



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2015
Multipurpose Room, Brownell Middle School
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Roeske called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

[\(click here to view video\)](#)

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

Absent: Trustee Valente

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Summerfield.

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE OF NEWLY ELECTED TRUSTEES

The Board election held on November 4, 2014 resulted in the election of Ahmed Ismail, Brian Summerfield and Margaret Weertz to four-year terms. All trustees were then administered the Oath of Office by Grosse Pointe Park City Councilwoman Laurie Arora. A brief reception followed to recognize and honor the district's three new Board members.

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR JANUARY 12, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Ismail

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the revised Board Agenda 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.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

There were no public comments at this time.

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY 12, 2015

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for January 12, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Gafa

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for January 12, 2015 as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2014 and Special Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT the Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2014 and Special Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2014.

Trustee Ismail said he would abstain from voting on the minutes of December 10 and December 15, 2014 as he was not present at either meeting.

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

Absent: Trustee Valente

Abstain: Trustee Ismail

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Presentation of Focus School Quarterly Report to the School Board

Superintendent Harwood explained that the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and Michigan Department of Education (MDE) approved ESEA Flexibility Waiver for districts with Focus schools for 2014 is a completion of a Quarterly Progress Report from the district. An update is also provided to the local school board. He noted that a Focus School designation is given when the bottom 30% of a schools' students score significantly lower while the top 30% of students score significantly higher in performance.

Mrs. Maureen Bur discussed the ways in which principal's work to close that gap between the top 30% and bottom 30% in a particular school recognizing that there will always be a gap. The district's goal is to lessen that gap and continue to find ways to bring that gap closer while providing support to all learners at all levels of achievement. Building and district staff remain committed to providing interventions for struggling learners both during the school day and after school as their educational, emotional and social learning needs.

Grosse Pointe Public Schools' five Focus Schools are Ferry, Defer, Poupard, Parcels and North.

B. Presentation on the Use of the Naviance Program at the Secondary Schools Care Report

Superintendent Harwood introduced Beth Walsh-Sahutske, South High School Counseling Department Chairperson, who presented information and the benefits of the Naviance program. He commended the counseling staff and Mrs. Sahutske for providing leadership with the Naviance tool. Naviance is a college and career readiness platform that helps connect academic achievement to post-secondary goals. Students and families connect learning and life goals with the Naviance program as it highlights a student's individual strengths and learning styles while helping the student navigate college choices and career options. Research on tracking student alumni is also being explored through Naviance.

C. Budget Parameters for 2015-2016

Board Treasurer Summerfield shared information on the draft resolution for the 2015-2016 Budget Development and related parameters document provided to the Board. He noted that under Policy 6220, the Board is required to adopt a resolution documenting budget parameters in January of each year in preparation for the budget. The Treasurer drafts the resolution after review of financial reports and projections, with district goals as a guide, as well as input from fellow Board members. The resolution should: identify specific financial goals and objects regarding specific cost reduction, revenue increases and other financial objectives; identify budget related strategies that the Board prefers the administration to pursue or avoid in their budget development; identify terms of the objectives with flexibility in the administration's approach to the budget development.

Trustee Summerfield said that he received suggestions and recommendations from fellow Board members which will be included in the final Budget Parameters document.

While maintaining consistency with state and federal laws, Board policies and the District's mission, the budget should aid in the achievement of District Goals while providing for long-term financial stability. The first draft of the budget from the administration should be presented to the Board by April 30, 2015. Information should include updates on: the General Fund Budget Model Utility; Staff Utilizations Report; enrollment and class size projections; Debit Fund budget; Sinking Fund budget and proposed projects; School Service Fund; Capital Project Fund budget; program enhancements, reductions, movement, or eliminations; and a brief description of how the budget meets the objectives and strategies set forth. Any changes will be made following Board reviews and recommendations and/or possible changes based on State of Michigan directives. The final budget proposal will be presented for Board approval no later than June 30, 2015.

D. Superintendent Search Update

Mr. Fenton shared latest developments on the Superintendent Search process. He noted that eight proposals were received last week ranging in cost from \$13,000 to \$27,000 with three from Michigan, three from Illinois, one from Nebraska and one from Iowa. Mr. Fenton said that he hopes a selection will have been made by the 1st of February in order to begin the Superintendent search recommended in the proposed timeline.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, January 26, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- B. Special Meeting of the Board, Tuesday, January 27, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Board Room, 389 St. Clair

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Diane Karabetsos, Grosse Pointe Woods resident and member of the Residents for Residency committee, spoke on the availability of current data for rental properties in the community. She questioned the administration as to why they have not requested this information from the city offices and why it was not being used in relation to residency verification. Mr. Fenton replied that the district has requested and received that information from many of the municipalities in the community and it is maintained in the residency office. (1:48:24)

Mark Simon, Grosse Pointe Woods, addressed the Board regarding an incident that happened at North High School involving his daughter. (1:51:03)

Kim VanGorder, GPESPA President, welcomed the new Board members and said she looks forward to working with the Board this year. She thanked Maureen Bur and Stefanie Hayes for facilitating professional development offerings for classroom assistants. (1:56:49)

Laura Mikesell, GPEA President, welcomed Trustees Ismail and Weertz and looks forward to working with them this year. She thanked Beth Walsh-Sahutske and Lisa Khoury for their professional expertise in facilitating support to staff and students following the tragedies that occurred over the holiday. She also commended the staff at Brownell and Richard that made themselves available to the Stemmler family over the holiday. (1:57:48)

X. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Ismail thanked the audience for listening to the Board and community this evening and for those who elected him back on the Board. He made note of the people he knows who are very special "class acts."

Trustee Weertz thanked Mrs. Mikesell for her comments. She said she is proud of the district staff, parents and community for everything they do and everything that was done in light of the sad events that occurred over the holiday.

Trustee Pangborn welcomed everyone back to the start of a new semester. She said there is a great staff at Brownell and she is looking forward to the new year. She thanked Mrs. Mikesell for her comments. She addressed a previous speaker saying that she hopes he gets his answers immediately. She asked that the Board would go back to the practice of receiving reports on events or issues that happen in the schools immediately, especially those of a serious violation.

Trustee Gafa said that it was a hard holiday break with the loss of two Grosse Pointe students. She said she appreciates Mrs. Mikesell and the counselors at Brownell who made themselves available to students during the holiday regarding the sad events that occurred. She welcomed the two new Board members and Mr. Summerfield to the Board.

Trustee Summerfield thanked Mrs. Mikesell and everyone for sharing this evening. He said that he taking his Oath of Office this evening was very special as it is a time when a person makes a public commitment. He also thanked those who helped with the tragedies over the holiday pointing out that when there are times of trouble, this community comes together. Mr. Summerfield thanked Board members for their input on the Budget Parameters.

Superintendent Harwood congratulated the three new Board members adding that he appreciates their willingness to donate their time and efforts to the students and staff of the district. He echoed the comments of Mrs. Mikesell and other Board members who thanked those staff who willingly committed to do whatever was needed to help the staff and students through the recent tragedies. He recognized those individuals who came forward to provide help in a time of need. He also recognized Mr. Stackpool for his help and support in arranging a videotape for one of the student's families.

Trustee Roeske echoed the comments of fellow Board members that were made. He welcomed the three new Board members. He added that he failed to note that Board Trustee Valente was absent from the meeting due to a work commitment overseas.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-President Roeske adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Judy Gafa, Board Secretary