



V. A.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 25, 2016
Pierce Middle School – Auditorium
15430 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230**

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 Weertz

Also Present: Superintendent Niehaus; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR JANUARY 25, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board Agenda be approved as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Good News Items

1. Laura Mikesell, GPEA noted the nice change of the meeting to Pierce Auditorium. Pierce has always had an outstanding staff with a long history of serving our students and parents at the south end. She recently met with a small select group of staff, representing our district, who reviewed the staff survey that meets the requirements for Board Policy 3112.01. She notes that they appreciate the Board of Education and administrations efforts in following up on this requirement.

B. School Board Recognition

The State of Michigan has dedicated January, 2016 as Board of Education Recognition month. Dr. Niehaus thanked our seven Board members for their service to the school system. He acknowledged and commended them for their time and effort to the dedication of our children and public education in the Grosse Pointe Public Schools System.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ORGANIZATION ITEMS AND ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY 25, 2016.

No speakers

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

No speakers

VI. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

A. Election of Officers

Board Bylaw 0152 indicates that the Board shall annually elect Board officers at its organizational meeting.

It was Moved by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT Trustee Gafa be nominated as President of the Board of Education.

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

In a roll call vote,
Trustee Ismail, yes
Trustee Pangborn, yes
Trustee Roeske, yes
Trustee Summerfield, yes
Trustee Gafa, yes
Trustee Weertz, yes

Motion to nominate Trustee Gafa as President of the Board carried by a 6-0 vote.

Trustee Gafa took her place at the table in the President's position and proceeded with officer nominations.

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

THAT Trustee Roeske be nominated as Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

In a roll call vote,
Trustee Ismail, yes
Trustee Pangborn, yes
Trustee Roeske, yes
Trustee Summerfield, yes
Trustee Gafa, yes
Trustee Weertz, yes

Motion to nominate Trustee Roeske as Vice-President of the Board of Education carried by a 6-0 vote.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

THAT Trustee Summerfield be nominated as Treasurer of the Board of Education.

Supported by: Trustee Ismail

In a roll call vote,
Trustee Ismail, yes
Trustee Pangborn, yes
Trustee Roeske, yes
Trustee Summerfield, yes
Trustee Gafa, yes
Trustee Weertz, yes

Motion to nominate Trustee Summerfield as Treasurer of the Board of Education carried by a 6-0 vote.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

THAT Trustee Pangborn be nominated as Secretary of the Board of Education.

Supported by: Trustee Ismail

In a roll call vote,
Trustee Ismail, yes
Trustee Pangborn, yes
Trustee Roeske, yes
Trustee Summerfield, yes
Trustee Gafa, yes
Trustee Weertz, yes

Motion to nominate Trustee Pangborn as Secretary of the Board of Education carried by a 6-0 vote.

B. Declaration of Board Member Compensation Preference

Per Board Bylaw 0144.1, Board members individually declare their preference for distribution of their compensation by one of four options: A) Receive his/her per meeting compensation for the current year; B) Refuse compensation for the current year; C) Request that in lieu of his/her compensation for the current school year a like amount be directed to a program of the Grosse Pointe Public School System or a District related school organization; or D) Request that the compensation be directed on his/her behalf to the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education.

Trustee Ismail designated his compensation to the Business office to cover the delivery of his packet and information requests.

Trustee Pangborn chose to receive her compensation.

Trustee Summerfield donates his compensation to the Trombly Greenhouse preservation.

Trustee Gafa would like to direct her compensation to the South Solar Team and the Gearheads.

Trustee Valente, absent

Trustee Roeske would like his forwarded to Poupard Elementary PTO

Trustee Weertz would like this forwarded to Poupard Elementary PTO

C. Approval of Resolution of Continuance of Funds and Designation of Signatories on Accounts

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the Resolution of Continuance of Funds and Designation of Signatories on Accounts as presented.

Consistent with prior years, this establishes our funds and various accounts to transact business for the district.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

D. Approval of Appointment of Christian Fenton, Isha Smith and Helen Johnson as Representatives to MAISL for Property/Liability Insurance Underwriter

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the Appointment of Christian Fenton, Isha Smith and Helen Johnson as Representatives to MAISL for Property/Liability Insurance Underwriter as presented.

Consistent with prior years, this group is pooled with approximately 33 districts in the tri-county area. It covers our liability insurance and we have been in the pool for approximately six years now.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

E. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Calendar for 2016

Trustee Roeske stated that he likes a week gap between first conversation meeting and our regular business meeting.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the Regular Board Meeting Calendar for 2016 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

VII. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY 25, 2016

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for January 25, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for January 25, 2016 as presented.

Dr. Dean noted that we have four retirements this month.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2016 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

C. Approval of Budget Parameters for 2016-17

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

Trustee Roeske appreciated the discussion regarding the budget parameters and thanked Trustee Summerfield, Mr. Fenton and others for their efforts. Trustee Summerfield noted that one change was made to the Fund Equity, that we are still trying to achieve our efforts of 10%.

THAT the Board approve the Budget Parameters for 2016-2017 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

D. Approval of Board Policies

1. Bylaw 0167.5 Use of Electronic Mail

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

Trustee Roeske noted that they added a sentence regarding personal opinions of the board, so with counsel's opinion, it was added in.

