



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 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, Ismail, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz

Absent: Trustee Valente

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Pangborn.

Also Present: Superintendent Niehaus; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board Agenda for September 21, 2015 be approved as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. 2015 Summer Learning Program Report

The 2015 Summer Learning Program administrators were introduced by Mrs. Bur. Nancy Reith shared information about the ELL Program which kept 17 students engaged in reading, writing and speaking over the summer. Donna VanJaarsveld shared the progress of the 60 students that qualified for summer services with a focus on the five senses of summer theme. Geoffrey Young was the Director of secondary summer programs noting the attendance of 250 students; some to improve grades and obtain enrichment, some to recovery learning in a subject not passed and others to discover and well as recover information on a particular subject. Keith Howell spoke for Andrea Lappin who was the Elementary Director for the 2015 Summer School program.

B. North High School Mars Team Presentation

The following North students were selected as the first place team for their Mars research as part of the Mars Exploration Student Data Teams competition, a national program sponsored by NASA and Arizona State University: Joey Bejin, Gabby Feeny, Jamie Lackner, Nate Atkinson, Michelle Bridges and Adam Gellert. In the MESDT program the students participated in training webinars from Mars scientists presenting their questions through an online forum. They were awarded a travel scholarship for winning the competition and last week spent two days at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland. The students are members of the North Club, Radio Astronomy Team.

C. Full Circle/Community Campus Report

Sue Banner, Full Circle Director introduced the members of the Full Circle family present: Co-Founders Mary Fodell and Karl Kratz, and Lillie Loder. Mrs. Banner noted that the concept for Full Circle began in 2008 with the intention of creating jobs for students in the community who had aged-out of the district's special needs programs. In 2009 Full Circle opened their first store at Kercheval and Beaconsfield with valuable job training

experience for students. Public awareness and additional opportunities for students were soon created and in April 2010, Full Circle moved to its Kercheval and Lakepointe location. In the fall of 2010, the first Community Campus classroom was developed and a partnership with the Grosse Pointe Public Schools was formed. With increased student independence and access to job skill training as well as other local community businesses, Full Circle Foundation purchased its own building on Mack in Grosse Pointe Park. A second Community Campus classroom opened in January of 2013 and the program became the cutting edge model for public school systems. Enhanced program opportunities were added along with parent awareness in the ability for students to live independently. Full Circle soon added more job skills training; an Upscale Resale Store expansion; an edible garden and outdoor classroom; a laundry program; internet sales and staffing at the Grosse Pointe Shores Park concession stand. The Grosse Pointe Public Schools partner with Full Circle Foundation to maximize the students' opportunities to gain independence, increase soft skills for job training and access community opportunities. Two classrooms for students with disabilities ages 18-26 are being funded by Wayne RESA and in 2014 the Bridges Program was developed to give more special needs students at the high school level additional options. These include programs focusing on transition skills that include academics, community involvement, employability, adult living and vocational opportunities. The team at Full Circle will continue to partner with the Grosse Pointe Public Schools to best meet the needs of this ever-growing population and have already begun to investigate plans for the next 5 years.

D. GPEA Update

Laura Mikesell, GPEA President, said that Full Circle has been a fantastic addition to the Grosse Pointe Public School family. She shared her positive experiences at two Back to Schools Nights. Mrs. Mikesell then noted that she would like to share her speaking time with two other district union presidents.

Kim Van Gorder, President of the GPEASP, thanked Maureen Bur for providing professional development opportunities for her groups' members.

Pat Zens, GPAEOP President also thanked Mrs. Bur for the professional development workshops provided for union members.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

There were no speakers at this time.

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEM FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn **Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2015 as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. District Annual Education Report for 2014-2015

District Public Relations Coordinator, Rebecca Fannon presented information from last year's test scores as this year's have not yet been received from the state.

B. 2015-2016 Assessment Calendar

Mrs. Bur and Mr. Howell, Curriculum Directors, shared an assessment calendar discussing the dates for testing this year.

C. Enrollment Update

Mr. Fenton shared enrollment data as of Thursday, September 17, 2015 noting that the district currently has 8,046 students enrolled, slightly down from last year's 8,095 total. After a tally of students who did not pick up schedules in compiled, he said that anticipates a range somewhere close to 8,035 students on the October count date.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

President Gafa announced upcoming meetings of the Board:

- A. Closed Session of the Board, Monday, September 28, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Brownell Library
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, September 28, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

The following parents shared their concerns about the class size at Richard in the kindergarten and first grade and third grade at Kerby:

Ed Alotta, Grosse Pointe Farms, 1st grade
Andy Bedsworth, Grosse Pointe City, 1st grade
David Okonoski, Grosse Pointe Farms, 1st grade
Sara Agnone, Grosse Pointe, 1st grade
Margaret Michelotti, Grosse Pointe, 1st grade
Kelly Walsh, Grosse Pointe, 1st grade
Luis Guevara, Grosse Pointe, 1st grade
John Rondini, Grosse Pointe Farms, 1st grade
Chris Smith, Grosse Pointe, 2nd grade and kindergarten
Jamie, Grosse Pointe, 1st grade
Erin, Grosse Pointe, 3rd grade at Kerby
Nicole Norris, Grosse Pointe, 1st grade and kindergarten

Superintendent Niehaus said that the enrollment issue is being discussed by the central office administration. Information will be reviewed and a response will be provided soon.

IX. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Ismail had no comment.

Trustee Pangborn asked the Board to consider looking t the way they do business and how "new business" is handled.

Trustee Summerfield said he appreciated all of the parents that came to the meeting to speak. He said that he understands their frustration, their concerns are being considered and issues are being reviewed by the Board and central office administration.

Trustee Roeske also thanked the parents that came to speak. He reminded the community about the North/South tailgate on Friday, September 25th.

Trustee Weertz also thanked all of the speakers this evening. She appreciates their concerns. Mrs. Weertz thanked everyone for the wonderful reports presented. She added that she appreciates everything that Mary Fodell has done for Full Circle.

Superintendent Niehaus shared information on the Brownell robotics team; the indoor swimming schedule provided to the Board; the progress of the District's Strategic Plan noting that Mrs. Weertz will be the Board member on the core team; September had a great start to the school year; and Mr. Fenton and his team are to be commended for their great job on the registration process of kindergarten students and the verification of 6th and 9th graders.

Superintendent Niehaus said that he was overwhelmed at the standing ovation he received at the all staff breakfast on September 2nd. He also noted that he contracted with Compliance One Security Firm to help the district with security issues and to update the district's emergency operation plans. Dr. Niehaus shared that with that plan, dogs will be training in each school building between now and Thanksgiving.

President Gafa welcomed everyone back to the new school year. She thanked everyone for the respectful, constructive and positive feedback provided in the comments from every speaker. She encouraged the community to stay involved and continue to share their comments and concern. Trustee Gafa congratulated the students from the Mars Team who presented this evening. She reminded the community about the North/South football game on Friday noting that the schools are rivals on the field but #One GP in the classrooms.

X. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Margaret Weertz, Board Secretary