



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 24, 2014
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 7:07 p.m.

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

Absent: Trustee Gafa

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Valente.

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR MARCH 24, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Summerfield

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board Agenda be approved as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Gafa

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Harwood highlighted current Legislative activity including: a new Classrooms and Kids (CNK) budget proposal; bills on the House floor regarding EAA expansion; a plan to help state universities with faculty in MPSERS by allocating School Aid Funds to help them offset some retirement costs; Sinking Fund legislation; Statewide Assessments and Teacher/Administrator Evaluations; and School Aid Supplemental funds that include a proposal to support pilot programs for year-round schools.

B. Good News Items

Superintendent Harwood shared good news:

- Eight South High School and two North High School National Merit Finalists will be recognized at the Board’s April 14th Regular Meeting
- Two outstanding German teachers, Lisa Richman and Madeline Salonen, have been recognized for their success in teaching and the quality of the language learned by prior German students in their classrooms who are now attending universities
- Seventh graders Ritika P., Garrett S. and Ryan J. represented Parcels at the 2014 “You Be the Chemist” competition on March 6. Garrett advance to the second round, Ritika finished 11th overall and Ryan finished in the top eight
- Twelve Tower students represented the district at Columbia University’s 90th Annual Columbia Scholastic Press Association Conference in New York City this past weekend
- The Grosse Pointe South Mock Trial Team placed first among 12 teams at the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament, 2014 Macomb County Regional. The team is now in the top ten and will compete in the State tournament against high school Mock Trial teams from all over the state. The state tournament is this Saturday, March 29 at the State Capitol.

- Pierce 7th grader Jeevan T. will be moving on to National Geographic State Finals for the National Geography Bee.
- The Trombly Destination Imagination teams placed first in their division in the Destination Imagination competition and they now move on to the state competition.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH 24, 2014

No one came forward to speak at this time.

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH 24, 2014

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for March 24, 2014

Dr. Harwood shared a revised Human Resources Report containing the resignation of Dean of Students and Residency Coordinator, Arnette Jordan, due to employment elsewhere.

It was Moved by: Trustee Valente

Supported by: Trustee Jakubiec

THAT the Board approve the revised Human Resources Report for March 24, 2014 as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Gafa

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

B. Approval of Minutes of the Open Meeting Board Work Session and the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT the Board approve the Open Meeting Board Work Session Minutes and the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2014 as amended.

Trustee Pangborn then shared her revisions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2014.

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Jakubiec

THAT the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2014 be approved as revised. (attached with revisions noted.)

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

Absent: Trustee Gafa

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

Trustee Jakubiec then shared additional revisions to the Work Session Minutes of March 17, 2014.

It was Moved by: Trustee Jakubiec

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Open Meeting Work Session Minutes of March 17, 2014 be approved as revised. (attached with revisions noted.)

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

Absent: Trustee Gafa

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

C. Approval of Superintendent's Contract

At their March 17, 2014 Open Meeting Work Session, the majority of Board members, with one dissenting opinion, were in favor of renewing Dr. Harwood's contract for a one year term. President Dindoffer noted however, that, due to some confusion, the local press incorrectly stated that action had been taken at the Board Open Meeting Work Session on March 17, 2014. She reiterated that no action was taken at that time.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT the Board approve the Superintendent's Contract as presented.

In a roll call vote,

Trustees Dindoffer, Aye

Trustee Jakubiec, Aye

Trustee Pangborn, Aye

Trustee Roeske, Aye

Trustee Summerfield, Aye

Trustee Valente, Nay

Absent: Trustee Gafa

Motion carried by a 5 – 1 vote.

D. Approval of Settlement Agreement

The Board discussed a settlement agreement in a previous closed session.

It was Moved by: Trustee Jakubiec

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the Settlement Agreement as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Gafa

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

E. Approval of G.A.A.A. #2

Mr. Fenton noted that the General Appropriations Amendment Act #2 (G.A.A.A. #2) was the result of four areas of funding and expenditures needing adjustment: Local tax adjusted levy for Homestead/Non-Homestead, \$208,358; State categorical decrease of \$118,831; increase in revenue of \$89,527; and an adjustment in expenditures due to increase in gas costs and overtime due to increment weather of \$200,000. The district anticipates a decrease in the fund equity of \$110,473 by the end of the school year leaving an anticipated total fund equity amount of \$4.1 million in June, 2014.

The Board is asked to approve the listed General Appropriations Act Amendment No. 2 to the General Fund, School Service Fund, Sinking Fund and Debt Fund.

It was Moved by: Trustee Summerfield

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve the G.A.A.A. #2 as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Gafa

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

F. Approval of Resolution Recognizing Distinguished Volunteers

Since 1984 the Board has been expressing its appreciation to citizens who volunteer their time and effort for the programs and activities of the public schools.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Jakubiec

THAT the Board approve the Resolution Recognizing Distinguished Volunteers as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Gafa

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL 28, 2014

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for March 24, 2014

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2014

C. Approval of Board Policies (2nd Reading)

1. Policy 2240, Controversial Issues

2. Policy 2245, School Assemblies and Resource Speakers

3. Policy 5332, Epinephrine Auto Injectors

D. Approval of Bid for South Turf Replacement

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Board Policies (1st reading)

1. Policy 2240, Controversial Issues

2. Policy 2245, School Assemblies and Resource Speakers

3. Policy 5332, Epinephrine Auto Injectors

Vice-President Roeske highlighted changes in the first policy, Controversial Issues, and the specifics of new Policies 2245, School Assemblies and Policy 5332, Epinephrine Auto Injectors. He also addressed related guidelines.

B. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report

Dr. Dean and Mr. Fenton shared information from the health care reports and financial reports respectively. Documents for both reports are available on the district's website.

C. Special Education Update

As an update on services and goals within the Special Education Department, the special education administrative staff, Stefanie Hayes, Lillie Loder and Sue Lucchese provided a presentation to the Board. There were 7 key areas of focus: a) Communication; b) Special Education Core Mandates; c) Professional Development; d) ACT 18 Programs; e) Quality Assurance; f) Transportation; and g) Finance. Each area was presented and discussed with specific identified activities, action steps, and reportable timelines.

C. Budget Development Update

Mr. Fenton noted that in January of this year the Board set budget parameters which are on the district's website. The 2014-2015 Budget link on the district website provides information that includes: budget parameters; enrollment by school by grade; budget module utility; sinking fund projects; debt fund; details of current district debt and the anticipated payoff date; and estimated taxable value. The budget is progressing as expected and administration is, for the most part, ahead on certain schedules.

E. Update on Special Education Ombudsman or Parent Liaison

President Dindoffer explained that previous board meeting discussions suggested the proposal of a contractual special education ombudsman or possible parent liaison. This person would be dedicated to the purpose of offering special education families a resource to assist them in navigating the Grosse Pointe Public School System Special Education program. She said that the Board will continue to discuss and define the role, putting the decision on hold for a few more weeks, as the Board explores the characteristics needed in detail in order to get it right.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Board Policy Committee Meeting, Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 6:00 p.m., Board Room
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, April 14, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, April 28, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Angela Kennedy, Grosse Pointe Farms, expressed concern about the circulation of the district's technology survey and the district's carelessness in how it was distributed.

Laura Monahan, Grosse Pointe Farms, addressed a comment made at a previous meeting about a rumor that the TechYes group had tried to remove Dr. Outlaw from his current position. She noted that this was false information brought forward by this speaker. She encouraged residents to learn about the vision of the TechYes group and what they support so that whether they agree or disagree, the community can work together.

Eileen Wulschleger, Grosse Pointe Farms, shared her thoughts about issues created during lunch hour times for residents due to the Open Campus policy supporting students who wish to purchase lunch off campus.

X. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Board members congratulated the National Merit Scholars that would be recognized at the Board's next regular meeting on April 14, 2014. They commended them on their outstanding academic accomplishments.

Trustee Jakubiec said it was good to hear about funding coming in from the state in Dr. Harwood's legislative update. He addressed a speaker's comments this evening about a rumor that was circulated regarding the TechYes group. Mr. Jakubiec also spoke to a previous comment he shared at the beginning of the new year about his intention to transition off of the Board in early spring, suggesting that he may now be staying on the Board through June and possibly to the end of his term in December.

Trustee Pangborn encouraged the community to watch the school calendar for a variety of activity and entertainment that would be taking place in the schools with concerts, plays and other fine arts performances and displays.

Trustee Summerfield thanked Dr. Harwood for the good news he shared with the Board especially the ten National Merit Scholars and the German student achievements. He noted that he attended Oliver at North High Schools and that it was outstanding. He thanked the TechYes group for extending the 'olive branch' in light of the defeat of the technology bond.

Trustee Valente also congratulated the German students on their successes. She congratulated the administration on the anticipated end-of-the year positive fund equity amount. She also addressed the fact that she was the dissenting vote on Dr. Harwood's contract noting that, in lieu of that vote, she is looking forward to a wonderful growth year.

Trustee Roeske highlighted upcoming events: Distinguished Volunteer Recognition at the April 28th regular meeting of the Board; the Brownell performance of "Bye, Bye Birdie" on March 27th and 28th; and the Full Circle fundraiser this week on Thursday, March 27th.

Dr. Harwood announced that on Saturday March 29th Brownell will hold its annual recycling event. He also noted: "Bye, Bye Birdie" will be performed by Brownell students on March 27th and 28th; Maire will perform "Big Top Secrets" on April 10th and 11th; May 3rd is "Save a Life" 5 K run at North; and the League of Women Voters will host a panel discussion on Public Education in Michigan on April 3rd at 7 p.m. He encouraged parents to enroll their kindergarten students this week as the district budget gets underway; staffing is built on actual enrollments and not projections.

Dr. Harwood appreciated Mrs. Kennedy for highlighting the gaps in the survey distribution so that they can be revisited and corrected. He also thanked the Board for their support and looks forward to working together as the district continues to move in the best interest of students and the community.

President Dindoffer echoed other Board member comments. She drew attention to an article in the Tower newspaper regarding the staffing statistics of counselors at both high schools and was concerned about the disparity between student-to-staff ratio. She also congratulated those who conducted the college night at North. Mrs. Dindoffer addressed the district's decision to discontinue the Chinese program in the high schools. She noted that many colleges expect a student to arrive with four years of the same language and she hopes the district can find a way to support those students who began their language requirement with Chinese.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Dindoffer adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Judy Gafa, Board Secretary