



V. B.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 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 7:01p.m.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Valente.

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Jakubiec

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board Agenda for Monday, February 10, 2014 be approved as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

Fred Minturn, Grosse Pointe Shores, shared his perspective of Dr. Harwood's leadership, asking the Board to table the agenda item to approve the Superintendent's interim evaluation.

Jackie Fox, Grosse Pointe Farms, asked the Board to reconsider approving the interim evaluation of Dr. Harwood based on decisions surrounding: the Santorum visit; Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint's positions; concerns surrounding services for parents and students from the Downs Syndrome Guild; and the technology bond.

Jim Fox, Grosse Pointe Farms, requested that the Board table the agenda item to approve Dr. Harwood's interim evaluation until after the Technology Bond vote on February 25.

Kiana Rose, Grosse Pointe Park, asked the Board to table the agenda item for the interim evaluation of Dr. Harwood.

Polly Tech, Grosse Pointe Farms, asked the Board to table the agenda item for the interim evaluation of Dr. Harwood.

Tom Enders, Grosse Pointe, asked for the tabling of Dr. Harwood's interim evaluation.

Amy Taylor, Grosse Pointe, asked for the tabling of the interim evaluation for Dr. Harwood.

Bill Shield, Grosse Pointe Park, asked for the tabling of the interim evaluation for Dr. Harwood and the reconsideration of his effectiveness rating.

Pamela Flom, Grosse Pointe Park, asked that the Board table Dr. Harwood's interim evaluation vote and reconsider his effectiveness rating.

Julie Moe, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared her disapproval of the January 27, 2014 meeting minutes as they lacked substance. She asked that those minutes be re-addressed and that each parent's concern be listed. She asked that Dr. Harwood's interim evaluation agenda item be tabled.

Philip Moe, Grosse Park Woods, addressed his concerns about special education services provided for district students.

Andrew Dervin signed up to speak but declined comment at this time.

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke in support of the Superintendent and his leadership highlighting Dr. Harwood's accomplishments in the district over the past two years.

Ann Hern, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about Dr. Harwood's interim evaluation. She also discussed the attorney used by the school district in legal cases with parents of students in special education programs. Mrs. Hern elaborated on a recent incident involving her son and his subsequent care.

Susan Griffin, Grosse Pointe Park, addressed Dr. Harwood's interim evaluation explaining why she does not feel he has proven to be effective in the five domains required for approval.

Kurt Tech, Grosse Pointe Farms, asked the Board to table the interim evaluation vote for Dr. Harwood asking that they wait until after the vote on the technology bond.

John Daley, Grosse Pointe, also addressed the evaluation of Dr. Harwood, citing "no vision, no planning, no leadership" regarding the technology bond.

Gerald Coyle, Grosse Pointe, asked the Board to table the interim evaluation for Dr. Harwood.

Jennifer Munson, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke regarding the recent review of Dr. Harwood's interim evaluation; special education services in the district and the need for least restrictive environment for children with cognitive impairments; LRE issues; and the need for an inclusive preschool.

Marlene Pierce, Grosse Pointe Park, asked the Board to table the evaluation of Dr. Harwood noting that she did not agree with their assessment of his effectiveness.

John Sohn, Grosse Pointe, asked for the tabling of Dr. Harwood's evaluation. He said that he felt that the Superintendent did not exemplify the district's values in preventing school administrators from writing letters of recommendation to students wishing to transfer to local private and parochial schools.

Cynthia Sohn, Grosse Pointe, also asked the Board to table the interim evaluation of the Superintendent. She asked the Board how the decision to approve the interim evaluation could be made without asking the community, the staff and the parents. She also asked why there has not been a survey on the leadership of central office administration presented to community members.

IV. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2014

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for February 10, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Jakubiec

THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for February 10, 2014 as presented.

Dr. Dean highlighted the retirement of Gary Buslepp, Pierce Middle School Principal. He said that he met with the Pierce staff and will continue to gather input from the Pierce community regarding the hiring of his replacement. The occupational therapist position was noted and Dr. Dean explained that because this position is filled by a third party provider, it is not typically included in the Human Resources Report.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

B. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Valente

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the closed session minutes of January 27, 2014 and regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2014 be voted on separately.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

Then,

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Jakubiec

THAT the Closed Session Minutes of January 27, 2014 be approved as presented.

Trustee Valente abstained from the vote since she was absent from the January 27th closed session which convened prior to the regular meeting of January 27, 2014.

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

Nays: None

Motion to approve the Closed Session Minutes of January 27, 2014 carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

It was Moved by: Trustee Jakubiec

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the meeting minutes of January 27, 2014 as presented with revisions.

