



VII. B.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 16, 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 7:10 p.m.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Pangborn.

**Also Present:** Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR JUNE 16, 2014**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Valente

**Supported by:** Trustee Roeske

**THAT the Board Agenda for Monday, June 16, 2014 be approved as presented.**

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

**Absent:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**A. Legislative Update**

Superintendent Harwood said that although the Legislative Body is on summer break, the central office administrators continue to anticipate proposed budget realities for the district for the next school year. The original executive order was an \$83 per pupil funding plan. However, the recent legislative proposal by the joint committee of the House and Senate provided \$50 per pupil to higher funded districts like Grosse Pointe. Best Practice money was changed in this proposal if seven of nine criteria needs were to be met. A comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program was one of the criteria which the district currently operates. The Best Practice criteria will give Grosse Pointe Schools an additional \$50 per pupil. There are proposed modifications to the Michigan Merit Curriculum Plan. ([view video here](#)) (06:18)

**B. Good News Items**

Dr. Harwood noted The Coney Island Day at Ferry facilitated by 4/5 Magnet students. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, students in Mr. Fisher’s Magnet class designed their classrooms to be a Coney Island Restaurant. They served about 250 people to a wonderful lunch. Both Channel 2 News and Channel 20 captured the event. Money raised by the entrepreneur students went to the nonprofit Mittens for Detroit.

Mrs. Albrecht’s 7<sup>th</sup> grade choir at Pierce was given the honor of performing at the Michigan Music Conference in January, 2015. This choir was chosen through a blind audition program and is one of only two middle schools to be featured from around the state.

Ms. Barb Davis, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Maire Elementary School, received the McConnell History Educator Award for Excellence in Teaching History.

Grosse Pointe South High School Girls' Tennis Team won the State Championship and the South Boy's Baseball Team was runner-up for their championship.

Board President Dindoffer assisted Superintendent Harwood in congratulating and awarding the district's Destination Imagination teams. The Trombly DI Team placed 36<sup>th</sup> out of 91 teams at the DI Global Finals and included Trombly DI Divas: Claire Beardslee; Kate Beardslee; Sisi Costa; Mairin Heimbuch; Caitlin Houting; Katie Maraldo; and Maria Maraldo. The DI Pierce Pepper Penguins placed 4<sup>th</sup> out of 80 teams at Global Finals consisting of: Billy Beardslee; Jacob Bruetsch; Natalie Liening; Joelle Reich; Kristina Rogers; and Megan Van Osdol. The South DI Team members are: Kelly Beardslee; Rachel Griffin; Grace Henning; and Jack McCoy, who placed 8<sup>th</sup> out of 72 teams at Global Finals.

Superintendent Harwood also noted that some of the students entering a branch of military service were recognized at the May 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and if there were any who could not make it last month but present in the audience, he would like to also acknowledge those students. There were none in attendance.

Superintendent Harwood shared the process that was followed for the South High School Principal search. He noted that a total of 58 individuals applied for the South High School vacancy. The paper screening team evaluated each applicant document and narrowed the field to 8 candidates. On Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, two teams conducted screener interviews of each of the 8 candidates. At the end of that process, both teams came together and deliberated on their findings. From that deliberation, 4 candidates moved forward. On Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, the full committee of parents, staff, students and administration came together to review and discuss the questions for the upcoming interviews of the four candidates. Full committee interviews took place on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and deliberation by all committee members followed with a recommendation. A full reference check, final interview, and on-site visit for the candidate recommended have been completed. There will be a Meet and Greet on Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> for the candidate recommended by the committee to fill the Principal vacancy at South High School. A feedback form will be provided for all who attend this opportunity to meet the recommended candidate for the Principal position at South.

President Dindoffer noted that unfortunately there has been misinformation reported in the local press. No decision has yet been made at this point in time. Tomorrow (June 17<sup>th</sup>) would be the opportunity to evaluate the candidate selected by the committee. Dr. Harwood will potentially then make a recommendation based on the feedback he receives from the Meet and Greet. Mrs. Dindoffer encouraged the community to attend the forum to meet Mr. Hamka on Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR JUNE 16, 2014**

No one came forward to speak at this time.

#### **V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR MAY 12, 2014**

##### **A. Approval of Human Resources Report for June 16, 2014**

The Human Resources Report for June 16, 2014 contained the appointment of Mr. Rodger Hunwick as the new Assistant Principal at Brownell Middle School. It also listed the appointments of six instructional staff and one recall from layoff status; and the retirements, resignations, or leave of absences of one administrative staff; six instructional staff; three classroom assistants; and one plant staff member. The report also listed staffing for Camp Invention; Camp O Fun; Extended School Year; and Summer School

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Gafa

**THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for June 16, 2014 as presented.**

Trustee Gafa said that her children had the privilege of having Mr. Hunwick as a teacher at Parcels and thanked him for his instruction to them. She said that he will be a great Assistant Principal and Brownell will benefit from him being there.

