



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 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 7:02 p.m.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Pangborn.

**Also Present:** Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean (arrived at 7:25 p.m.) and Fenton

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 16, 2013**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Gafa

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board Agenda be adopted as presented for December 16, 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. Legislative News**

Lansing legislatures have been discussing the following bills and those results will soon be available: House Bill 5111 regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading-retention bill; House Bill 5112 is the new plan to rate schools on a A-F scale. The chair of the House Education Committee is working hard to get this bill passed, but the education lobby is successfully keeping up their opposition. Wayne County and the district are hoping that this legislation will not pass the House at this time; and House Bill 4369 which will codify the EAA if passed. The House, Governor and State Superintendent would want to see it go through.

**B. Good News Items**

Superintendent Harwood shared good news about the District's Gearheads group of students that recently received the 1<sup>st</sup> Competitive Robotics Grant for \$6,500 from the Michigan Department of Education. He also shared news about a Brownell student who recently published a book she wrote while attending Defer. A Proposed Bill is on the Senate floor and supported by Senator Bert Johnson to name Mackinac Island Fudge the State candy, prompted by a letter submitted by Defer Elementary students.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS**

There were no public comments at this time.

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

**A. Approval of Human Resources Report for December 16, 2013**

Superintendent Harwood presented the Human Resources report which contained the appointment of one instructional staff in the Early Childhood Department at Barnes School .

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske  
**Supported by:** Trustee Gafa

**THAT the Board approve the Human Resources report for December 16, 2013 as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Summerfield  
**Nays:** None  
**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**B. Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2013**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Gafa  
**Supported by:** Trustee Summerfield

**THAT the Board approve the Meeting Minutes of November 25, 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 General Appropriations Amendment Act #1 (G.A.A.A. #1)**

Mr. Fenton noted that changes in the beginning fund equity based on the recent audit resulted in the first General Appropriations Amendment Act for the school year. The district has a projected \$4.2 million General Fund Equity for the end of the 2013-2014 school year which is an increase of \$2.2 million.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Valente  
**Supported by:** Trustee Gafa

**THAT the Board approve the G.A.A.A. #1 as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Summerfield  
**Nays:** None  
**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**D. Approval of Secondary High School Courses**

**1. Honors Accounting**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Jakubiec  
**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve the Honors Accounting High School Course as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske, Valente and Summerfield  
**Nays:** None  
**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**2. Reading and Writing through Athletics**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske  
**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve the Reading and Writing through Athletics High School Course as presented.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**E. Approval of Board Policies (second reading)**

Vice-President Roeske noted that this was the second reading of the policies listed. He asked if Board members had any questions about the policies being voted on this evening.

**1. Policy 5330, Medications**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board table Policy 5330, Medications at this time.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**2. Policy 9300, Volunteers**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Pangborn

**Supported by:** Trustee Roeske

**THAT the Board approve Policy 9300, Volunteers, as presented.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

**3. Policy 5830, Student Fundraising**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve Policy 5830, Student Fundraising, 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 JANUARY 27, 2013**

**A. Approval of Organizational Items for 2014**

**1. Election of Officers**

Board Bylaw 0152 indicates that the Board shall annually elect Board officers at its organizational meeting. Following the election of President, the new president then conducts the remainder of the meeting starting with the election of the 2014 vice-president. Elections for the positions of secretary and treasurer are then conducted before proceeding with the remainder of the agenda.

**2. Approval of Resolution of Continuance of Funds and Designation of Signatories on Accounts**

The Board was provided with a resolution pertaining to the continuance of funds and accounts and signatories on accounts that need to be established and/or continued for the calendar year 2014.

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**3. Approval of Appointment of Christian Fenton, Isha Smith and Carolyn Kurtz as Representatives to M.A.I.S.L. for Property/Liability Insurance Underwriter**

The Grosse Pointe Public School System is a member of the Metropolitan Association for Improved School Legislation (M.A.I.S.L.) Joint Risk Management Trust which is a property/liability insurance pool. This is composed of 35 districts/ISD's. Claims Administration and Risk Management is provided by Gallagher Bassett.

M.A.I.S.L. is a trust voluntarily established by contracting schools districts pursuant to Section 2 and Section 5 of Chapter 124 of the Michigan Compiled Laws for the purpose of providing to participating school districts such services and security as are approved by the board of directors and permitted by the laws of the State of Michigan to provide property/casualty, Board liability, general liability, excess liability, auto and fleet insurance among others.

Article 11 of our agreement states that obligation of its members which includes the selection of a staff person as a director and alternate director. Currently Christian A. Fenton services as the director and Isha Smith and Carolyn Kurtz as an alternate director.

**4. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Calendar for 2014**

Per Board Bylaw 0154, the Board of Education approves their meeting calendar for the following year at their annual organizational meeting in January. A proposed meeting schedule for the 2014 calendar year for regular meetings of the Board of Education was provided to the Board. The first regular meeting of the month will be typically held on the third Monday of the month in the Brownell MultiPurpose Room (unless the meeting conflicts with scheduled breaks.) Locations will be posted on the district website in advance of the meeting. The second regular meeting of the month, held on the fourth Monday of the month, will also be held in the Brownell MultiPurpose Room.

Information on the following agenda items will be provided prior to the Board prior to the next regular meeting on January 13, 2014 which has been scheduled at 7:00 p.m. in the North High School Library.

- B. Approval of Human Resources Report for January 13, 2014**
- C. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2014**
- D. Approval of Superintendent's Evaluation**

**VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

**A. Declaration of Candidacy for 2014 Board Officers**

Trustee Jakubiec stated that he would not be interested in a Board Officer position for the 2014 school year as he intends on transitioning off of the Board during the first quarter of the year.

Trustee Pangborn said she would prefer to stay a Trustee at this time.