After further Board discussion,

In a layered motion,

It was Moved by: Trustee Valente

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2014 be tabled until the next regular Board meeting on February 24, 2014 with further review to the detailing of public speaker and Board comments.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

C. Approval of Superintendent's Interim Evaluation

Per Board Policy 1110 and 1240, the "Board shall annually evaluate the performance of the Superintendent. This year, the Board performed an Interim Performance Evaluation of the Superintendent as of December 31, 2013, utilizing an evaluation instrument modeled after the School Advance Administrator Evaluation System. The evaluation instrument contained five performance domains with thirty-five performance factors as components of the performance domains. Previously approved Board approved goals and objectives were also reviewed. President Joan Dindoffer requested input from all Board members receiving input from six. From a closed session discussion of the Board on January 27, 2014, the GPPSS Board of Education deemed that Dr. Harwood, GPPSS Superintendent, was rated Overall Effective and Effective in each of the five performance domains: Results, Leadership, Systems Alignment, Processes, and Capacity Building.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT the Board approve the Superintendent's Interim Evaluation as presented.

Board members discussed their views on the motion to approve the Superintendent's Interim Evaluation.

In a roll call vote,

Trustee Dindoffer, Aye

Trustee Gafa, Aye

Trustee Jakubiec, Nay

Trustee Pangborn, Nay

Trustee Roeske, Aye

Trustee Summerfield, Aye

Trustee Valente, Nay

Motion carried by a 4 – 3 vote.

V. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Update on 2014 Technology Bond

Superintendent Harwood shared the most recent information on the Technology Bond activities and the success of the recent Technology Showcase on February 4th in the Brownell Multipurpose Room.

He then introduced Cheri Burley, who introduced 9 instructional staff members in attendance who demonstrated the integration of instructional technology in their classrooms: Sarah Delgato, 2nd grade at Monteith; Christopher Pratt, South Vocal Music; Rodger Hunwick, Parcels Social Studies; Cheri Burley for Susan Howey, 4th grade at Trombly; Andrew Taylor, North History; Andy Backman, 4th grade at Monteith; Karen Listwan, Special Education Cross Categorical at Ferry; and Sue Speirs, North Biology and Applied Medical Technology. Sue Speirs enlisted the expertise of four of her Applied Medical Technology students to share their experiences integrating technology in their studies.

President Dindoffer thanked the teachers and students who presented this evening.

B. Discovery Training Program Associated with Common Core

C. Update on Teacher Evaluation Process

Due to the lateness of the hour and the number of community members in the audience wishing to speak during Public Comments on Non-Action Items, Superintendent Harwood said that the presentations on "Discovery Training Program Associated with Common Core" and "Update on Teacher Evaluation Process" presentations would be postponed for a future meeting.

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Board Policy Committee Meeting, Wednesday, February 12, 2014, Board Room, 389 St. Clair
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, February 24, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

President Dindoffer asked Board members if they would like to entertain additional public speaking time to allow all residents that came to speak an opportunity to do so.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT Public Speaker time be extended to afford any resident in attendance the opportunity to speak before the Board.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

Angela Kennedy, Grosse Pointe Farms, began by sharing that Dr. Harwood's evaluation "snapshot" on which his interim evaluation is based involves issues that include: 1) the parents of special education students; 2) the technology bond; and 3) South administration, and are all events that began before or during the period of July 1 through December 31, 2013. She concluded that the vote of support from Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Roeske and Summerfield is intellectually lazy and emotionally cowardly. She then proceeded to express her support of Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint asking the Board and administration for a written statement that: recognizes the outstanding work of Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint; a written statement of the administration's full support and confidence in both Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint; and written affirmation and assurance that the district has no intention of the removal of Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint by any means before or after their current contracts expire in June, 2015.

Camilla Davies, Grosse Pointe City, presented a petition to the Board with signatures of those community members in support of South administrators, Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint. Mrs. Davies read some of the comments from supporters and requested that the petition she provided be included with the formal meeting minutes.

Stone Allen Washington, Grosse Pointe, student, spoke in support of Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint and why they should remain at South High School.

Cheri Burley, GPEA President, addressed the loss of Parcels staff member, Kerry Pytel. She expressed her condolences to his family and friends recognizing the staff that met earlier in the morning to plan how to share this information with students at Parcels. This difficult task was done by district social workers, psychologists and teachers who worked through this horrific and sad news in preparation for students entering in a few short hours.

Julie Moe, Grosse Pointe, expressed her shock with the four Board members who voted to pass Dr. Harwood's interim evaluation with an "effective" rating. She also addressed the technology bond and the upcoming vote.

Lisa Monette, Grosse Pointe Farms, shared the incident involving her son falling at his school last week, having to be transported by the family to the hospital, but never receiving a phone call from a district administrator. She asked "where is the humanity?" in this district.

