



V. B.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 17, 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 7:08 p.m.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Gafa .

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR MARCH 17, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Jakubiec

THAT the Board Agenda for Monday, March 17, 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

Joann Murphy, Grosse Pointe Park, addressed special education issues and the new resolution provided to the Board regarding inclusion.

Phillip Moe, Grosse Pointe Park, said that he feels the special education resolution falls short and that general education placement should be the default placement for all students.

Julie Moe, Grosse Pointe Park, said that it is great that the special education issues are being addressed. She added that the language of the special education resolution needs revisiting for clarity.

Marlene Pierce, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about the new special education resolution. She feels that it needs to include a higher percentage of general education students in a classroom that is more than one.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Harwood said that he appreciates the number of residents that voted in the technology bond. He added that many have already come forth offering to assist the district as next steps are discussed. A meeting is planned for this Friday, March 21st at the Board Office.

Dr. Harwood shared the MEAP results that were shared and will make those available to the public on the district website.

The next three months will be used for analyzing the proposed budget for the 2014-2015 school year. Central office administration will be looking at funding resources to address the district's technology needs and will look at realigning the central office administration duties and responsibilities.

Dr. Harwood noted an article authored by Dr. Derek Fries and himself on the FAST Reading Program. He thanked Greg Johnson who also provided data used in the published article. He thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education for their generosity in funding this reading program that has benefited so many students across the district.

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH 17, 2014

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for March 17, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Jakubiec

THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for March 17, 2014 as presented.

Dr. Dean noted that the Human Resources Report was routine in nature.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

B. Approval of *Revised* Regular Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2014, Closed Session Minutes of March 6, 2014 and *Revised* Open Meeting Work Session Minutes of March 10, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Jakubiec

Supported by: Trustee Valente

THAT the revised Regular Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2014, Closed Session Minutes of March 6, 2014 and revised Open Meeting Work Session Minutes of March 10, 2014 be approved as presented.

It was then Moved by: Trustee Gafa

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the revised minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2014 also include the provided speaker comments (as previously submitted) along with the Closed Session Minutes of March 6, 2014 and revised Open Meeting Work Session Minutes of March 10, 2014.

In a roll call vote,

Trustee Dindoffer, Nay

Trustee Gafa, Aye

Trustee Jakubiec, Nay

Trustee Pangborn, Nay

Trustee Roeske, Aye

Trustee Summerfield, Aye

Trustee Valente, Aye

Motion carried by a 4-3 vote.

C. Approval of Special Education Resolution

Trustee Valente thanked Mr. Summerfield for his work in writing the language on the special education

resolution to present to the Board this evening. She also thanked Mrs. Pangborn for her work on the resolution. She read the request on the resolution: "The Board recognizes and affirms the administrations' decision to identify general education time on an IEP only when the student has access to the general education curriculum in a class with same-age students without disabilities. The Board further directs the administration to define, starting in the 2014-2015 school year, "regular environment" and "general education" as an environment in which a general education teacher teaches the general education curriculum in a setting that includes *one or more* students without disabilities. GPPSS will not place students with disabilities in classes composed solely of students with disabilities for the primary purpose of providing contractual teacher release time."

It was Moved by: Trustee Gafa

Supported by: Trustee Valente

THAT the Board approve the Special Education Resolution as presented.

It was Moved by: Trustee Valente

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT the Board amend the Special Education Resolution request statement to say "50% or more" students instead of "1 or more" students.

Trustee Valente also said that her personal commitment to the teaching staff is that the administration help the teacher find the release time, not the teacher try to find his/her release time.

After extensive discussion on the change to the request statement regarding the number of students in a general education setting, the Board came to a consensus about the meaning behind the change to include "50% or more students."

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

D. Approval of Bids

- A. Mason Restroom (Phase 2)**
- B. Richard Restroom (Phase 2)**
- C. South Restroom (Phase 4)**

President Dindoffer recommended that the Board vote on the three restroom bids altogether with one vote.

It was Moved by: Trustee Jakubiec

Supported by: Trustee Dindoffer

THAT the Board approve the three restroom repair bids together in one vote.

