



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 25, 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, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Summerfield

**Absent:** Trustee Jakubiec

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Gafa.

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

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 25, 2013**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board Agenda be adopted as presented for November 25, 2013.**

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

**Absent:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**III. SPECIAL AGENDA ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Approval of Grants from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE)**

The Foundation's Grant Committee made recommendations to the Foundation Board at their meeting in October, 2013 to approve 20 grants in the amount of \$85,716 for continued support in various programs and pilot educational opportunities across the district. Those grants include:

- ◆ Multi-Sensory Environment (6th– 8th), Brownell/Pierce, \$6,100
- ◆ Developmental Learning Backpacks (Birth to Age 3), Barnes, \$1,598
- ◆ Increasing Independence within LRE (6th– 12th), Brownell/Parcells/Pierce/GP North/GP South, \$3,000
- ◆ “C3” Community, Cooking, and Crafts (Age 18-26), South Community Campus, \$1,000
- ◆ Teacher IPADs for Instructional Support (5th), Kerby, \$2,669
- ◆ Facilitating FAST Phonics and Fluency (K-5th), All 9 Elementary Schools, \$5,630
- ◆ IPADs in the Third Grade Classroom (3rd), Richard, \$3,500
- ◆ The Leader in Me (K-5th), Trombly, \$990
- ◆ Integrating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills through Technology (1st-3rd), Trombly, \$3,341
- ◆ Math Workshop with Project Based Learning (3rd), Trombly, \$2,800
- ◆ Classroom Technology for 21stLearners (5th), Ferry, \$7,273
- ◆ Elementary School Homework Club (K-5th), Defer/Ferry/Poupard/Trombly/Mason, \$19,968
- ◆ SPARK Technology inScience (6th-8th), Brownell, \$7,873
- ◆ “WEB” Where Everyone Belongs (6th-8th), Parcells, \$4,000
- ◆ Digital Photography Equipment for Middle School Art Departments (6th-8th), Pierce/Parcells/Brownell, \$3,360
- ◆ Solar Car Team (9th-12th), GP South, \$3,000
- ◆ Night Sky Enhancement Project (9th-12th), GP North, \$400

- ◆ Rundown Creator and IPADs for Producers and Talent (9th-12th), GP North, \$2,314
- ◆ IPADs and Apple TV Pilot (6th-12th), GP South/Brownell/Parcells, \$3,300
- ◆ The Gearheads – Team 1189 (9th-12th), GP South/GP North, \$3,000

The Board was asked to accept the gifts from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education for the programs and materials listed for a total of \$85,716.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Gafa

**Supported by:** Trustee Roeske

**THAT the Board accept, with gratitude, the gifts from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education for the programs and materials listed for a total of \$85,716.**

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

**Absent:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

#### **B. Approval of Resolution to Honor Distinguished Employees**

During the 2008-09 school year, The Grosse Pointe Board of Education established the Distinguished Employee Service Awards Program to recognize distinguished service by employees in various programs and activities sponsored by the public schools. Board-level recognition is intended to reward those employees who have initiated a new program, service, or activity and/or who have served the district above and beyond their daily employee responsibilities.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Gafa

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

THAT the employees recommended by the Distinguished Employee Recognition Committee noted below be awarded for their service to the school district.

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

**Absent:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

#### **IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

##### **A. Sixth Annual Awards for Distinguished Employee Service**

Board Trustees Valente, Roeske and Gafa reviewed the nominations for Distinguished Employee Service and recommended the following employees to the Board for recognition: Suzanne Bantien, Maire; Susan Dempsey, Brownell; Tamera Duffield, Brownell; Constance Karpinski, Mason; Garrett Kelley, Technology; Christine Kuhl, North; Carolyn Kurtz, Administration Building; Patricia Kwiatkowski, Monteith; Karen LaBarge, Defer and Mason; Glenda Lassiter, Ferry; Holli McNally, Parcells; Jeffrey Nardone, South; Douglas Roby, South; Susan Speirs, North. A brief reception was held to honor Distinguished Employees.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS**

Sheri Kam, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke in support of the technology bond proposal.