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Valente  
**Absent:** Trustee Jakubiec  
**Nays:** None  
**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2014**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Summerfield

**THAT the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2014 be approved as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Valente  
**Nays:** None  
**Motion carried by a 6– 0 vote.**

**VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR JUNE 23, 2014**

- A. Approval of Human Resources Report for June 23, 2014**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2014**
- C. Approval of G.A.A.A. #3**
- D. Approval of Budget for 2014-2015**
- E. Approval of Superintendent's Evaluation**

**VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

**A. Budget Development Update**

Superintendent Harwood said that by the end of this week documents that summarize the budget proposals for the next school year will be available on the district website. He noted that central office administration built their budget proposals based on legislative action in anticipation of what they will be approving in Lansing and how funding will be allocated. The difficulty arises because the school district's budget begins on July 1 and the state's budget begins on October 1. The district must anticipate Lansing's actions while finalizing the district's budget. General Appropriation Amendment Acts allow the district to make amendments on the final budget as the state's budget is not finalized until October. Adjustments are also made based on projected enrollment and the state's revenue sources.

Mr. Fenton noted that approximately 85% of the budget is staffing and approximately 15% is variable costs in heating, lights and textbooks. He added that this year's budget is very tight and that the budget proposal presented reflects central administration's best efforts in anticipating revenue, best practices and retirement rates, which may change. The goal is to steadily increase fund equity levels.

**VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Public Hearing on 2014-2015 Breakfast Program, June 23, 2014, 7 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room  
Public Hearing on 2014-2015 Budget, June 23, 2014, 7 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room  
Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, June 23, 2014, 7 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

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

[\(click here to access livestream video\)](#)

Allison Baker, Grosse Pointe Park, addressed the Board regarding the Grosse Pointe South Principal search process and inaccurate correspondence being disseminated throughout the community. (39:50)

Rick Morissette, Grosse Pointe Farms, also spoke on the circulation of information surrounding the Grosse Pointe South principal search process and the experience of the candidate being limited in his opinion. (42:21)

Mike Keane, Grosse Pointe, said that he felt the South Principal search process was rushed and that the candidate selected for the Meet and Greet Open House lacks the experience needed for the position. He requested access to the list of people that participated on the search committee. (44:35)

Biz Williamson, Grosse Pointe Farms, expressed her concerns regarding the search process for the Grosse Pointe South Principal position. (47:54)

Laura Mikesell, Grosse Pointe City resident and GPEA President-elect, spoke for the teaching staff in expressing their interest in watching state funding and how it affects district spending. She reminded the Board that teachers are keeping up with their end of the commitment to help raise fund equity by the significant financial cuts that have been taken. She thanked Treasurer Summerfield and the rest of the Board of Education for their careful, cautious, and mindful spending as they work to recover a depleted fund equity. (51:18)

Chris Profeta, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his views on the tone of Board meetings over the last year and a half noting their confrontational and critical tone. He emphasized the need for the Board to work together. (53:34)

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

Trustee Valente congratulated the Destination Imagination team members recognized this evening. She thanked the parents, students and team members who make the tremendous commitment to DI to make it happen. She agreed with Mr. Profeta about the Board working together but addressed him regarding his blog that contains statements without substantiated validation which contributes to the problems in the community.

Trustee Pangborn also agreed that Board members recognize the need to work together. She added that Mr. Profeta's blog has pictures on it depicting several individuals and asked that the one with her father in it be removed.

Trustee Summerfield congratulated the phenomenal achievement of the Destination Imagination Teams noting the quality of the students achieving success in the DI Programs and other student activities is outstanding. He said he was surprised to hear about the criticism of the South Principal search process as it is not yet complete. He looks forward to seeing what the administration recommends.

Trustee Gafa congratulated the 2014 North and South graduates. It was a beautiful day at South and North had a great graduation ceremony in their gym. She also congratulated the recent student sports teams that accomplished wins as well as the DI Teams. Mrs. Gafa wished Mr. Hunwick well as the new Assistant Principal noting that Brownell has gained a great administrator. She reiterated previous Board member comments about the Board working together.

Trustee Roeske spoke in reference to the budget process and the trust placed in the Board by the community and how they spend the money in the best interest of students. He said that the Board makes every effort to make the best decisions for students as that budget process moves forward.

Superintendent Harwood said that he took the leadership role in the candidate selection for the South High School Principal process. He noted that there are still more steps in the process before a final decision is made. Dr. Harwood then shared some of Mr. Hamka's performance highlights from North Farmington Schools. He followed up by addressing the process for the selection that occurred noting the Meet and Greet tomorrow evening at South High School for those wishing to meet Mr. Hamka will have the opportunity to fill out a feedback form.

Superintendent Harwood also congratulated the North and South graduating classes of 2014 as well as the Destination Imagination Teams for their hard work and accomplishments.

President Dindoffer congratulated the Destination Imagination Teams, their coaches and sponsors. She, too, congratulated the 2014 graduating seniors from North and South. She thanked Mr. Fenton and Mr. Summerfield for their work on the budget as the Board continues to review the information and deliberate and approve a

budget next week. Mrs. Dindoffer also thanked those who were part of the deliberation process for the South Principal position.

**XI. MOTION TO CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO RESUME DISCUSSION OF LEGAL OPINION AND SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Summerfield

**THAT the Board Convene into Closed Session to resume discussion of Legal Opinion and Superintendent's Evaluation.**

**In a roll call vote,**

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

**Absent:** Trustee Jakubiec

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6– 0 vote.**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

President Dindoffer adjourned the regular meeting at 8:17 p.m.

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Judy Gafa, Board Secretary