Trustee Summerfield said he would serve at the will of the Board.

Trustee Valente said she would serve at the will of the Board.

Trustee Gafa said she would serve at the will of the Board.

Trustee Roeske said he would serve at the will of the Board.

Trustee Dindoffer said she enjoyed serving as President and is willing to continue in that capacity, but would serve at the will of the Board.

## **B. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report**

Mr. Fenton shared information about the Monthly Financial Report noting that his office will continue to monitor the school service fund. 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.

## **C. High School Program of Studies**

The current **High School Program of Studies** continues to reflect changes and improvements in the district curriculum and to clarify district regulations to make them more accessible to parents and students. There are no major curriculum changes in this year's **High School Program of Studies**. Changes to remove the word "pilot" from some courses were made as well as the removal of courses with low enrollment. Other changes included: Honors Chemistry course was updated ; pre-requisites options were added for AP Studio Art: 2D Communication Design; and "approval of Department Chair" designation was removed from two art courses.

## **VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A. Board Policy Committee Meeting, Wednesday, January 15, 2014, 6:00 p.m., Board Room
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, January 13, 2014, 7:00 p.m., North High School
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, January 27, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

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

Chris Profeta, Grosse Pointe Woods, asked community members to sign on to the [gptechyes.org](http://gptechyes.org) website to show support for the Technology Bond.

Julie Moe, Grosse Pointe, spoke in support of available opportunities for special needs students in the Grosse Pointe Schools.

Philip Moe, Grosse Pointe, also shared his thoughts about inclusion opportunities for special needs students in the district.

Mark O'Keefe, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke in support of special needs student opportunities in the district for his grandson.

Jennifer Munson, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke in support of special needs students having an opportunity to attend an inclusive preschool program.

Laura Kellett, Grosse Pointe City, shared her views on the importance of inclusion in district schools for special needs students.

Gowri Yerramalli, Grosse Pointe Shores, shared her support for the North High School community.

Bharani Yerramalli, Grosse Pointe Shores, also supported the North community and the importance of teaching students to embrace the change instead of being fearful of it. He asked the Board to reject the Unite the Farms initiative.

Cheri Burley, GPEA President, expressed concerns about the Unite the Farms initiative.

Sheri Kam, Grosse Pointe Woods, showed her support of the North High School community and equal education at both high schools in the district.

Rochelle McManus, Grosse Pointe Woods, was also in support of the North community noting that it is a wonderful school.

Steve Saigh, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke against the Unite the Farms initiative.

Michelle Hodges, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about a recent test that her daughter took and asked the district to revisit certain questions or presumptions presented on the test.

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

Trustee Jakubiec addressed the importance of career days and its presenters for students. He also spoke in support of the Unite the Farms group and their proposal for students living in the north-end of the Farms. He noted he was dissatisfied in how the issue was spun to something negative and how it was allowed to be spun out of control last month.

Trustee Jakubiec then reiterated his intention to transition off of the Board and encouraged the community to become involved and consider serving on the Board.

Trustee Pangborn said that she, too, is supportive of the Unite the Farms group and is surprised at the issue that it has become. She also is in support of the parents who have been attending and speaking at board meetings regarding inclusion for special needs students. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Trustee Summerfield agreed with and thanked the parents that spoke this evening in support of North High School adding that it is a great school. He also recognized the parents who are supportive of inclusion for special needs students. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and a safe holiday.

Trustee Gafa highlighted the good news about the Brownell student having a book published. She agreed with Trustee Summerfield about the excellence at North High School and thanked everyone who came out to speak. She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a safe vacation.

Trustee Valente shared that nothing has changed to indicate that the school boundaries need to be changed nor is she interested in changing the boundaries as proposed by the Unite the Farms group of supporters. She did note that inclusion for special needs students was “near and dear to her heart” and requested a formal conversation about inclusion sometime in February with administration who will be meeting to discuss the issue in January. She thanked those who presented and spoke this evening including Trustee Jakubiec for his service to the Board and his early notice. She, too, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Trustee Roeske also thanked all of the speakers this evening and noted that the Board is working through the inclusion issue. He also shared that he is not in favor of changing the district boundaries or for students scheduled to attend North to have the option to attend South. Mr. Roeske did note that there is a process and a policy that allows for some legitimate transfers and that policy is being followed. He shared that he visited North High School last week and thanked the students, staff and Mrs. Murray for his tour and the warm welcome he received from all staff. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Superintendent Harwood noted a meeting on January 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. with Special Education leadership that will address the issues about inclusion for special needs students. The meeting is an open conversation for anyone to attend and will provide plans about the direction the district will propose regarding inclusion.

Dr. Harwood thanked those who participated in the Performing Arts in many of the holiday concerts that took place. He also noted the upcoming Technology Bond discussions: January 8, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at the Woods Library; that same day at 5:00 p.m. at the Park Library; a League of Women Voters discussion on January 14, 2014; and a Technology Showcase on February 4, 2014 demonstrating the many instructional pilot programs that have been implemented with funding from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education.

Superintendent Harwood wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a safe travel during the break.

President Dindoffer thanked everyone who came out to speak this evening and acknowledged that all Board members believe in the benefits of inclusion. She looks forward to the results of the January discussion with the Special Education leadership and administration about the direction the district will be going in this area. She also addressed the “Unite the Farms” issue noting that both high schools are outstanding and she appreciated those that shared their wonderful experiences about North High School. Trustee Dindoffer added that there is nothing presented to the Board at this time requesting a change in the borders, nor does she feel that a change is needed at this time. President Dindoffer also clarified that this issue is not a “schools of choice” issue as the district is not a Schools of Choice district. This issue involves transfers within the district. She wished everyone a happy holiday.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

President Dindoffer adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

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Board Secretary