Mr. Fenton said that, in light of the failure of the technology bond vote and the need to use sinking fund money for technology needs, he is recommending that the Board reject the three restroom bids at this time.

It was Moved by: Trustee Gafa

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board amend the original motion for approval of the bids and instead reject all three restroom bids at this time.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Presentation of Grosse Pointe Public School System English Language Learner (ELL) Program

Nancy Reith, English Language Learner (ELL) Coordinator presented information to the Board on the English Language Learning Program in the District. She shared information on the ELL Program including the goals for all ELL learners and the evaluation model used and the district's approach to providing this program to students.

B. Community Survey and Communication Plan

Community Relations Coordinator, Rebecca Fannon, shared information about a soon-to-be-provided community survey to all residents and the communication plan to precede and follow that measurement-of-satisfaction tool. Board members discussed with Ms. Fannon their preference to do two separate surveys, the first one being a technology survey followed shortly thereafter by the general community satisfaction survey.

C. Preschool Programming for 2014-2015

Kids Club and Preschool Director, Andrea Sanders, and Special Education Director, Stephanie Hayes, presented a proposal to support a preschool option for Early Childhood students with disabilities. This program would be an extension of the already existing GP preschool and would serve as a location for parents of both general education students and students with special needs to enroll in this program. This would be a fee-based program for all students with an a.m. and a p.m. half-day session available at the prorated cost of the current rates. This new classroom, housed at Barnes, would provide 3 year old students an a.m. option and 4 and 5 year students a p.m. option. The current 4 and 5 year old room would be moved to a local elementary school to create this space at Barnes. Additional staff will be hired for this additional preschool classroom and special education services will be "pushed in" to support IEP recommendations. This preschool option would provide the district with inclusive opportunities for students ages 3-5 in accordance with MDE recommendations.

D. Technology Planning Update

Superintendent Harwood shared activities that are part of the technology planning process. He noted the survey (previously discussed this evening) that will be sent to all homes in the community soliciting input on what the community would like to see included in technology plans. Dr. Harwood also said that the Grosse Pointe News will soon highlight a forum date as another means of gleaning community input. Many volunteers have expressed a willingness to lend their expertise including an IT network of Grosse Pointe residents who will be asked to join a larger group to discuss prioritizing areas of the district's technology needs. With the failure of the bond, the central administration is moving forward to develop a plan that meets the need of the district while continuing to work with stakeholders and consider their recommendations.

Trustee Gafa asked everyone to keep the vision incorporated in this endeavor and make sure the vision shows what we want the technology to do for the students.

Superintendent Harwood said that there will be a meeting this Friday at 8:30 p.m. composed of two community members, two central office staff, one Board member and the district's technology manager. In reply to Trustee Roeske, Dr. Harwood said that periodic updates on the status and progress of the technology plan would be forthcoming.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, March 24, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- B. Board Policy Committee Meeting, Wednesday, April 2, 2014 (tentative), Board Room, 389 St. Clair

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Jeffrey Hall, Grosse Pointe Park, said that it was a sad day for him on February 25, 2014 when voters voted NO on the bond because he wanted to celebrate the victory of the bond passing. He also said that it was a sad day for the community that the bond was defeated.

Geroge McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, addressed his attempts to communicate with Partnership for Different Learners and looks forward to working with them on special education issues.

Pete Kotula, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about the leadership in the Grosse Pointe Public School System asking the Board to vote not to extend the Superintendent's contract.

Lisa Kotula, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke against the extension of a contract for the superintendent saying that it would validate the behavior the current administration.

Julie Moe, Grosse Pointe Woods, thanked Mr. Summerfield for his voice on the Board in support of special education causes. She said she is optimistic about what she has heard this evening and the progress being made with inclusion for special needs students. She addressed the disproportionate suspension report spoken of by Dr. Eleanor White at the last Board meeting.

Jennifer Munson, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke on behalf of preschool-age parents thanking the Board, Cindy Pangborn, Brian Summerfield and Lois Valente for the special education resolution proposal that was voted on this evening.

Melanie Lalonde, Grosse Pointe Park, addressed the Board regarding special education services for her child and Preschool/PreK programming for the 2014-2015 school year.

