



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2014  
North High School Library  
707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Dindoffer called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Board members present:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske and Summerfield  
Trustee Valente arrived late.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Jakubiec.

**Also Present:** Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR JANUARY 13, 2014**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Gafa

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board Agenda for Monday, January 13, 2014 be approved as presented.**

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

**Absent from vote:** Trustee Valente

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS**

There were no public comments at this time.

**IV. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY 13, 2014**

**A. Approval of Human Resources Report for January 13, 2014**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Gafa

**THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report of January 13, 2014 as presented.**

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

**Absent from vote:** Trustee Valente

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**B. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of December 16 and 23, 2014 and Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2014**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Gafa

**Supported by:** Trustee Summerfield

**THAT the Board approve the Closed Session Minutes of December 16 and 23, 2013 and Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2013 as presented.**

Trustee Jakubiec requested corrections to the minutes and shared those revisions with the Board. (revised minutes attached.)

A new motion was made to approve the minutes as amended:

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve the Closed Session Minutes of the December 16 and 23, 2013 meetings as presented and the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2013 as amended.**

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

**Absent from vote:** Trustee Valente

**Nays:** Trustee Roeske

**Motion carried by a 5– 1 vote.**

## **VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. Update on Upcoming Events Related to the 2014 Technology Bond**

Superintendent Harwood addressed upcoming events related to the election on February 25, 2014 for the Technology Bond. He noted that meetings have been held at two community libraries and an informational forum will be hosted by the League of Women Voters tomorrow evening at 7 p.m. in the South High School Wicking Library. On February 4, 2014 there will be a Technology Showcase in the Brownell Multipurpose Room for the community and all are welcome. The district's website also has a plethora of detailed information if you click on Technology Bond including a Frequently Asked Questions site to help residents navigate the facts.

### **B. Presentation on Special Education Programs and Services**

Special Education Director, Ms. Stephanie Hayes presented information about the Special Education Department. She introduced her department supervisors, Lilly Loder and Susan Lucchese noting that the department consists of many wonderful professional educators working diligently to put every child in the best educational placement and least restrictive environment. The information Ms. Hayes presented was to help educate community members about special education; its current integrative practices; myths and misperceptions; and overall, department beliefs. This information is available on the district website.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS**

Julie Moe, Grosse Pointe, addressed the Board regarding inclusion in the district for special needs students.

Kara Shall, Grosse Pointe, also shared her thoughts about inclusion for special needs students in the district.

Joan Mason, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke on inclusion for special needs students.

Judith Chapman, Grosse Pointe Farms, addressed information in the Special Education presentation this evening pertaining to "myths" and her personal experiences in the district.

Matt Wettstein, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his thoughts on parents as advocates for their children.

Michele Lynch, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke about the opportunities for students with special needs in the district, discrepancies in the disproportionately report, and the achievement gaps in the districts' schools and how those achievement gaps could be raised for lower achieving students.

Ann Hern, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her child's experiences in the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Olivia Monette, Grosse Pointe Farms, shared her experiences in the district regarding the special needs students and the special education program.

Lisa Monette, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke about her personal experiences working with the special education program in the Grosse Pointe Public Schools.

Jennifer Munson, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her thoughts on inclusion and least restrictive environment in Grosse Pointe Schools.

Mike Monette, Grosse Pointe Farms, shared his thoughts on the special education presentation this evening and on the district's goal to continue to improve opportunities for special needs students.

Peter Kotulaa, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about inclusion in the district for special needs students.

Lisa Kotula, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her personal experiences in the district working with the special education program and participating in individualized educational program meetings for her child.

Karen Grobbel, Grosse Pointe, also shared her experiences with inclusion in the district.

Marlene Pierce, Grosse Pointe Park, asked about the professional development opportunities for special education and general education staff and the lack of continuity throughout the district regarding inclusion.

Chita Raman, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared her personal experiences regarding inclusion in the district.

Joanne Murphy, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her thoughts on the presentation this evening and the special education program noting that she is the non-attorney advocate for some parents in the district.

Sara Peters, Grosse Pointe Woods, also addressed the special education program opportunities for special needs students in the district and her personal experiences regarding her child.

Lisa Khoury, Grosse Pointe Park and district employee, addressed the Board and audience about the special education program staff and their dedication and hard work in providing services to all students.

Karen Strehlke, Grosse Pointe, shared a story about middle school general education students playing hockey with special needs students and the positive experience it was for both teams.

Jennie Silva, Grosse Pointe Shores, shared her daughter's experience in the Grosse Pointe Schools and the need for inclusion for all special needs students.

JoEllen Cumpata, Grosse Pointe Park and district employee, shared her experiences with students as a teacher of the speech and language impaired.

Cheri Burley, GPEA President, addressed Ms. Hayes presentation noting that the information provided was just the 'tip' of the plan and the information behind each bulleted point were too extensively detailed to relay in a 15 minute presentation. She noted that every teacher in the special education works hard to meet the needs of every student they service every day.

Georgia Scherke, Grosse Pointe City, thanked the administration and staff in the special education department for the excellent work they do every day noting that she has had a positive experience with special education staff and the services provided.

## **VII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, January 27, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Brownell MultiPurpose Room

## **VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Trustee Jakubiec expressed his hope that someone in the community would take an interest in replacing him on the Board.

Trustee Pangborn addressed the special education presentation in agreement with parents that spoke noting that information presented should have included how the plan for services would be implemented.

Trustee Summerfield said that he appreciated the administration and parents for the open conversation this evening indicating that he hopes to see progress as communication continues and information is shared with the community.

Trustee Gafa said that the presentation and information provided by parent speakers was a lot to “take in” and process.

Trustee Valente apologized for being late. She noted that the district has some extraordinary teachers. She said, however, that she was offended by the action plan presented. She offered a list of recommendations for immediate consideration or change.

Trustee Roeske said that it is important to have a continuity of services at all buildings. He thanked the parents who spoke this evening.

Superintendent Harwood also appreciated all of the parents who spoke, adding that he would take what each one said “to heart” and work to address their issues. He added that his goal is to have a collaborative conversation of change that will continue. He also said that this is not just a special education issue but a school system issue that he will continue to work on and resolve. He noted that there is room for improvement and that an open dialogue is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> with parents of special needs students.

President Dindoffer thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and speaking. She asked that the administration provide the Board with a summary of the comments from parents in order to help find solutions for those issues that were brought forth this evening.

## **IX. MOTION TO CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS AN ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Gafa

**THAT the Board Convene Into Closed Session to Discuss an Attorney/Client Privileged Communication.**

**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, Yes

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**X.     ADJOURNMENT**

President Dindoffer will adjourn the meeting after the Board returns from open session. The regular session of this meeting concluded at 9:17 p.m.

Meeting adjourned after closed session at 11:11 p.m.

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Lois Valente, Board Secretary