THAT the Board approve Board Policy 0167.5 Use of Electronic Mail

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

2. Bylaw 0175.1 School Board Conferences, Conventions and Workshops

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

Trustee Summerfield made a motion to table; supported by: Trustee Roeske.

THAT the Board table Board Policy 0175.1 School Board Conferences, Conventions and Workshops for the February 8, 2016 meeting.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

E. Approval of Resolution in Opposition to Public Act 269

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

Superintendent Niehaus brought to the attention of the Board, Public Act 269, that puts a 60 day gag order prior to any election with regard to District information being distributed. It is the belief that school boards would need to be in opposition to the Democratic way and the right for us to be able to explain a referendum piece to the public, as well as our opposition to do the same.

THAT the Board approve the Resolution in Opposition to Public Act 269

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

VIII. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 29, 2016

- A. Approval of Human Resources Report for February 22, 2016**
- B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2016**
- C. Approval of Reinstatement Panel**
- D. Approval of E-Rate and Technology Bids**
- E. Approval of Board Policy 5610.01 Permanent Expulsion (1st read)**

Trustee Roeske spoke about Board Policy 5610.01 Permanent Expulsion and that there are no substantive changes to the policy until you get to the appeal section. The Policy Committee have tried to put some parameters around the length of time and some guidelines on who officiates, how the hearing should run and evidence that would be presented at an appeal. Although this does not happen very often, it is an appeal on the Superintendent's decision. Trustee Ismail had a question regarding a reasonable time to provide parents with a decision. Maybe give a window not to exceed a certain amount of days. Trustee Summerfield says the committee did discuss and felt they didn't want to limit ourselves in the event more information was needed, this would allow us time to get the information needed to make a decision.

F. Approval of French II textbook

At the February 8th meeting, continuing with the French I and IV textbooks, information will be given on the French II textbook. This information has already been given to EPLC, the Board will receive the information at the February 8th meeting and then up for approval on February 29th.

IX. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Middle School Program of Studies

No major changes in this year's edition. This is keeping in line with district goals numbers two and three. Updates include the Board of Education, Art, English, Instrumental and Social Studies sections.

B. Monthly Financial Report/ Health Care Report

Dr. Dean reported on the health care that October budget was within \$10,000 of budget and November was \$120,000 below budget.

Mr. Fenton pointed out regarding the financial statement that we are at the half way mark as of December 31, which covers four months of actual students in classrooms. We are on target of our fund equity. The good news is that we are having warmer weather, no snow and that all helps.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, February 8, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- B. Policy Committee Meeting, Thursday, February 11, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Board Room, 389 St. Clair
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, February 29, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, the Family Center of Grosse Pointe is hosting an upcoming seminar on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial on America's Opiate Epidemic. The seminar's keynote speakers are Sam Quinones and Devin Scillian. There is no cost, however registration is required. Mr. McMullen also thanked the board for its time and thanked the Family Center for shedding light on this problem facing so many.

XII. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Ismail mentioned that he is looking forward to a New Year for a number of reasons, most importantly that the community and the Board are opening up communication. Dr. Niehaus is doing an excellent job of that. It is very encouraging. He is also glad that Laura Mikesell, GPEA, is meeting with administration on comments made in the survey. He also commented about some upcoming events.

Trustee Pangborn thanked everyone for the new lines of communication that have developed with this Board and with our employees since Dr. Niehaus has come on board.

Trustee Roeske, no comments.

Trustee Summerfield, no comments.

Trustee Weertz, no comments.

Superintendent Niehaus advised the Special Education parents of the Parent to Parent meeting at Barnes on January 26, 2016. He advised that he went to the State of the State address and listened to Governor Snyder talk. Two points that are not talked about often, the Excellence for Equity group that met years prior got to a point where we were vetoed out of an appropriations bill. This district is one of 40 districts that is a donor district, meaning we donate a large chunk of money into the State and then we get a capped amount of money back. So when the question comes up of what is Grosse Pointe Public Schools doing for the struggling districts, we are a donor district. Also a point to note is that those 40 Districts, have been taken out of 31A Title I funding. We have gone back to the State Superintendent and legislature and asked for us to be reinstated in the 31A funding. The last piece, as we go through the process with the Governor and legislature to develop the budget for next year, it is important that the same veto we had out of our appropriations four years ago, has taken affect. For the last four years, others have gotten some form of increase and because we are in the group of 40, once upon a time we were guaranteed a 2X, meaning we would get half of what everyone else received. So asking when this pot of money is being divided out again, that we get our 31A money and that we also go back to a 2X formula, would be very important to us for our budget issues that we have. All of the other 40 districts are going through similar strains because those dollars have been cut back. Lastly I would like to make sure that parents are aware that we have kindergarten enrollment going on, along with the young 5's. Great to get the new officers in their positions. He looks forward to a great rest of the school year.

President Gafa mentioned that Mason Elementary has been nominated to be a Blue Ribbon elementary school. She noted that the high school students start midterms this week and wished them all good luck. Wednesday, February 3rd there is a Spirit of Giving at South High School. There will be over 80 volunteer organizations that our students and community members can get involved in. The program will run from 6 to 8 pm.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Cindy Pangborn, Board Secretary