Karen Grobbel, Grosse Pointe, said that it is time for a change in the district with a need for new goals and improvement with how programs are being managed. She added that teachers need to be trained in order to adapt to students with special needs being mainstreamed into general education classrooms. She asked that the district eliminate the “fake” general educational hours added to IEP’s.

Matt Wettstein, Grosse Pointe Woods, said he was “flabbergasted” by the vote of the four Board members who voted in favor of Dr. Harwood’s interim evaluation giving him an “effective” rating.

Laura Monahan, Grosse Pointe Farms, asked members of the community to consider voting “Yes” on the technology bond.

Lisa Kotula, Grosse Pointe Park, asked about the items that Board Trustee Valente suggested at the last meeting for special needs parents. She added that she still has not seen any measurable plan for the administrator’s next meeting with those parents and they do not hold themselves accountable for the errors in delivery for many special needs students. She added that Board members are wrong if this is the best they can do for the special needs students.

Josie Monahan, Grosse Pointe Farms, student, asked the community to determine “what” is right instead of “who” is right and vote “yes on the technology bond.

Tim Monahan, Grosse Pointe Farms, said that he is hearing opposition to the bond which he feels is driven by political and personal issues. He shared that he is in support of the bond. Mr. Monahan noted that there was inaccurate information printed in the *Detroit News* on the bond and this should be corrected.

Bruce Hubbell, Grosse Pointe Park, said that he is an ITN architect and asked why the district wants to raise the community’s taxes. He will be voting “No” on the technology bond.

John Daley, Grosse Pointe, registered to speak but did not come forward at this time.

Diane Karabetsos, Grosse Pointe Woods, said that the technology bond for many is about the “money” not the proposed technology. She added that the district needs to eliminate debt, not increase its debt. She also added that the residency issue and collecting tuition from those students that attended illegally is not investigated to the level it should be.

Judy Sheehy, Grosse Pointe Woods, asked why the technology bond was put on a February ballot instead of being held in November. She said she would be voting “No” in February.

Cheryl Briggs, Grosse Pointe Woods, is in favor of the bond and will be voting “Yes” on February 25.

Carol Hackleman, Grosse Pointe Park, said that everyone wants to see Grosse Pointe Public School students succeed, but the proposed bond is not a responsible solution. She encouraged everyone to vote “No”.

Greg Walton, Grosse Pointe Shores, is against spending money that the district does not have. He also said that he would not trust the Board with \$50 million because they are reckless with the community’s money.

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke in favor of the administration and school board and said he will be voting “Yes” on February 25.

Jen Evans, Grosse Pointe Woods, wants technology in the district noting that the current technology is old and unreliable. She will be voting “Yes” on the technology bond.

Kelly Boll, Grosse Pointe Park, is the Chair of Residents for Responsible Spending and she feels the bond is reckless spending. She encouraged the community to vote “No” on the bond. For further information, residents can go to gpresponsiblepending.com.

Chris Kaczanowski, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke of her history with the Grosse Pointe Public School referring to the \$62 million sinking fund and she will be voting “No” because she doesn’t trust the Board with the money.

Bill Shields, Grosse Pointe Park, referred to the recent *Detroit News* article in his comments.

Chris Profeta, Grosse Pointe Woods, asked Trustee Pangborn to publicly correct the news article that referred to her technology bond facts.

Brendan Walsh, Grosse Pointe, said he has a passion for the district, previously serving as a Board member. He noted that his experience and work informs his opinion to oppose the bond. He feels this technology bond is not advisable emphasizing a recent article regarding the district’s tax base.

Eric Warren, Grosse Pointe Park, said that the students in the district can have the very best technology for \$10 million, not \$50 million. He called the technology bond a “general purpose” spending bond adding that it was reckless.

Annette Feldpausch spoke for Gloria Gomah who could not stay to speak. She will be voting “No” on the bond proposal.

Allison Baker, Grosse Pointe Park, addressed Trustee Pangborn and her campaign slogan that said, “Children come first” asking her if she truly puts children first. She asked the community to vote “Yes” on the technology bond on February 25.

Karen Ridgeway, Grosse Pointe Shores, researched the bond proposal and found district financial information concluding that the district is not making ends meet now. She said she cannot support the bond asking the administration and Board to go back and reconfigure the needs and costs. She said she will be voting “No”.

Garrett Meyers, Grosse Pointe Farms, said that he and his family love technology and wants the district to make sure that the teachers have the best technology possible. He added, though, that he cannot support this bond proposal as it is not efficient.

Tim Proffit, Grosse Pointe Park, registered to speak but did not come forward at this time.

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Valente apologized for missing the last meeting. She said that special education families and colleagues have been making progress as the administration is investigating situations brought forward by special needs families with follow-up phone calls. Parents should call Dr. Dean and Ms. Hayes to let them know of any concerns they may have for their child. She added that Karen Listwan is a great teacher.

