



VII. B.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Open Meeting Work Session of July 21, 2014
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 6:04 p.m.

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

Absent: Trustees Gafa and Valente

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Jakubiec.

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR JULY 21, 2014 WORK SESSION

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Jakubiec

THAT the Board approve the agenda for the July 21, 2014 Work Session as presented.

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

Absent: Trustees Gafa and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

III. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Discussion of November 2014 Millage Options

President Dindoffer began the discussion about various 2014 millage options. She said that the district currently has a Hold Harmless, Non-Homestead, and Sinking Fund millage, all of which expire in 2015. District legal counsel, Amanda VanDusen (of Miller Canfield), joined the Board at the table to further discuss and answer questions about millage language and options.

President Dindoffer proceeded with dialogue from the Board about whether to put all three millages on the November ballot for renewal. She added that the district needs to consider the Wayne County Enhancement Millage on the August 5, 2014 ballot, noting that Board members unanimously voted against this millage at a previous meeting.

Superintendent Harwood reminded the Board and community that the Hold Harmless and the Non-Homestead are critical for the district to operate. Mr. Fenton noted that the Hold Harmless is based on the number of students and the Non-Homestead is based on 18 mills times the Non-Homestead and commercial property taxable values. Ms. VanDusen said that the Hold Harmless fluctuates based on enrollment and is a renewal. Mr. Fenton also said that the Hold Harmless millage and Non-Homestead millage are combined in one proposal as they were five years ago. The deadline for adopting the proposal language is August 11, 2014. The Non Homestead and Homestead millages will generate a combined revenue of \$22,811,000 for the 2015-16 school year and together generate nearly 23% of the General Fund Revenue per year. These two millages, if approved, would be levied on the December 2015 tax bill and would be for five years.

The Board also discussed a Sinking Fund Millage that is levied and up for renewal. Based on discussion, that proposal will be considered on August 7, 2014 after the outcome of the Wayne County Enhancement millage is known from the August 5, 2014 primary election.

The Board's option to decline participation in Schools of Choice was also discussed with Board member, Mr. Jakubiec, requesting inclusion of language to be placed on the millage proposal. Ms. VanDusen said that it was illegal to add such wording in the proposal. Board members concluded that it would not be a good choice to mix School of Choice proposals with a millage resolution which could possibly confuse voters. A decision was made to place a School of Choice resolution on the July 28, 2014 regular agenda showing the Board's reaffirmation against participation in Schools of Choice for the Grosse Pointe Schools. Millage resolutions for Hold Harmless and Non-Homestead ballot language would be brought forth separate from a Schools of Choice resolution. Board members also asserted that if the Wayne County Enhancement Millage passes on August 5th, they would not be interested in renewing the Sinking Fund at this time. Ms. VanDusen added that a Board of Education can restrict "unrestricted" funds if needed for their district. Board members also asserted that if the Enhancement Millage fails, they would only ask for a 1 mill renewal for the Sinking Fund for 5 years. The Board and Ms. Van Dusen continued to discuss restrictions on the Enhancement Funds should that millage pass. Ms. VanDusen added that a Board of Education can restrict "unrestricted" funds if needed for their district.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

There were no comments at this time.

V. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENT

There were no comments at this time.

President Dindoffer called for a brief recess at 7:08.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board adjourn the Work Session Meeting at 7:21 p.m.

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

Absent: Trustees Gafa and Valente

Nays: None

Motion to adjourn carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

Trustee Jakubiec excused himself from the 7:00 p.m. regular meeting of the Board due to other obligations.

Judy Gafa, Board Secretary