint and asked those in the audience who also support both men to stand in agreement. She asked the Board that if there is anything else going on with these two employees, she asked the Board to gather information for all sides before making any decisions.

Greg Bowens, Grosse Pointe Park, also spoke in support of South administration. He said he is a Blue Devil, Outlaw supporter. He spoke in support of Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint. He asked that senior administrative reviews should include a parent participant and include four-year contracts to maintain sustainable leadership. He asked the Board to maintain stability at South.

Amy Taylor, Grosse Pointe, came to speak on behalf of Matt Outlaw and Terry Flint. She hopes that what the Board says is the reality in place. She asked if something can be spoken to put an end to the rumors and fear spread by suspicion and fear. She asked that parents have a voice in this issue and that a written statement of support from the Board and central office administration be provided.

Dave Boll, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about the Technology Bond and addressed his view of overspending on the proposal. He addressed the expense for student personal devices and for the I Cloud issue. He will be voting “No”.

XI. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Jakubiec thanked the speakers who spoke tonight. I have several items I will be addressing in my closing comments tonight: 1). To begin with, I want to remind everyone of my comments from the December 16th Board meeting where I communicated my confidence in, and my recognition of value that our current Administrators at both of our High Schools provide our district. I still have the same beliefs today. We are very fortunate to have such highly skilled people leading our High Schools.

2). several people have asked me what would happen if the Technology Bond does not pass in February. My comments on this are based on what everyone can see if they review the August, October and November School Board meetings on our web site. In reviewing those meetings, anyone can see that Board made a conscious decision not to only move forward with a smaller ballot proposal on the November 2013 election ballot to fix the

immediate problems with infrastructure and replacement of the existing current computers, but was not ready to place a \$48 Million dollar proposal on that ballot. An independent study was called for and completed. There was discussion with the Board about having two separate ballot proposals, 1 to fix the infrastructure, add cameras and other security improvements to the buildings, and update the existing computer equipment so that our staff could more effectively teach the current curriculum, and a 2nd ballot proposal which would allow the community the chance to vote on funding for all the other projects proposed by our administration. The majority of the Board voted to have only one ballot proposal for the entire amount placed in this February's election for the entire amount for our citizens to consider. Watching the Board deliberations from those taped meetings one can see what occurred. One could also see that I clearly stated that I could not support a single ballot proposal for the entire amount.

Based on those facts, **I would answered the question on what would happen if the February Tech Bond ballot proposal does not pass by saying:** "My opinion is that the Board would have to go back and draft a new ballot proposal for the May election to address the infrastructure, cameras, the existing computer technology replacements and other key items to address the must haves. A second ballot proposal could also be added to allow the community to vote on the other pieces of the administration proposal again as they are today or in a modified configuration either on the May election ballot or perhaps on the November election ballot with the ballot proposal for renewing the Sinking Fund millage". I would conclude my answer by saying that "my position on the single ballot proposal has not changed and both my wife and I will be voting NO on that proposal in February and that we will be looking forward for the chance during the May election to vote YES on a ballot proposal, (or several ballot proposals), that allow the community the opportunity to support the schools in the way that they believe it should be supported".

3). **Finally**, I hope the administration comes to realize the some of the means chosen over the last year or so to try to accomplish their goals truly reflect poorly on the district and do not support the students and families of our district. I was very upset to learn that a directive was sent out from Central Office **forbidding building administrators or staff from writing letters of recommendation so children can transfer to private or parochial schools if that is what their family wanted as a way to continue their learning**. This needs to be reversed, and I would remind the Administrators and Board that other proposed changes to what this district has historically done to support parts of our community should not be done to just reach a mis-guided understanding of the Vision or an end goal.

Please be safe traveling home tonight. Thank you.

Trustee Pangborn said she was outraged for the parents of special needs students. She also spoke about the unwarranted safety and security proposals listed on the February 25th ballot for the Technology Bond. Mrs. Pangborn shared her thoughts on the district leasing some of the infrastructure items of the bond and said she would be voting "no" on the bond proposal.

Trustee Summerfield congratulated the Trombly students on their *Smile Train* project and wished the South High School student appearing on **American Idol**, good luck. He thanked all of the parents that came to the meeting this evening to speak and appreciated the open dialogue from the special education parents. He said he is supporting the Technology Bond and encouraged the community to vote "yes".

Trustee Gafa also recognized the Trombly students adding that last Friday a group of 5th graders, also from Trombly, visited the Sunrise Senior Living facility and spent time with the residents which was very much appreciated by those who had a chance to listen to and converse with the students.

Trustee Gafa disagreed with Trustee Pangborn regarding the security plan suggested as part of the Technology Bond. She thanked the special education and South High School parents who spoke this evening.

Trustee Roeske also thanked the speakers for coming to the meeting. He commented on the South High School administration remaining at South in response to comments from tonight's speakers. Mr. Roeske added that he supports the technology plan proposed and feels that it best meets the needs of the students and helps maintain the technology upgrades that are desperately needed.

Trustee Roeske offered a personal apology to Mr. Shield for his Facebook reply to Mr. Shield comments. He encouraged the community to vote on February 25th.

Superintendent Harwood appreciated Mrs. Dindoffer's comments regarding South High School administration adding that the district looks forward to collaboratively working with both South administrators.

Dr. Harwood encouraged all residents to become educated about the bond by viewing information on the district website. He noted that January is Board Recognition Month and shared his appreciation for the Grosse Pointe Public School System's Board of Education and all they do to put the needs of students first.

Mr. Fenton corrected a speaker in response to comments about the district's sinking fund in that the bond was not rolled over as was suggested. The sinking fund was actually refinanced in order to obtain a lower interest rate.

President Dindoffer also thanked everyone that spoke this evening and added that while the Board does not address personnel issues publicly at meetings, the concerns of all residents who spoke is always taken very seriously. She addressed those issues brought forth by the parents of special needs students adding that every concern brought forth will be looked into. She also encouraged everyone to vote on February 25th.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President Dindoffer adjourned the meeting at 10:28 p.m.

Judy Gafa, Board Secretary