Anna Post, Grosse Pointe Farms, student, also spoke in support of the proposed technology bond.

Lisa Ransom, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared her support of the technology bond.

Chris Profeta, spoke about the importance of passing the technology bond in February.

Allison Baker, Grosse Pointe Park, was in support of the technology bond being passed.

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, was also in support of the technology bond proposal.

Laura Monahan, Grosse Pointe Farms, supports the recommendations for the technology bond.

Pete Spencer, was in support of the technology bond proposal.

Peter Dow, Grosse Pointe Farms, was concerned about the amount of the proposal technology bond.

Jackie Scott, Grosse Pointe Farms, supports the technology bond and noted that other senior citizens she knows are also in support of the technology bond.

Will Broman, Grosse Pointe, cautioned the community to be prepared that \$60,000 spent on a February election may be a gamble.

## **VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 25, 2013**

### **A. Acceptance of District Independent Financial Audit and Federal Awards Report from Plante Moran**

Superintendent Harwood introduced Laura Claeys and David Cristick from Plante Moran, who presented information on the district's financial audit and Federal Awards Report. Trustees Gafa and Summerfield also reviewed the year-end financial reports with the Plante Moran auditors and the administrations. Ms. Claeys and Mr. Cristick noted that the district's financial audit produced a clean opinion which is the highest assurance of an audit. The reports included the Financial Report with Supplemental Information, Federal Awards Supplemental Information and report to the Board of Education.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Gafa

**Supported by:** Trustee Summerfield

**THAT the Board accept the District Independent Financial Audit and Federal Awards Report from Plante Moran as presented.**

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

**Absent:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

### **B. Approval of Human Resources Report for November 25, 2013**

The Human Resources Report contained the appointments of two new hires in the plant/custodial staff due to transfers.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Gafa

**Supported by:** Trustee Roeske

**THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for November 25, 2013 as presented.**

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

**Absent:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 11 and 18, 2013**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Gafa

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 11 and 18, 2013 be approved as presented.**

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

**Absent:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**D. Approval of Board Policy (second reading)**

**1. Rescinding Board Policy 2430, District Sponsored Clubs and Activities**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT Board Policy 2430, District Sponsored Clubs and Activities, be rescinded by the Board as recommended by the Board Policy Committee.**

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

**Absent:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**E. Approval of Resolution to Submit Bond Proposal**

The GPPSS Board of Education met on November 11, 2013 and November 18, 2013 as a Meeting of the Whole to discuss the proposed technology bond with regard to the amount requested and the length of the bond that would address the areas of security systems, technology infrastructure, technology computing devices, and energy efficiency improvements.

Upon the conclusion of the discussion of the Board, it appeared that the recommendation was to proceed with the bond proposal scenario of a ten (10) year bond to be distributed in two or more series for the sum amount not to exceed \$50,280,000.

Per the information provided by Ryan Bendzinski, financial consultant from Bendzinski and Company; and Amanda Van Dusen, legal financial bond consultant from Miller-Canfield, a resolution to submit bond proposal is provided to the GPPSS Board of Education for approval. This would authorize the Wayne County clerk to a) post and publish notice of the last day of registration and notice of the election for February 25, 2014; and have prepared and printed ballots for submitting the bond proposal at the February 25, 2014 election. The proposed ballot language was provided to the Board Exhibit A and upon approval of the resolution, would be what appears on the ballot at the February 25, 2014 election.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Gafa

**THAT the Board approve the Resolution to Submit Bond Proposal as presented.**

**In a roll call vote,**

Trustee Dindoffer, Yes

Trustee Gafa, Yes

Trustee Jakubiec, Absent  
Trustee Pangborn, No  
Trustee Roeske, Yes  
Trustee Valente, Yes  
Trustee Summerfield, Yes  
**Motion carried by a 5 – 1 vote.**

**VII. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR DECEMBER 16, 2013**

- A. Approval of Human Resources Report for December 16, 2013**
- B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2013**
- C. Approval of General Appropriations Amendment Act #1 (G.A.A.A. #1)**
- D. Approval of Secondary High School Courses**
  - 1. Honors Accounting**
  - 2. Reading and Writing through Athletics**
- E. Approval of Board Policies (second reading)**

**VIII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

**A. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report**

Mr. Fenton shared information about the Monthly Financial Report noting the school service fund that his office will continue to monitor. The variable cost report was also provided for Board review. Dr. Dean reported on the Health Care Report. Documents on both topics are provided on the district website.