Trustee Jakubiec began by thanking all of the speakers and repeated what he said at the December 16th board meeting. He reminded everyone of his comments from the December 16th Board meeting noting that he is very supportive and both high school and their highly skilled leaders. He is disappointed at what has been printed in social media that are misleading regarding the cost of the bond. He concurred about the bond being too high (in cost) asking for a smaller bond amount with a listing the “must-haves” as opposed to the “wants”. He said he will be voting “No” on this proposal and hoping for a new proposal in May. Trustee Jakubiec also noted big errors in the meeting minutes where he discussed the courtesy of “recommendation letters” from school administrators. He added that if a family wants to use Grosse Pointe Public Schools for their student for any

level, then move to a private or parochial school, recommendation letters should be written for those families requesting the courtesy of the letter.

Trustee Jakubiec offered his and his family's condolences to the family of Kerry Pytel. He said he was a great teacher.

Trustee Pangborn noted a letter that she wrote to the Detroit News, citing incorrect facts recorded on their part. She added that Grosse Pointe Public School students come first, they have always come first. She said that the League of Women Voters did not present both sides of the issues at their forum and that both sides should have been presented to be fair. She also said that students at the Technology Showcase on February 4th were scripted to be in support of the bond which is an insult to the community. Mrs. Pangborn also said the in the February 6th issue of the Grosse Pointe News, Dr. Harwood was asked the question about what he would do if the bond did not pass. Mrs. Pangborn noted that his answer was that there would be "real tough choices" to have to make. She added that he should have made tough choices all along and in the past.

Trustee Summerfield extended his condolences to the teachers at Parcels on the loss of one of their own. He recognized the staff members at Parcels who helped the students at this difficult time. He thanked the staff and students who presented their methods of integrating technology into their classrooms every day. He then noted three of his reasons for voting "Yes" on the technology bond: 1) 2) and 3)

He asked residents to vote "Yes" on February 25th.

Trustee Gafa said that, once again, she would have to disagree with Mrs. Pangborn on the students being scripted on the technology bond proposal at the Technology Showcase on February 4th as, in her opinion, students were not scripted. She addressed the loss of Mr. Pytel from Parcels Middle School and on the district hoping that his family knows the impact he had on so many students and parents. She extended her condolences to the Pytel family.

Trustee Roeske also extended his condolences to the Pytel family. He added that he, too, supports the South High School administration and the technology bond. He said that the technology bond did not work in November and the community was asked to consider a technology bond proposal on February 25th. The research was done and he hopes that everyone will vote on February 25th. Mr. Roeske concluded by wishing the South High School students, staff and parents good luck on their European tour.

Superintendent Harwood began his comments noting that central office staff began their day at 6 a.m. at Parcels in an effort to assist the Parcels staff as their day would begin by sharing the sad news with students of the loss of their teacher, Mr. Pytel. He thanked Dr. Armstrong and Mr. Wolf for their work in collaborating with the staff in how students would be told the news and how the transition into the day would transpire.

Dr. Harwood repeated his comments from last month's meeting that he, too, supports South administrators, Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint. Their contracts are in effect until June, 2015 and he looks forward to continuing working with them.

Regarding special education programs, Superintendent Harwood shared that the district is in a good place with the special education team members in place at this time. He said he met with Mr. Fenton to look at ways to provide a preschool program with inclusion and least restrictive environment for special needs students. Dr. Harwood added that Dr. Dean is investigating the allegations brought forth by parents of special needs students at the last board meeting.

Superintendent Harwood thanked staff that presented effective use of technology in the classroom. He also addressed the issue about recommendation letters being written by district administration for students transferring to private and parochial schools noting that the decision not to write the recommendations was

brought forth by an administrative collaborative team effort. Dr. Harwood also thanked board members who supported his interim evaluation and expressed his appreciation.

Mr. Fenton corrected a few points of issues that were brought up: the technology bond proposal was put together by Ehresman and Associates and Wright, Hunter and Bassett; the sinking fund cannot be used for equipment of maintenance as suggested and is audited each year noting that the district follows the law on what can be used with funds from bonds; the downgrade in ratings is appropriate in light of current economic conditions noting that the district has been AA for a while as are all of the municipalities and the district's is based on enrollment and not on the district's debt amount.

President Dindoffer also sent her condolences to the Pytel family and thanked the administration for the efforts to assist the Parcels staff in the delivery of the sad news to students and the entire Parcels community. She addressed the needs of special education parents and asked if the Board could meet with a representative from the Michigan Department of Education or the Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency to better understand the requests and needs of the parents with special needs students. Mrs. Dindoffer thanked the parents and students who spoke in support of Dr. Outlaw and Mr. Flint this evening.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

President Dindoffer adjourned the meeting at 12:11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2014.

Judy Gafa, Board Secretary