



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2015  
Brownell Multipurpose Room  
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Gafa called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Board members present:** Trustees Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz  
**Absent:** Trustee Ismail

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Poupard's Leader In Me students.

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

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 26, 2015**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

**THAT the Board Agenda for October 26, 2015 be approved.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Niehaus asked Chase Wakefield and Karl Kratz (Co-Chairs Strategic Planning) to update. Mr. Wakefield is thankful that the GP Board of Education recognizes that Strategic Planning is important. On the committee are 42 members within the community and throughout the school. Right now they are working on the vision and mission statement. The Committee will put together the plan and present to the Board of Education for approval, hopefully by December, 2015.

**A. GPEA Good News**

**1. Poupard Elementary School – Leader In Me.**

Principal Stocks spoke about the good results of the Leader In Me program is having on the staff and students at Poupard. The Program started with a grant that was approved in June, 2015. The entire staff has received training over the summer and implemented the Program for 2015-16 school year. Their theme for this school year is "Tree" Growing great leaders, one leader at a time. Goal is to become a Lighthouse School within two years.

**2. National Merit Semi-Finalist and Commended Students**

Superintendent Niehaus asked Mrs. Bur to announce the National Merit for both North and South High School. North students recognized are: Mallika Kanneganti, Jennifer Kusch, Anushri Subramaniam, Francesca Giacona and Mason Liagre. South students recognized are: Emma Clutterbuck, Brigit Jogan, Abigail Kuplicki, Lauren Pankin, Lily Patterson, Hannah Connors, Alexandra Dalman, Justin Vorhees and Evan Wilson.

### **3. AP Scholars**

Students at North High School recognized as AP Scholars are: Addy Grace, Olivia Asimakis, Hannon Atherton, Patrick Bernas, Olivia Bloomhuff, Dalaney Bradley, Emily Brown Baker, Ingrid Carabulea, Sarah Cherry, Christopher Collins, Andrew Delas, Ava Deloach, Sydney Eger, Kayla Gallant, Jay Garlapati, Puyan Gholizadeh, Francesca Giacona, Stephanie Godoshian, Emily Graham, Matthew Hilu, Adam Hilu, Audrey Kam, Stephen Kent, Meghan Korte, Alexander Kracht, Justin Kusch, Jennifer Kusch, Lauren Lesha, Mason Liagre, Joshua Lupo, Mara McMann, William McNelis, Vincent Provenzano, Emma Puglia, Craig Ramsdell, Aiden Reickert, Adam Schreck, Olyvia Shimko, Kent Strobl, Anushri Subramaniam, Emily Truss, Nicoletta Valenzano and Nicholas Zoia.

Students at South High recognized are: Hope Adams, Rebecca Adams, James Alltop, John Bornoty, Alexandra Boucher, Hannah Brauer, Griffin Brooks, Andrew Budziak, Jack Burgoyne, Seth Carolan, Brendan Cauvel, Anna Christinidis, Mark Cimmarrusti, Lindsey Clark, Aidan Clements, Emma Clutterbuck, Hannah Connors, Nicholas Costakis, Alexandra Dalman, Luke Davey, Holly Daywalt, Gabrielle Decoster, Kevin Dietz, Cameron Ennis, Emily Fleming, Preston Fossee, Julia Fox, Brian Garvey, William Gatbonton, Spencer Gilbert, Josiah Gray, Matthew Gross, Brigit Jogan, David Koelzer, Michael Kolesky, Jacqueline Kosmas, Abigail Kuplicki, Brendan Labadie, Caeli Lacroix, Clare Lacroix, Christopher Lemanski, Leonie Leslie, Jennifer Maiorana, Connor Mallegg, Alissa Martin, Benjamin Matheson, Jeffrey Matthews, Shannon Mcglone, Deirdre McKeever, Nathaniel Mitchell, Griffin Murray, Sean Nemah, Logan Nguyen, Lauren Pankin, Lily Patterson, Anna Piccione, Zoe Pidgeon, Carolyn Poleski, Maxwell Portwood, Reilly Potter, Wyatt Puscas, Benjamin Rappolee, Mary Reiber, Spencer Rizer, Emma Rooney, Jackson Rosati, Michael Rose, Emma Schmitt, Jacob Schwessinger, Nicholas Shankie, Sydney Simoncini, Veronica Stafford, Paul Swanson, Emily Tujaka, Walker Utley, Haley Vercruysse, Justin Vorhees, Marshall Vyletel, Garrett Weidig, Nine White, Yang Xia, Callista Zingas.

