



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2016
Brownell Middle School – Multipurpose Room
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Gafa called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Board members present: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield and Weertz.
Absent: Trustee Valente

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Ismail.

Also Present: Superintendent Niehaus; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR February 8, 2016

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

THAT the Board Agenda for February 8, 2016 be approved.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Valente

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Good News Items

1. Good News from Laura Mikesell of GPEA

Parcells Counseling Department was recently recognized by the ASCA (American School Counselor Association) Model Program (RAMP) designation. This is awarded to schools that align with the criteria set in the ASCA National Model, recognizing schools that are committed to delivering a comprehensive, data driven, school counseling program and exemplary education environment. Carla Palffy, Kimberly Radant and Jennifer Sherman, Counselors at Parcells were congratulated. Parcells was one of four schools in the state of Michigan to earn this designation. President Gafa thanked the Counselors for all their hard work and effort.

2. 2016 Scholastic Art Awards

Mrs. Bur spoke about honoring our 2016 Scholastic Art award winners. Ms. Aro thanked the Board of Education for recognizing the students and mentioned that the students will be recognized on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The artwork will be on display at The College of Creative Studies for two weeks and then displayed throughout our local schools. Schools represented this evening were Brownell, Parcells, North and South.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

No speakers

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEM FOR February 8, 2016

A. Approval of Special and Regular Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve the Special Session and Regular Session Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2016 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Valente

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

VI. Information and Discussion

A. High School French II Textbook

Mrs. Bur, Ms. Moon and Ms. Hill brought forth a recommendation for the French II textbooks. They would like to get an approval for the Level II French textbook to continue with the Level I that was approved last year. Level III will be requested in 2017. Ms. Moon mentioned that it has been over 15 years since Grosse Pointe has updated the materials. This new book will have on-line capabilities.

Trustee Roeske made a motion to approve the High School French II Textbook.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the High School French II Textbook

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Valente

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

B. 2016-17 Proposed Spring Break Calendar Change

Dr. Dean explained that the proposed spring break calendar is not a board approval item, but to share with the Board a change in the 2016-17 school calendar, specifically the spring break. He and Dr. Niehaus wanted to advise the Board of Education and receive feedback before we made any final decisions. Background information regarding the school calendar is that the calendar is a mandatory subject of bargaining under The Public Employment Regulations Act, in other words it is something we have to bargain with the teachers. In 2010 the State mandated that the counties develop a county common calendar. Almost every county in the State of Michigan has the first full week in April as their spring break. Grosse Pointe Public Schools has the spring break attached to Easter, so it moves each year. GPEA has asked us to make the switch to the other counties of the first week in April. Administration and GPEA would like to pursue this change for the 2016-17 school year. Trustee Pangborn confirmed that it would be the same as Oakland and Macomb counties. Trustee Roeske asked if the teacher and other groups are in favor of this change? It is mandatory bargaining with the teachers. President Gafa confirmed with the Board that this would be an acceptable change.

VII. Future Meetings

- A. Policy Committee Meeting, February 11, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Board Room, 389 St. Clair
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, February 29, 2016, 7:00 p.m. Brownell MultiPurpose Room
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, March 14, 2016, 7:00 p.m. Brownell MultiPurpose Room

VIII. Public Comments on Non-Action Items

No Speakers

IX. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Ismail congratulated all the students that won photography awards and thanks to the art teachers who are doing a fine job.

Trustee Weertz also commended the students. The art work was fabulous.

Trustee Roeske encourages the community to go to both of the High Schools art shows, where you can view and purchase some of the work.

Trustee Pangborn also congratulated the students.

Trustee Summerfield, had no comment.

Superintendent Niehaus wanted to let the community know that we just started second semester with winter break being next week. Also several of us attended the Trombly Greenhouse fundraiser that was well attended. They are nearly half way through their fundraiser goal. Wednesday he will be in Lansing to speak with some of our legislators to try and convince them to bring back our 21j funding and the hold harmless that was taken away several years ago, as well as the 31A money for our free and reduced lunch students. We are one of a few districts in the state that is not funded under the 31A.

President Gafa congratulated the art students. Impressive showing. She has heard lots of great comments about the Brownell play, Fiddler on the Roof. Thank you to our counselors at Parcels Middle School for bringing in the RAMP program.

Adjournment

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Cindy Pangborn, Board Secretary