



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 26, 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.

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Valente.

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF THE REVISED BOARD AGENDA FOR JANUARY 26, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

The agenda was amended in the announcement of future meetings to include a closed session meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 immediately following the 6:30 p.m. special meeting under Agenda Item X. and movement of Introduction to Organic Chemistry under Agenda Item IX. D. to the first item under Agenda Items IX.

THAT the revised Board Agenda be approved as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

There were no comments at this time.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

George McMullen Jr., Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his support of the recall of the Title I teacher at Poupard.

V. 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

Trustee Pangborn asked Mrs. Gafa if she would set a priority for the Board to work on policies for residency issues including tuition. She replied that she would.

Trustee Ismail requested that Mrs. Gafa make school Board governance education a priority.

In a roll call vote,
Trustee Gafa, Yes
Trustee Ismail, No

Trustee Pangborn, No
Trustee Roeske, Yes
Trustee Summerfield, Yes
Trustee Valente, Yes
Trustee Weertz, Yes

Motion to nominate Trustee Gafa as President of the Board carried by a 5 – 2 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 Gafa, Yes
Trustee Ismail, Yes
Trustee Pangborn, Yes
Trustee Roeske, Yes
Trustee Summerfield, Yes
Trustee Valente, Yes
Trustee Weertz, Yes

Motion to nominate Trustee Roeske as Vice-President of the Board of Education carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

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

Supported by: Trustee Valente

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

Motion to nominate Trustee Summerfield as Treasurer of the Board of Education carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

It was Moved by: Trustee Valente

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

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

In a roll call vote,
Trustee Gafa, Yes
Trustee Ismail, Yes
Trustee Pangborn, Yes
Trustee Roeske, Yes
Trustee Summerfield, Yes
Trustee Valente, Yes

Trustee Weertz, Yes

Motion to nominate Trustee Weertz as Secretary of the Board of Education carried by a 7 – 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 Mr. Fenton for documents requested.

Trustee Pangborn chose to receive her compensation payment.

Trustee Summerfield will forward his compensation to Defer's *One Book - One School* program.

Trustee Gafa will receive her compensation and donate it to the Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.

Trustee Valente chose to give her compensation to the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education.

Trustee Roeske would like his stipend to be forwarded to the Poupard PTO.

Trustee Weertz will forward her compensation to the North Booster Club.

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

It was Moved by: Trustee Summerfield **Supported by:** Trustee Ismail

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

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 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 Ismail

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.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

E. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Calendar for 2015

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

THAT the Board approve the Regular Board Meeting Calendar for 2015 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. School Board Recognition

The State of Michigan has dedicated January, 2015 as Board of Education Recognition Month. Dr. Harwood thanked the Board for their service to the school system. He acknowledged and commended them for their commitment to ensuring academic success for all students; quality education for all children; and contribution of countless hours of service on behalf of district students.

B. Legislative News

Dr. Harwood shared legislative updates from Lansing. He noted the upcoming May 5 election that could possibly increase the sales tax if passed and give billions of dollars for roads and mean an additional \$300 million in the School Aid budget proposal (this would increase the funding by \$200 per pupil). The 3rd grade reading retention may be reintroduced as well as the movement of the Teacher and & Administrator Evaluation bills.

C. Good News Items

Superintendent Harwood usually uses this opportunity to share good news about students and staff to the community and across the district. He will, however, defer his comments and the time he uses for this portion of the meeting to the students and staff who wish to speak during public comments as they will present their own "good news" about their school, North High School.

VII. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY 26, 2015

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for January 26, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for January 26, 2015 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

D. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2015

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee

THAT the Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2015 as presented.

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

Abstain: Trustee Valente (who was not at the January 12, 2015 meeting)

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

E. Approval of General Appropriations Amendment Act #1 (G.A.A.A. #1)

Mr. Fenton provided information on the G.A.A.A. #1 which matches the current BMU. He noted a decrease in Homestead and Non-Homestead taxes due to declining enrollment of \$128,455; and increase in local revenue of \$304,415; and increase in Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability of \$764,123 and a decrease in State Aid due to declining enrollment and Categorical of \$1,877,906 - \$1,113,783; and increase in Federal Grants of \$130,641; and a decrease in Act 18 and Medicaid of \$264,704, for a total increase in revenue of \$806,020. Total increase in expenditures equal \$1,409,314 due to the increase in UAAL (offset by decrease in health care costs) and Title 1 and Preschool Grant adjustments. The projected ending fund equity as of June 30, 2015 is \$7,387,415.

It was Moved by: Trustee Summerfield

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the General Appropriations Amendment Act #1 (G.A.A.A. #1) as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

F. Approval of Budget Parameters for 2015-2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Ismail

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve the Budget Parameters for 2015-2016 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

VIII. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2015

- A. Approval of Human Resources Report for February 23, 2015**
- B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2015**
- C. Approval of Reinstatement Panel**
- D. Approval of E-Rate and Technology Bids**

Trustee Summerfield would like to add District Goals to the February 23rd regular agenda. Trustee Roeske would like to include an option for a review from the Policy Committee.

IX. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Introduction to Organic Chemistry Pilot Class at High Schools

Mrs. Bur provided the details of the introduction to Organic Chemistry.

