



V. B.

**Grosse Pointe Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Session of October 10, 2016  
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 Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Roeske and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Summerfield

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Eszes class and Principal Walt Fitzpatrick

**Also Present:** Superintendent Niehaus, Deputy Superintendents Lisa Abbey and Jon Dean

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 10, 2016**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Abke

**THAT the Board Approve the Agenda as presented for October 10, 2016.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Roeske and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Summerfield

**Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.**

**III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Ferry Forest Recognition**

Principal Gloria Hinz introduced Mr. Ken Peterson who contacted her 10 years ago to restore a ½ acre of property at Ferry Elementary into the Ferry Forest. He has planted over 40 species of trees on the property and maintained the trees for now over 10 years. His work was recognized by Mr. Lawlis who works for CBS News, and featured Mr. Peterson and the Ferry Forest on the Eye on Detroit.

**B. Good News Report from GPEA – Mike Rennell**

Mr. Rennell, President of the GPEA mentioned that he is also an AP Government teacher. He noted that there is lots of conversation about elections these days; he thought it would be fun to showcase Mr. Eszes 4<sup>th</sup> grade class who has been studying history and the constitution. Mr. Eszes' class has rewritten the preamble of the constitution for his classroom and provided the Board of Education with this in song. They also put it on paper and asked Dr. Niehaus to sign their constitution.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 10, 2016**

No speakers

**V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 10, 2016**

**A. Approval of Regular Session Minutes of September 26, 2016**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Roeske

**Supported by:** Trustee Weertz

**THAT the regular session minutes for September 26, 2016 be approved as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Abke, Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Roeske and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Summerfield

**Motion carried by a 6– 0 vote.**

## **VI. Information and Discussion**

### **A. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom Furniture, Kerby, Maire and Mason**

Dr. Niehaus mentioned that one of the things they learned in our Town Hall Meetings was that we keep with our Strategic Plan and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classrooms. So a decision was made in the spring of 2016 to put a 21<sup>st</sup> Century classroom in three buildings, Kerby, Maire and Mason. Paint and carpet was discussed, some technology had been donated, and then furniture was looked at with teacher input. Dr. Niehaus feels we have accomplished our goal and we have had good feedback. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Education meeting will be held at Mason to celebrate the Blue Ribbon School and also to showcase the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom there. Deputy Superintendent Abbey has provided information for the three classrooms and the different needs for each with a little over \$58,000. This is for the current 2016-17 fiscal year, furniture budget. We have the furniture, we like it and we would like to keep it.

### **B. Presentation of District Annual Education Report (AER) for 2015-16**

Dr. Niehaus presented the report that comes out annual and continues with the fact that we had a great school year. The school year is memorable because did some things we haven't always been able to do in the past. The very first reason is because we adopted a Strategic Plan, which defines our vision and mission. It is all about our teaching and learning. Grosse Pointe Public Schools has a 95 % graduation rate and is listed in the top 10 of school districts. Students want to come to school, Principals and teachers make it welcoming to come to school and 96.3% of students want to come to school and feel safe at school. Trustee Roeske says that students want to learn. He stated that we have had 92% of parent participation in student conferences. Parents are engaged. This report is posted on the website.

## **VII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A. League of Women Voters, Thursday, October 13, 2016, 7:00 pm, South Wicking Library
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, October 24, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, November 14, 2016, 7:00 pm, Gym, Mason Elementary
- D. Special Meeting of the Board, Monday, November 21, 2016, 6:00 pm, Board Room, 389 St. Clair
- E. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, November 28, 2016, 7:00 pm, Brownell Multipurpose Room

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS**

George McMullen, Hollywood, GPW, he spoke to the Board about attending a recent PTO meeting that lasted well over two hours and gained a new appreciation for the members who put some many volunteer hours into this school district. A presentation was done by Clark Hill on sound financial practices. The firm is also available to handle any questions and to provide ongoing help in keeping the PTO's compliant with required reports. He believes this ongoing supportive help financed by the Grosse Pointe Public Schools is critical to each PTO and frees the group up to stay focused on their primary mission in supporting the academic community at each of the schools.

## **IX. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Trustee Roeske, no comment

Trustee Weertz commended Rebecca for the annual report. It is a beautiful report and the numbers are great.

Trustee Pangborn spoke about a prior North graduate, Grant Strobl, National Chairman for the Young Americans for Freedom. He has been in the news and in articles this week. He attends University of Michigan, where he has taken advantage of a policy change allowing students to change the personal pronoun to anything that they want. He chose to take Majesty, so that now his professors must address him as His Majesty Grant Strobl. He has been recently named in the top 100 of College Campus Leaders and she congratulates him.

Trustee Abke thanked Mr. Eszes and his classroom for attending this evening. He has some very creative teaching and fantastic kids. She was also glad to hear about the Ferry Forest. She also mentioned that this Wednesday night we are honoring our Veterans and service men and women at the JV and Varsity soccer game at North High School against South with a ceremony between the games. All the money raised this evening will be donated to Healing Heroes.

Trustee Ismail welcomed Deputy Superintendent Abbey. You are taking on an awesome job.

Superintendent Niehaus mentioned again that we have a National Blue Ribbon School; Mason Elementary has officially been named as one of the 13 in Michigan and 329 nationally recognized. Dr. Middlekauff, two teachers and myself will be in Washington D.C. to receive the award in November. On Monday November 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be having the Board of Education meeting at Mason to celebrate with faculty, students, community and alumni.

President Gafa said that North and South did a great job with homecoming celebrations. Student participation was great and they behaved. We have good students in this District. She thanked Mr. Eszes and his students for their presentation this evening. An important thing the students said was treat other people the way you want to be treated. We are neighbors, we go to the same churches, and we shop in the same grocery stores and use the same parks. She will never talk negatively about someone else who is running for the school board. We are the role models for the students and we should treat people the way we want to be treated.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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Cindy Pangborn, Board Secretary