



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2015  
Brownell Multipurpose Room  
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Daniel Roeske sitting in for President Gafa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Board members present:** Trustees Ismail, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield, and Weertz,  
**Present via telephone for a portion of meeting:** Trustees Gafa and Valente

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chase Wakefield and Karl Kratz.

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

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR December 14, 2015**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Weertz

**Supported by:** Trustee Summerfield

**THAT the Board Agenda for December 14, 2015 be approved.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Acceptance of Gifts from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education**

Christie Scoggin, Vice President and President and Grant Chairperson of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education, along with Kathy Fisk, Grant Co-person presented gifts from the GP Foundation for Public Education to: Peer to Peer Program (K-12<sup>th</sup>) District for \$4,000; Kidblog (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) All Nine Elementary Schools for \$2,000; Think Through Math (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) Kerby for \$3,315; Lego Kits for Utilization in Existing Curriculum (2<sup>nd</sup>) Kerby for \$1,377; Sensory Room Materials (K-5<sup>th</sup>) Poupard for \$1,603; Projector for Gym (K-5<sup>th</sup>) Poupard for \$7,530; Hydroponics Station (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>) Trombly for \$3,000; Middle School Broadcast Journalism iPads and Accessories (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) Pierce, Parcels and Brownell fo \$8,424; First Tech Challenge Team "The Blown Fuses" (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) Parcels \$1,200; Freshman Assist Mentoring Program (9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>) North for \$10,000; Drum Line Instruments for the Pep Band (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) North for \$3,500; The Gearheads Robotics Team (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) North and South for \$2,000; Enhancing and Updating South High Orchestra Inventory (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) South for \$14,000; Tuba (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) South for \$5,000; Grosse Pointe South Aerospace Club (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) South for \$990 and Grosse Pointe Solar Car Team (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) South for \$2,000. Total gift to Grosse Pointe Public Schools is \$69,940. Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield and Weertz all thanked the Foundation for their gifts and support.

**It was moved by:** Trustee Pangborn

**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the Board accept the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education gifts.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.**

## **B. Good New Items**

Laura Mikesell from the GPEA thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education for their continued generous support of our Professional Educators. She also thanked the Board of Education and the Steering Committee for including teacher's voices and encouraging their input. Laura commented that she looks forward to working with new the Human Resources Director in the New Year. The GPEA would like to thank and acknowledge the Board of Education for the countless hours and personal time that the Board puts into our school district. Lastly the GPEA would like to wish everyone a happy and restful holiday season.

## **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS**

Jennifer Munson on Pemberton, Grosse Pointe wanted to thank the Grosse Pointe Strategic Planning committee on behalf of the Grosse Pointe Down Syndrome Guild. She stated that we are truly #OneGP and that great changes are coming.

## **V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR December 14, 2015**

### **A. Approval of Special and Regular Meeting Minutes for November 23, 2015**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Pangborn

**Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

Trustee Ismail asked that the special meeting minutes be amended to reflect the arrival of Trustee Valente, 15 minutes into the meeting.

**THAT the Board approve the amended Special Session and Regular Meeting Minutes for November 23, 2015 as presented.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

### **B. Approval of Human Resources Report for December 14, 2015**

Dr. Dean reported that the longest tenured teacher, Deborah Peck, is retiring December 31, 2015. And as always we would like to recognize her for her service and thank her for all she has done. The second item on the report is a replacement for Dean Niforos, Director of Human Resources and that Ms. Nicole Pilgrim will be replacing him starting January 4, 2016. Trustee Ismail commented that Mrs. Peck will be missed and that she is a super person. President Gafa stated that Mrs. Peck was a wonderful teacher and welcomes our new Director of Human Resources, Ms. Pilgrim.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Summerfield

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for December 14, 2015 as presented.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

### **C. Approval of Grosse Pointe Public School Strategic Plan 2015-2018**

Trustee Roeske asked that Mr. Wakefield, Mr. Kratz and Mr. Wilmont give an overview of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Kratz spoke about the great group of people to work with and that a lot of great ideas came out of this. Mr. Wakefield stated that this group worked together and set the stage for the future. It was an exciting project. It is concise and targets what this District needs.