**B. Board Policies (first reading)**

Trustee Roeske briefly shared information on each of the policies and administrative guidelines listed.

- 1. Policy 5330, Medications
- 2. Policy 9300, Volunteers
- 3. Policy 5830, Student Fundraising
- 4. Administrative Guideline for Policy 5840, Recognized Student Group
- 5. Administrative Guideline for Policy 5850, Social Events
- 6. Administrative Guideline for Policy 8800, Religious Activities
- 7. Administrative Guideline for Policy 9700A, Distribution of Materials

**C. Expression of Interest in Board Officer Positions for the December Meeting**

President Dindoffer noted that Board members would express their interest in Board Officer positions at the December 16, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**IX. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A. Board Policy Committee Meeting, Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 6:00 p.m., Board Room**
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, December 16, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room**

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS**

Diane McPharlin, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke about the community group interested in changing the boundary lines for the north-end Farms students enabling them to attend South High School. She noted the positive experience her students had at North.

James McPharlin, Grosse Pointe Woods, also spoke on the north-end Farms residency issue.

Sheri Kam, shared her thoughts about the interest that some Grosse Pointe Farms residents have in changing the boundaries for the students that live in that area.

Bridget Smith, Grosse Pointe North Senior, shared her successful experience at North and its nurturing, positive atmosphere.

Lauren Semack, Grosse Pointe North Senior, expressed her pride in being a North student.

Shawn McCarrol spoke in favor of the North High School experience.

Geoffrey Young also spoke in favor of the positive and enriching experience at North High School for students and staff.

David Hensley, North High School parent, said that the borders and rules should remain as they are and have always been.

Gary Abud, also shared comments in favor of the North community and its positive experience.

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke in support of Dr. Harwood's exemplary performance since becoming Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent.

Denise Allen, Grosse Pointe North High School parent, spoke in support of North High School.

Allison Baker, Grosse Pointe Park, shared information of the Holiday Walk that would take place on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. She also shared a website for those interested in joining a committee to support the Technology Bond Committee.

## **XI. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Board members congratulated all of the Distinguished Employees who were honored this evening. They also thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for their continued support and generosity in awarding the numerous gifts to those who submitted grant proposals.

Trustee Pangborn addressed the concerns of the Unite the Farms group and the speculative false information provided.

Trustee Gafa shared her recent opportunity in joining the distinguished alumni from North and the positive experiences and stories shared by all who attended.

Trustee Summerfield thanked the teachers and staff who wrote the grants that were awarded by the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education. He also thanked the North supporters who attended the meeting and spoke about their positive experiences.

Trustee Valente thanked staff on coming to the table on contracts. She also acknowledged the district's alumni awards at North.

Trustee Roeske encouraged the community to vote "yes" on the Technology Bond issue in February. He also shared his experience in joining other Board members at the North alumni event noting he was "blown away" and thanked the North staff and students for all that was done to make it a wonderful event. He also thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their expo last week.

Superintendent Harwood echoed the comments of Board members noting that he was especially proud of all of the Distinguished Employees and their continued service to the district. He thanked Mr. Fenton, Dr. Dean and Isha Smith for their work on the district's financial audit. He added that there would be more information coming on the technology bond and he greatly appreciated the work of the Board to move the technology bond forward.

President Dindoffer thanked Mr. Fenton and Ms. Smith for their work on a "whistle clean" audit. She also thanked the community members, teachers and students who spoke this evening in support of the North High School community. She noted that there was no reason to change the district boundaries for student attendance at this time.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

President Dindoffer adjourned the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

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Board Secretary