Trustee Ismail asked if this pilot course for Introduction to Organic Chemistry could be approved this evening so that students would have time to select this course for the 2015-16 school year.

It was Moved by: Trustee Ismail

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the Introduction to Organic Chemistry as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

B. Monthly Financial Report/ Health Care Report

Dr. Dean shared an update of the health care report reporting a very regular month for health care.

Mr. Fenton noted that the monthly financial report is in line with the BMU (Budget Model Utility) and the G.A.A.A. #1 will revise titles on the Variable Report and some number errors.

C. Middle School Program of Studies

Mrs. Bur said there are no major changes in this year's Middle School Program of Studies. She shared the minor revisions made in wording and an additional page listing services offered in Special Education Services.

D. Professional Development Update

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Mrs. Bur shared the results of the January 23rd Professional Development Day.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Special Meeting of the Board, Tuesday, January 27, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Board Room, 389 St. Clair immediately followed by a Closed Session of the Board.
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, February 9, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, February 23, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

The following current students and former North student shared their support of North High School and their disappointment in the recent erroneous and negative reporting by Fox 2 News regarding a recent incident at North:
Haley Reid

Matthew Kane

Anu Subramaniam

Alex Harring

Gowri Yerramalli

Shari Kam, Grosse Pointe Woods, addressed the Board regarding the Fox 2 News story and the handling of that report which she felt was not based on fact.

Joseph Heard, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his experience with his son who is a senior and mentor in the Freshman Assist program and the fallacies presented by the Fox 2 News story.

Kara Harvin, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke regarding letters of recommendation she requested for her children for Liggett.

Dino Ricci, Grosse Pointe Farms, expressed his concerns over the lack of residency enforcement by the Board and administration.

Sheryl Hogan, President of the Secretaries group, welcomed new Board members. She spoke about the professional development opportunities for secretaries and commended Mrs. Bur and Gary Abud for their help in facilitating these offerings.

Laura Mikesell, GPEA President, thanked Mr. Summerfield for his budget work in the district. She also addressed the Fox 2 News story that presented false information about a recent incident at North High School. She said it is great to be a Norseman.

Chris Kasinowski, Grosse Pointe Shores, applauded the Board for approving Organic Chemistry. She also addressed Board decorum and asked Board members to improve communication with one another.

Allison Baker, Grosse Pointe Park, and current Vice-President of the Family Center, thanked Mrs. Gafa for forwarding her compensation to the Family Center. She congratulated the new Board members and commended the students, parents and staff at North High School.

XII. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Ismail congratulated the new Board officers. He noted that Mrs. Bur had done an incredible job on the Professional Development workshops. He thanked the students who spoke this evening. He asked Dr. Harwood about the speaker that requested teacher recommendations for her child to attend Liggett.

Trustee Pangborn concurred with Mr. Ismail about the spirit at North and said she is a cheerleader for both high schools. She noted that it was great to hear and see the students speak. She asked students not to be angry at the reporter, but rather, to take away what they have learned from this experience.

Trustee Weertz thanked the students and adults who came to speak this evening. She said she is very proud of North, its students, staff and administrators.

Trustee Summerfield thanked all who spoke this evening also, especially the North students who shared how they felt about their school. He told those students that the whole community supports them and everything they are doing at North is fabulous. He encouraged the students to look at this as an educational opportunity to learn. North is a great school.

Trustee Valente appreciated Organic Chemistry coming forth as a course this evening. She hopes that Calculus 3 comes next as a new course. Mrs. Valente added that she feels it was personally insulting to her as a Board member to hear about the Fox 2 News story regarding an incident at North. She was also offended by the two employees who spoke to Fox 2 News about the incident. We trust our administrators to work through these situations. We are one district – one community.

Trustee Roeske thanked all of the speakers this evening especially the students who had an opportunity to participate in politics this evening and share their thoughts. He knows what goes on at North and commended the North community as they worked through this incident. He wished Mr. Hamka a Happy Birthday.

Superintendent Harwood wished Mr. Hamka a Happy Birthday! He thanked the Board for the work that they do noting that this was School Board Recognition Month. He additionally thanked Mrs. Bur for her work throughout the district making sure the staff get what they need with professional development offerings. He addressed Norseman pride and mentioned Mrs. Murray's first graduation speech and how moving it was. In it she pointed out the successes at North High School and the student successes that North students experience. Dr. Harwood noted that this is what we do here – protect each other and each student's successes as we work together. He is proud of the staff, students and administration at North commenting how that was reflected in the comments made this evening. He is thankful to be part of that.

President Gafa thanked fellow Board members for putting their trust in electing her to lead the Board this year. She made note of a challenge that the Monteith community is participating in. It is called ***The Great Kindness Challenge*** and asked the community to be part of that challenge. She thanked Mrs. Murray for everything she does at North adding that there are awesome kids doing awesome things at North. An entire student body was hurt by adults who made comments about North but the North community stuck together and worked through the challenges presented. Mrs. Gafa read a summary of recent events that occurred at North and the administrative investigation that took place to address the incident reported by Fox 2 News concluding that the correct steps were taken and dealt with by administration. In summation, Mrs. Gafa said that the district has two outstanding high school leaders and two outstanding high schools.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Margaret Weertz, Board Secretary