Suzanne Jabara, Poupard staff member, spoke on behalf of the Poupard staff in support of Drs. Harwood and Dean.

Deborah Raab, GPPSS employee, also spoke in support of Drs. Harwood and Dean.

Cheri Burley, GPEA President, spoke in support of Drs. Harwood and Dean.

Cheryl Gawel, GPPSS employee, spoke in support of Drs. Harwood and Dean.

Karen Listwan, GPPSS employee, spoke in support of Drs. Harwood and Dean and Stephanie Hayes.

Julie VanTole, GPPSS employee, spoke in support of Drs. Harwood and Dean.

Rob Dice, Grosse Pointe, thanked the Board and administration for their service to the district. He asked the Board not to renew the Superintendent's contract but to take the path of hiring a new administration.

Kiana Rose, Grosse Pointe Park, said that the administration in the district is not healthy and asked the Board to "clean house".

Melissa Pierce, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke against the current administration asking the Board to begin a search for new leadership.

Helen Srebernak, Grosse Pointe Park, supports both Drs. Harwood and Dean and said that they have accomplished what they said they would do when they signed their contracts.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Pangborn thanked everyone for coming out to speak. She asked the community to join her in repairing what has been “broke” and to rebuild and make progress with her.

Trustee Jakubiec thanked those who spoke this evening and for receiving a great deal of feedback on a variety of topics this month from the community. He wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day and a safe travel home.

Trustee Valente thanked fellow Board members for their work and input on the special education resolution, especially Trustee Summerfield who helped negotiate and mediate the language to make sure it was worded correctly. She also thanked Trustee Jakubiec for his approval of the resolution even after being a little uncomfortable with it. The resolution just gives a stronger direction to the administration to make sure the law is followed and she appreciates that. Mrs. Valente thanked everyone who spoke this evening. She addressed the changes in the preschool program that were presented this evening and asked the administration to think “outside of the box” with options that are not just “cost cutting”. Ms. Valente spoke about the disproportionality problems which need to continue to be discussed. The ombudsman proposal is still under consideration. She also addressed speaking to personnel issues when those involved have legal representation. She then spoke about the proposal to renew Dr. Harwood’s contract noting that she was the only one who was not supportive of renewing his contract for one more year.

Trustee Summerfield thanked Ms. Valente, Mrs. Pangborn, Dr. Harwood, Dr. Dean, Ms. Hays and all of the special education parents for coming together to create the special education resolution that was presented this evening. He appreciated the way everyone worked together to accomplish this proposal.

Trustee Gafa is happy that Mr. Summerfield, Ms. Valente, Mrs. Pangborn and all of the special needs parents involved came up with a resolution that will work for the special education program students. She said that she appreciated Ms. Hayes and the progress that she has made in the district. She wished Mr. Dice a happy birthday. Mrs. Gafa then addressed specific words that someone used in their comments noting that those words “hit close to home” for her as she struggles with someone suffering with cancer right now. She asked the community to choose their words carefully and be respectful when they speak publicly.

Trustee Roeske spoke to the visit the Board and community received from Dr. Eleanor White last week when she spoke to the everyone about special education law and rules regarding placing special needs students. She thanked Ms. Hayes and Dr. Harwood for bringing in Dr. White.

Superintendent Harwood thanked Nancy Reith for her presentation on ELL. On Wednesday, the central office administrators will be meeting with all assistant principals to review Dr. White’s comments and to address the disproportionality report and how to address the issues surrounding it. He thanked those who came forth to recognize and show their support of his work in the district for the students and staff. With respect to Dr. Klein, he too, tries to keep “the main thing, the main thing” when it comes to the core of decisions which is value based on what is in the best interest of students.

Mr. Fenton noted that the packets at Board members places this evening contain the G.A.A.A. #2 and the monthly report which he will review at the Board meeting next week.

President Dindoffer thanked everyone who came to speak this evening and also those who have contacted the Board by phone and email. She said the Board takes all of the communication from the community to heart.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

President Dindoffer adjourned the meeting at 10:37 p.m.

Judy Gafa, Board Secretary