Mr. Wilmont reviewed the Strategic Planning documents with the Board. A task force of 42 people who represented a variety of residents and employee groups across the district was assembled to look at and finalize plans for the future. A lot of discussion took place for the vision with the suggestion of #OneGP, where everyone learns every day and includes parents, staff, students and community. Then they looked at the mission, promote innovation, maximize potential and embrace the community. Trustee Gafa thanked all for their hard work and looks forward to supporting this. Trustee Valente thanks everyone as well. This has been a smooth process, congratulations. Trustee Ismail glad to hear the issue of embedded professional development, it is one of our keystones to our strategic planning. Trustee Pangborn thanked Mr. Wilmont and mentioned that the process went unseeingly well. She congratulated Mr. Wilmont and everyone that was involved. Trustee Summerfield mentioned that he was part of the 42 member task force. Mr. Wilmont did an excellent job bringing all 42 members together. Trustee Weertz thanked the group and said we should celebrate what is good and right with the world. Trustee Roeske thanked Mr. Wakefield and Kratz and that he has heard from the community on how excited they are with this process.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Weertz

**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the Board approve the Grosse Pointe Public School Strategic Plan 2015-2018**

**Trustee Valente is now present via telephone.**

**Trustee Roeske asked for a roll call vote: Trustee Gafa, yes; Trustee Ismail, yes; Trustee Pangborn, yes; Trustee Roeske, yes; Trustee Summerfield, yes; Trustee Valente, yes; Trustee Weertz, yes.**

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.**

#### **D. Approval of Homeless Liaison Officer**

Deputy Superintendent Fenton stated that the District is required to account for and provide assistant for the homeless under Federal law. Trustee Ismail asked if there are any state requirements, exams or licensing for this? Mr. Fenton advised that there is ongoing professional development for this.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Pangborn

**Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

**THAT the Board approve the Homeless Liaison Officer as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield, and Weertz  
Trustee Valente no longer available by telephone.

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

#### **E. Approval of GPPSS Young 5's Program**

Director Howell is pretty excited about the Program. It will be held at three schools in the district, Poupard, Mason and Defer. Parents must reside within the district and there will be a lottery process if we have more interest than we have room. Lottery will be held on February 29, 2016. President Gafa thanked the committee for the Program. She has been receiving positive comments from the community. Trustee Ismail wanted to confirm that the young 5's would return to their home school to attend Kindergarten the following year. Trustee Pangborn was on the committee and still has concerns about the program. She has agreed to move forward with this. She knows a large group of parents who have left our program for ½ day kindergarten. Trustee Roeske mentioned that this program is funded through state and mentioned that the word is out for this.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Pangborn

**THAT the Board approve the GPPSS Young 5's Program as presented.**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**F. Approval of General Appropriations Amendment Act #1 (G.A.A.A. #1)**

This is the first of our General Appropriations Amendments. It is usually a large one. The general fund has had a number of adjustments. The general fund we have had adjustments to four major categories. One being the fund equity adjustments, adjustments in both the revenue and expenditures on the UAAL. Our biggest decrease is in the Act 18 and smaller increase in the Medicaid from 2012-13 school year. Fund equity balance of 7.7 million and with that amount we are still on target to meet our goal of 10% for our 2016-17 contracts. Trustee Ismail asked that Deputy Superintendent explain to the audience what Act 18 is. It is a local tax that is levied on all properties of Wayne County. The money is redistributed for various programs for special education services throughout Wayne County. Trustee Summerfield said that the Administration is doing a good job monitoring the budgets.

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Summerfield

**Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

**THAT the Board approve the General Appropriations Amendment Act #1 (G.A.A.A. #1).**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**VI. Agenda Action Items for January 25, 2016**

**A. Organizational Items**

1. Election of Officer
2. Approval of Resolution of Continuance of Funds and Designation of Signatories on Account
3. Approval of Appointment of Christian Fenton, Isha Smith and Helen Johnson as Representatives to MAISL for Property Liability Insurance Underwriter
4. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Calendar for 2016
5. Declaration of Board Member Compensation

Trustee Ismail asked if the board calendar could be scheduled two weeks apart. Superintendent asked that we do a 2d and 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the month. Trustee Pangborn would be anxious to get back to meetings like that. For the public we would need that extra time.

