



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 14, 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 7:01p.m.

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

Absent: Trustee Roeske and Valente

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Weertz

Also Present: Superintendent Niehaus and Deputy Superintendent Dean

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR MARCH 14, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board Agenda be approved as presented.

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

Absent: Trustees Roeske and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

III. Superintendent's Report

A. State Representative Brian Banks

Michigan House Representative Brian Banks spoke to the Board of Education regarding some of the Legislative updates that are being dealt with in the State of Michigan. He thanked Dr. Niehaus for coming to Lansing and speaking to the stakeholders who are a part of the appropriations committee. Dr. Niehaus has shared the concerns of the District and the School Board that relate to the per pupil allowance increase as well as other items. Representative Banks spoke about the Legislators repeal of Common Core Education Standards and school expulsions. He provided information on Detroit Public Schools and the House and Senate Bills.

B. Good News Items –

2016 National Merit Scholars, Francesca G (North), Alexandra D (South), Hannah C (South) and Justin V (South) were recognized and presented certificates for their accomplishment.

Laura Mikesell, GPEA thanks Mrs. Fannon for filling in for her at the last board of ed meeting, as she was out ill. She is excited to report that the Good News from the State of Michigan for Poupard Elementary and North High School have been removed from the Focus School list. It is important to note that Focus schools have an achievement gap between their top 30% and their bottom 30%. Secondary teachers are busy preparing for conferences this week. Wishing everyone a great Spring Break.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH 14, 2016.

No comments

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH 14, 2016

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for March 14, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

Dr. Dean spoke about three items. Retirement of a long time secretary, Patty DiVirgil, the retirement of Dr. Middlekauff, who has 19 years as Principal of Mason Elementary and that the process of finding her replacement has begun. Trustee Ismail asked if there is a program in place for staff to move up the ladder if they wish? Dr. Dean explained the GALELEO program with an annual participation of about 4 to 6. The focus is teacher leadership. The District does not have an internal program that we currently use. Dr. Niehaus spoke about our summer school directors and a wonderful opportunity for people to be a part of.

THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for March 14, 2016 as presented.

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

Absent: Trustees Roeske and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 - 0 vote.

B. Approval of Special and Regular Meeting Minutes of February 29, 2016 and Town Hall Meeting Minutes of March 8 and March 10, 2016 as presented.

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the Special and Regular Meeting Minutes of February 29, 2016 and the Town Hall Meeting Minutes of March 8 and March 10 as presented.

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

Absent: Trustees Roeske and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 - 0 vote.

C. Approval of Resolution Recognizing Distinguished Volunteers

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

Trustee Weertz spoke about the Volunteers that help out in our schools and that we will be recognizing them at the April 25, 2016 Board of Education meeting. Trustee Pangborn says we have a lot of nominations this year.

THAT the Board approve the Resolution Recognizing Distinguished Volunteers

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

Absent: Trustees Roeske and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 - 0 vote.

D. Approval of District Goals for 2016-2017

Dr. Dean, Maureen Bur and Keith Howell shared an update regarding the three district goals and the progress made from approximately one year ago. Those goals are: Develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan during

this school year; review, align and evaluate the District curriculum; and enhance professional growth in instructional effectiveness through research based strategies. Trustee Ismail asked if both high schools are using the same materials. Mrs. Bur explained that while she has been in her position, she has found a great variety of variance. They are working to have materials align throughout the district. Trustee Summerfield wondered about the storage of information that is being assembled. Are we keeping this all in one place? Mr. Howell advised that we are keeping it all together in one place for review and future reference. Trustee Summerfield asked if there is a way of measuring the instructional practices. According to Mrs. Bur, feedback from Administration and teaching staff is that they are seeing a change in student engagement or student comprehension when the learning targets are posted. Trustee Weertz asked if we are going towards digital textbooks? Mr. Howell says that right now digital content is one way they are looking at, but that there are many factors to consider.

A motion was made to table the District Goals for 2016-2017

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

THAT the Board approve the motion to table the District Goals for 2016-2017 to the April, 2016 meeting

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

Absent: Trustees Roeske and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 - 0 vote.

E. Approval of Restroom Bids

1. Grosse Pointe South

Mr. VanGorder advised that they are recommending the second lowest bidder for this project. The lowest bidder is the recommended contractor for the Mason and Richard projects. The District does not want to have all projects awarded to one contractor to insure that all projects are completed before school starts in the fall, 2016.

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

THAT the Board the Restroom Bids for Grosse Pointe South

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

Absent: Trustees Roeske and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 - 0 vote.

2. Mason and Richard Elementary

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

President Gafa asked to approve both the Mason Elementary and Richard Elementary Restroom bids together, being they are the same contractor.

THAT the Board approve the Restroom Bids for Mason and Richard Elementary

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

Absent: Trustees Roeske and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 - 0 vote.

F. Approval of Gift for the Construction of the “Maker Space” at G.P. South HS

It was moved by: Trustee Summerfield

Supported by: Trustee Ismail

Dr. Niehaus invited Marshall, President of Maker Space, to speak to the Board of Education about the Maker Space Program. Marshall thanked the District for their support with this project. Dr. Niehaus has been very helpful to them to achieve their goals. The project started about one year ago with a senior’s idea to create a space at G. P. South, where students could take what they learned in class and put it to use, bringing engineering and creation into the school. Established clubs in the school are looking to use a space in advancing their knowledge. Within the year, they have maintained security for the room and raised close to \$100,000 in private funds for plans that have been drawn up. They are currently working on obtaining additional funds for technology, tools, furniture and other items for the space. Last year when the idea came about, the project was going to go out to bid and several things needed to happen, a ramp for wheelchair access, the garage door could not be used as an entry door and the area needed to be reconfigured. The bids came in around \$90,000. A donor has come forward with \$75,000 to complete the project and would prefer to use their contractor. Deputy Superintendent Fenton and Rich VanGorder, Buildings and Grounds Director have worked with the contractor to verify that the improvements to the room can be done as requested. Because of the \$75,000 cost and we take possession of the room after completion, approval by the Board of Education is required.

