



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 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 7:00 p.m.

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

**Absent:** Trustee Ismail

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Roeske.

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

President Gafa addressed the unfortunate tragedy that recently occurred in the district, offered condolences to the Eggleston family and asked for a moment of silence in respect for their loss.

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR AUGUST 17, 2015**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Weertz

**Supported by:** Trustee Valente

**THAT the Board Agenda for August 17, 2015 be approved as presented.**

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

**Absent:** Trustee Ismail

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Summerfield

**Supported by:** Trustee Roeske

**THAT the Agenda be amended to move Item VI. A. North/South Spanish Trip to Costa Rica, to the Agenda Action Items for August 17, 2015.**

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

**Absent:** Trustee Ismail

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried to amend the agenda by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Brownell and Parcels Presentation of the National Model for School Counseling Program**

School Counselors Angie Niforos, Jenny Sherman and Carla Palffy shared their experience with the National Model for School Counseling Program and the positive effects of joining forces three years ago to implement this model in their delivery of services at Brownell and Parcels.

**B. Focus Schools Update**

Dr. Dean shared information about Focus Schools, which were created by the Michigan Department of Education. Focus Schools consist of the ten percent of schools on the Top-to-Bottom list with the largest achievement gaps between its top 30 percent of students and its bottom 30 percent, based on average scale score. In addition to being required by USED for ESEA Flexibility, identifying Focus Schools is a critical step toward Michigan achieving its overriding goal of closing the achievement gap within schools and reducing the

achievement gap statewide. Although the district does not have the final data yet, of the five Grosse Pointe Public Schools that were previously listed as Focus Schools, only two remain on the list by color coding.

### **C. Crisis and Emergency Planning Proposal**

Superintendent Niehaus addressed the need for every student and all staff to be prepared and safe in the event of a catastrophe or harmful situation. He introduced President Jeff Lehman and Project Manager, Joe Humphries who shared their professional backgrounds and goals for the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Their plan included table discussions with school administration, correspondence with public safety officials, faculty and staff responsible for each school building. Compliance One will utilize consultants with experience in law enforcement, experienced school resource officers, fire and medical response experts and emergency management experts. Mr. Humphries also addressed Compliance One compensation and anticipated schedule for the scope of work involved.

## **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR AUGUST 17, 2015**

There were no speakers at this time.

## **V. AGENDA ACTION ITEM FOR AUGUST 17, 2015**

### **A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2015**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

**THAT the Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2015 as presented.**

Trustee Pangborn said she would abstain from voting since she was not in attendance at the August 17, 2015 meeting.

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

**Absent:** Trustee Ismail

**Abstain:** Trustee Pangborn

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.**

### **B. Approval of North/South Spanish Trip to Costa Rica from February 13-20, 2016**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

**THAT the Board approve the North/South Spanish Trip to Costa Rica from February 13-20, 2016 as presented.**

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

**Absent:** Trustee Ismail

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

## **VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. Residency Verification**

Mr. Fenton noted that verification of residency and re-registration continues as parents visit the residency office to complete forms. He said that the central office administration met with Residents for Residency members and per their recommendations, revisions have been made to forms A, C, D and E. Investigations of students violating residency requirements have been investigated and the district will move forward with collecting tuition from those not in compliance.

## **VII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

President Gafa announced upcoming meetings of the Board:

- A. Board Finance Committee Meeting, Wednesday, August 19, 2015, 8:00 a.m., Board Room,
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, August 24, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

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

Laura Mikesell, GPEA President, addressed the Board with reports of teachers, secretaries and custodians already spotted back in buildings preparing classrooms and offices for the opening of school in September. She also noted that Grosse Pointe Public School teachers were held up as an example of the effectiveness of teacher evaluations in this district at a recent MEA conference she attended. Mrs. Mikesell looks forward to the district continuing to be a lighthouse district to other schools in Michigan and around the country.

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

Trustee Pangborn wished everyone a continued safe summer.

Trustee Valente was excited to hear the good news about Grosse Pointe Public School teachers from Mrs. Mikesell and suggested she report at the beginning of each Board meeting.

Trustee Summerfield agreed that Mrs. Mikesell's news is appreciated and would be welcome at the start of each Board meeting.

Trustee Weertz had no comment.

Trustee Roeske said that hearing colleagues at the MEA conference reference Grosse Pointe Public School teachers speaks to the partnership that the community and administration have with the teachers. He thanked all staff in the district and said he looks forward to working together in the upcoming year.

Superintendent Niehaus noted a book provided to the district from the Louisa May Alcott Chapter recently that will be housed in one of the district's Gross Pointe Public School buildings. He also addressed the district's declining enrollment in comparison to other districts who are also struggling to maintain enrollment figures. Dr. Niehaus presented a homework assignment to Board members in coordination with the upcoming Strategic Planning meetings. He asked each Board member to provide him with 5-7 residents who could potentially be part of the newly formed Strategic Planning Committee that will be co-chaired by Jon Dean and Margaret Weertz.

Superintendent Niehaus agreed that it would be a good idea to hear Mrs. Mikesell's updates on district staff at the beginning of Board meetings under the Superintendent's Report.

President Gafa thanked the counselors from Parcels and Brownell for their presentation this evening on evening. She also noted the Summer Select Choir that she heard gave a fabulous performance recently. Mrs. Gafa also noted that two Grosse Pointe Public School teachers were nominated for the "Bammy" Awards: Gary Abud and Nick Provenzano.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

---

Margaret Weertz, Board Secretary