**B. Approval of Human Resources Report for January 25, 2016**

**C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2016**

## **D. Approval of Policies (first read)**

### **1. Bylaw 0167.5 Use of Electronic Mail**

Trustee Summerfield says this is essentially for administrative convenience for 389 primarily to gather information for people who submit FOIA requests and what capacity they are working with the Board. So if a Board member is working as a parent, they should use their personal email account. Each board member has been provided a gpschools.com account to use for Grosse Pointe schools.

### **2. Bylaw 0175.1 School Board Conferences, Conventions and Workshops**

This is a requirement from Public Act 477, 2014 with regard to board member expense reimbursement. We are making these changes based on NEOLA recommendations. This would be primarily for local training. Trustee Ismail asked that the policy clarify who may attend these meetings and that he feels that this should be mandatory for all new board members. Trustee Weertz says new and old would benefit from the training. President Gafa commented that we do need to be cost conscious.

## **VIII. Information and Discussion**

### **A. Declaration of Candidacy for 2016 Board Officers**

Trustee Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield, Weertz, Gafa and Roeske will serve in any capacity the Board wishes. President Gafa would like to be President for one more year to finish with the goals that have been started this year and then step down for someone else to take the position of President. Trustee Roeske would also like to continue to serve on the policy committee.

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

Mr. Fenton stated that there is nothing to really highlight, this report is as of November 30<sup>th</sup> and does not reflect the change in budget or fund equity or change to GAAA #1. Outside of that it is pretty standard. This is our fifth month of operation, really our third month of the school year with nothing unusual to report at this time. Dr. Dean reported that there is no health care report to discuss at this time.

## **IX. Future Meetings**

- A. BOE Policy Committee Meeting, January 5, 2016 , 6:00 – 8:00 pm at 389 St. Clair
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, January 11, 2016, 7:00 p.m. North PAC
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, January 25, 2016, 7:00 p.m. Pierce Auditorium

## **IX. Public Comments on Non-Action Items**

Andrea Levine, Grosse Pointe Park, founder of Sex Trafficking Think Tank and the Metro Detroit Against Metro Times. I am also a member of the Sir Optimistic International of Grosse Pointe and a member of the Stop Porn Cultural. She would like to garner some support for getting the Metro Times magazine away from the Grosse Pointe Schools. This is a public and safety issue.

## **X. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent**

Trustee Ismail wished everyone a great holiday break. He thanked everyone who worked on the Strategic Plan. Good positive energy has come out of this. He mentioned that this has been choir week. He hopes that we can move forward as a Board in 2016.

Trustee Pangborn said that tonight was a good way to end the year. So many things are exciting that came out of this meeting this evening, Strategic Plan, PreK and Young 5's and the acknowledgement of grants. Hope everyone really enjoys their holidays.

Trustee Summerfield agreed that there have been a lot of accomplishments in 2015. It is exciting to implement the Strategic Plan. Happy Holidays to everyone.

Trustee Weertz wished everyone a happy holiday.

Dr. Dean and Mr. Fenton had no comment.

President Gafa thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for their donations and the Strategic Planning committee. We got a lot accomplished as a Board in 2015. She appreciates all the hard work from all of the Board Members. Happy Holidays to all.

Superintendent Niehaus stated that he on purpose did not make comments regarding the Strategic Plan. From his vantage point, he did not need to sell it, everyone else did. The committee of 42 and Mr. Wilmont got it through in five sessions at a marathon pace. There are a lot of great things going on in our district and he likes recognizing those. He wished everyone a great winter break, happy holidays and a good New Year.

Trustee Roeske thanked the 42 Strategic Planning Committee for their time and a job well done. Thank you to the two Board members who sat on the committee. It is a good direction for where we are going. To the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education, thank you for the \$70,000 donation and their support of our school district. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Acting President Roeske adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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Margaret Weertz, Board Secretary