### **4. Columbia Scholastic Press Association student awards**

Teacher Shari Adwers from North presented three students with certificates recognizing Katelyn Carney, Audrey Kam and Jennifer Kusch for their individual awards from the 32d Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

#### **B. Healthy Heroes – Beaumont Community Health Coalition**

Anne Nearhood, Dr. Rogalski and Sandra Porter-Di Salvo spoke regarding Healthy Heroes partnering with Beaumont Community Health Coalition to provide the Flu Vaccination to all of the Grosse Pointe Schools. The flu mist quadrivalent is the preferred way; however the injectable vaccine will be available by parent request. Healthy Heroes was founded in 2010 and has been providing the flu vaccine in several states, including Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee. A pilot program was successful in 13 school districts across Michigan last year. Because of a shortage of the vaccine, the Program scheduled to take place in October, 2015 has been postponed till December, 2015. At that time, schools will have the option to opt in or opt out of the program. Dr. Niehaus stated that the District would review the schools option or make the vaccine available at all of the GP schools. Trustee Roeske asked what percentage of students participated in the plan last year. Dr. Rogalski stated that in the Bloomfield School District, 17% participated. Trustee Roeske asked about the no charge to the families or the school district. Dr. Rogalski stated that the vaccine is free of charge, but they will invoice insurance companies if the student has coverage and this information is provided by the parent on the opt in form. He also asked who administers and that would be either a nurse or doctor.

Trustee Pangborn asked why the live mist instead of a dead vaccine injection. According to Dr. Rogalski a live vaccine does not cause diseases, provides immunity in the nose and works faster. A dead vaccine can take up to two weeks. She also asked if parents could be present during the vaccination, and the answer was yes.

Trustee Valente asked if the flu mist or injectable contains thimerosal or other preservatives and the answer to that was no.

President Gafa requested that all health care professionals wear gloves. She also asked about mild reactions to the vaccine. Dr. Rogalski stated that there may be some mild reactions.....low grade fever, runny nose and mild body aches within two to three days of vaccination.

### **C. Legislative Update**

Superintendent Niehaus advised there are three items to update. 1. Third Grade Reading and where are we going with Third grade reading and the retention issue. 2. Teacher and Administrator evaluations have passed the House and Senate and expect the Governor to sign. This will impact slightly what we are doing with the Danielson model but we are probably further along with this than anyone else in the state. The third item would be what are we doing with Detroit and Detroit Public Schools. Also the roads would be a fourth item.

### **D. GPEA Good News**

Laura Mikesell provided information about the BAMMY Awards and that Principal Murray, GP North, Nick Provenzano, GP South and Gary Abud, GP North were nominees. The Bammy Awards is a cross-discipline honor that identifies and acknowledges the extraordinary work being done across the entire education field every day -- from teachers, principals and superintendents, to school nurses, support staff, advocates, researchers, school custodians, early childhood specialists, education journalists, parents and students. The Bammy Awards were created to help reverse the negative national narrative that dominates the education field. Gary Abud was the High School winner and Kate Murray was awarded Bammy Principal of the Year. Gary Abud spoke highly of the Board and colleagues in Grosse Pointe. Principal Murray then spoke and agreed with Mr .Abud that the award is not a “me” but a “we” award and she is grateful every day to serve as principal.

## **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR October 26, 2015**

There were no speakers at this time.

## **V. AGENDA ACTION ITEM FOR OCTOBER 26, 2015**

### **A. Approval of Human Resources Report for October 26, 2015**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Weertz

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for October 26, 2015 as presented.**

Deputy Superintendent Dean stated there are several items on the Human Resources Report but one item in particular identifies Denise Sharples as the Secretary to the Superintendent which also has the responsibility of providing some Board secretarial services.

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**B. Approval of Closed Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2015 and the Regular Meeting of September 28, 2015.**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve the Closed Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2015 as presented.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**C. Approval of Federal Program Funding**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Summerfield

**Supported by:** Trustee Roeske

Superintendent Niehaus commented that Mrs. Isha Smith had helped him prepare the Enclosure Page and disconcerting to him was the fact that the funding was \$100,000 less than last year.

**THAT the Board approve the Federal Program Funding as presented.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**D. Approval of Superintendent Goals for 2015-16**

Superintendent Niehaus and the Board of Education met in closed session for my evaluation. Trustee Summerfield and I have provided a final document in front of you. There is not anything we haven't talked about before and I agree with what you have presented and hope the Board does as well. We should be well on our way to get this accomplished. President Gafa stated that these are some of the best ones we have ever seen, we have a goal, rational and evidence, so she really appreciates that. Trustee Pangborn commented that it looks like we have something in the path of long standing commitments, instead of every year or two changing what is happening.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Summerfield

**Supported by:** Trustee Roeske

**THAT the Board approve Superintendent Goals for 2015-16.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 23, 2015**

President Gafa shared the agenda action items for the Board of Education's November 23, 2015 regular meeting.