It was moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT the Board approve the motion to approve the Gift for the Maker Space at Grosse Pointe South

Trustee Ismail is concerned about the lack of information the Board of Education has received. He asked if they are building a room or using existing space? Mr. Chamberlin answered the question that there is minimal upgrades being done to the room, however a small storage closet will be constructed. Trustee Ismail was concerned that Grosse Pointe Schools would have no control over the project. Mr. VanGorder did state that he and Mr. Fenton have met with the contractor and subcontractor, and feel that they will follow the guidelines set forth. Trustee Ismail commented that he is very grateful for the donation of the funds, but has some concern over the process of using the donor’s contractors. It would set a new precedent. Dr. Niehaus spoke up about the fact that we have a full donation for this project. This may be the first time we have had someone come in and give a full donation. Per Mr. VanGorder, the contractor has agreed to follow Grosse Pointe’s specifications. Trustee Summerfield agrees that there are some valid concerns. Trustee Pangborn is concerned that the Board has not had enough time to review the materials for the project and this process is different from the way the Board handles donations. Superintendent Niehaus suggested that this be tabled to bring back to the Board. He and Marshall will meet with the donor to work something out that will be something the board can approve.

A motion was made to table the Gift for the Maker Space at Grosse Pointe South

It was moved by: Trustee Summerfield

Supported by: Trustee Ismail

Ayes: Trustees Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield and Weertz

Absent: Trustees Roeske and Valente

Nays: President Gafa

Motion carried by a 4 - 1 vote.

VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL 25, 2016

- A. Approval of Human Resources for April 25, 2016
- B. Approval of Town Hall Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2016 and Regular session meeting Minutes of April 11, 2016
- C. Approval of Board Policies

- D. Approval of Appointment of Auditors
- E. Approval of Technology Bids
 - 1. Parcels Technology Infrastructure
 - 2. Parcels Electronic
 - 3. Additional Internet Service provider

Mr. Woloszyn, spoke to the Board advising that there will be three bids to bring forth to the Board on April 25, 2016. A fourth bid had to be reposted. The goal is to put the 1.1 million sinking fund for technology infrastructure and improvements in Parcels Middle School and includes the central data system for the district. Trustee Pangborn mentioned that the Board will be receiving a report from Compliance One, will they be suggesting that we go a different route? We wouldn't want to spend money ahead of time. Dr. Niehaus commented that he has read the letter from Compliance One and they will be recommending that we upgrade our video cameras. We need to update the software first and then start adding cameras that will all fit right into the recommendation from Compliance One. Trustee Ismail asked Mr. Woloszyn about ERate and how it has changed from last year. Mr. Woloszyn mentioned that the ERate system has been retooled by the Federal Government. Moving the reimbursement from telephone and cell phone service to internet service and cabling for fiber connections and improving our broad ban infrastructure.

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

- A. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report

Dr. Dean advised that there is no health care report this month, due to the early timing of the meeting. Mr. Fenton who was not in attendance did provide information at the board members place.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Town Hall Meeting, Tuesday, March 22, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Parcels Library
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, April 11, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownell MultiPurpose Room
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, April 25, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Parcels Library

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

William Broman, Grosse Pointe Woods, reminded the board that he ran for the school board four years ago. Was amazed at the amount of support he received from the community. In the last few years, he has kept an eye on the schools and the community and feels the best place for him to have the most impact would be in Lansing in the State Legislature. He announced his candidacy for State Representative District One.

X. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Ismail talked about on this day in 1968, Martin Luther King gave a speech at the then Grosse Pointe High School. He thanked the community people at that time for bringing Dr. King to speak. Trustee Ismail met Barb Davis, teacher at Maire, and was very impressed with what she has done with her experiential learning history students. Thank you to the Michigan Association of School Boards who contacted him last week to help mentor new School Board members across the state. He appreciates their confidence in him. Lastly, thank you to all the people who contacted him to wish him well.

Trustee Pangborn also mentioned that she was in college and came home to see the Martin Luther King speech here in Grosse Pointe. She congratulated the students who were recognized for the 2016 National Merit scholarship and thanked Mr. Broman for coming to speak to the Board tonight.

Trustee Summerfield, no comment

Trustee Weertz talked about attending the Town Hall Meetings at North and South next week is at Parcels. It has been interesting to see each building with the walk through tours.

Superintendent Niehaus spoke about the Young 5's and we have 40 students confirmed enrolled and reminding parents they have until March 18th to register their young 5's to hold a space. We believe that we will have three classrooms open with an enrollment of 60 or more. He reminded the Board about the Artfest on Thursday of this week. The Town Hall meetings have been a process. If anyone would like to be a part of the Town Hall, we would like to have you. The idea behind them is exploratory in nature and we are looking at what the process would be of why we would want to go for an additional bond or sinking fund referendum that would take care of three areas in our elementary, middle and high schools. A report will be provided to the Board after the 22d with some form of recommendation of what we would do if we chose to move forward as a Board.

President Gafa mentioned that there are great reviews for the Secret Garden at North High School. President Gafa spoke about the Martin Luther King message and how important it is in this day and age and that it is still really important to remember the message that Dr. King brought to our students some 40 years ago. It is still pertinent today.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at: 8:52 p.m.

Cindy Pangborn, Board Secretary