A. Approval Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2015

B. Approval of Board Policies

1. 7540.02 District Web Page

Mr. Roeske stated that the Policy Committee has made policy changes based on the recommendation from NEOLA. In addition there were some additional choice options that the Committee had lengthy discussions about. They also received feedback from the Technology Department. Two of the four choices were accepted with a unanimous vote.

C. Approval of Resolution to Honor Distinguished Employee  
President Gafa reminded the Board that each year we ask for nominations of Distinguished Employees and will recognize the recipients at the November 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Trustees Ismail, Pangborn and Valente will Co-Chair the committee.

D. Approval of Audit Report from Plante Moran

## **VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report**

Mr. Fenton and Dr. Dean presented updates on the financial report and health care report.

### **B. November 3<sup>rd</sup> Professional Development Program**

Mr. Howell thanked Mrs. Bur for all she has done to put together the Professional Development Program. He also noted that we are #OneGP and to provide our staff with the best sort of learning possible. The whole staff has asked for more choices. This year there are over 120 sessions to choose from. Mrs. Mikesell noted that in August, the Committee identified our 2015-16 district PD theme as “Making Connections - #One GP”. Stefanie Hayes shared that many of the Facilitators of these classes taking place on November 3<sup>rd</sup> are staff members. Mrs. Bur stated that at the end of the sessions, staff will be asked to complete a KALPA survey.

### **C. All-District Open House on November 15<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m.**

Mrs. Fannon says that all of our buildings will be open. We have been encouraging people to come and visit our beautiful schools. PTO members and staff will be available in the buildings. Mrs. Gafa has asked if any Board Members are available to please let Mrs. Fannon know of your availability. Mr. Roeske asked if Barnes will be open and yes it will be.

## **VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

President Gafa announced upcoming meetings of the Board:

- A. Strategic Planning Meeting, Tuesday, October 27, 2015, 6:30 p.m. South Library Center
- B. Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting, Friday, October 30, 2015, 7:30 a.m., 389 St. Clair
- C. Strategic Planning Meeting, Tuesday, November 3, 2015, 6:30 p.m., South Library Center
- D. Meeting of the Board, November 16, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Brownell Multipurpose Room
- E. Regular Meeting of the Board, November 23, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Brownell MutliPurpose Room

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

J Moorland, League of Women Voters on Barrington in Grosse Pointe. She is a member of Presidential Team of the League of Women Voters. Their long term organization for videotaping their events advised them five days before filming that they were no longer interested and the League of Women Voters were panicking. The GP School District rescued them. South High School students came and filmed for them. Ms. Moorland wanted to specifically thank Dr. Niehaus and Rebecca Fannon for really moving fast.

One other speaker who didn't want to come to the podium, but also wanted to thank the GP Schools for coming to the aid of the League of Women Voters.

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

Trustee Pangborn congratulated all of the students that were here tonight. Every meeting we have a proud display of students from K-12. Everything has really started with the school system.

Trustee Valente thanked every mother, father, guardian, grandparent, teacher, custodian, classroom assistant and principal for the preparations of the wonderful school parties and celebrations that will take place this week for Halloween.

Trustee Summerfield had no comment.

Trustee Roeske noted that we have had lots of good news this evening and wanted to acknowledge Mrs. Mikesell and Mrs. Greer, last week they were the key presenters on STEM Unit and Climate Change at the National Science Teacher meeting. Secondly to wish good luck to the GP South football team on their bid for the finals.

Trustee Weertz thanked the District for sending her to the MASB Conference.

Dr. Niehaus advised that he has started Meet and Greets. Started at Trombly last week and enjoyed the time with the students. He mentioned that he spent some time with the FAST Track Reading Program, which was similar with other programs he has worked with. He also visited 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms at Brownell and talked about his experiences when he was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Last thing, thanks to the parents for showing up to the High Schools for parent teacher conferences.

President Gafa thanked Penny Stocks and the students from Leader In Me, who came today to present their program. She enjoyed shaking the hands of the students as she walked in the door this evening. She wanted to state again that there were over 300 AP Scholars and National Merit Scholars in our schools. She wanted to thank Anne Nearhood, Beaumont and Healthy Heroes for taking time to answer our questions. Looking forward to the Professional Development day on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Reminded the Board that Pops and Pastries is coming up. And lastly that today is her daughter's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. She has become a very confident young woman going through this school district and she believes it is not just her daughter but many children go on to become very successful people.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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Margaret Weertz, Board Secretary