



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 11, 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 7:06 p.m.

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

Absent: none

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Roeske

Also Present: Superintendent Niehaus, Deputies Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR APRIL 11, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board Agenda be approved as presented.

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Awareness

Director Hayes explained to the Board of Education that all of the Grosse Pointe students with disabilities are important and exceptional. We celebrate ASD Awareness in particular as an overall support for our 150 + students in our ASD Program and many other children with Autism in the district. She introduced our Autism consultant, Meaghan Post to speak about the wonderful students, parents and programs available here in Grosse Pointe. Meaghan, along with her colleagues, Amy Miller, Patty Cohan and Christine Kuhl are excited to share their 3rd annual autism presentation with the Board of Education. April is Autism Awareness month. However in Grosse Pointe, expanding awareness is year round. Students Lillian from Grosse Pointe North, Armani from Grosse Pointe South and John a graduate from Grosse Pointe North shared their experiences with the school system.

B. Close Up – GP South Washington DC Trip – Student Presentation

Social Studies teacher Sandy Siemaszko from Grosse Pointe South had chaperoned a group of students to Washington D.C. as part of the Close-Up program. Eve V. from Grosse Pointe South attended the Close-Up Program in March of this year and found the experience to be very rewarding. There were many sites to see as well as getting to sit in on some panels with government officials to ask questions and meet the State Senators. The trip provided knowledge about our government, what they do and how it affects us.

C. North High School, Lifesaving Certificates

Michael DeCenso helped Superintendent Niehaus recognize Beth A, Morgan E, Rod M, Rob C, and Tina M for their lifesaving efforts when a disabled student had a seizure in the pool. Team work on their part saved the student from drowning.

D. Monteith Student named Finalist for Artist of the Week by Artsonia International

Mr. Howell introduced teacher Natalie Zoufal, Art Teacher at Monteith who is involved in an Art Program called Artsonia that involves the community, families and the arts. Artsonia is a program where you take pictures of student art work and post online. Currently Artsonia has over 39 million pieces of artwork posted on their website. Each week Artsonia selects artwork as part of their "Artist of the Week". Zoe D. from Monteith has been selected as a finalist for their competition of Artist of the Week.

E. Good New Items – Laura Mikesell

Laura Mikesell mentioned that it is a privilege to represent the teachers that work with autism and CI students. The work that they do is not just in April, Autism Awareness month, but it is every day. These teachers are a wealth of knowledge.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL 11, 2016.

No speakers

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL 11, 2016

A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2016 and Town Hall Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2016 as presented.

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2016 and the Town Hall Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2016 as presented.

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 - 0 vote.

B. Approval of Gift for Construction of "Makers Space" at G. P. South High School

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

Dr. Niehaus stated that last month the Board had talked about the contribution coming directly to Grosse Pointe Public Schools and he spoke with David and Sherry Cotton who are making a donation of \$75,000 towards the "Makers Space" at Grosse Pointe South

THAT the Board approve the Gift for Construction of "Makers Space" at G. P. South High School

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 - 0 vote.

C. Approval of Contract for Construction of “Makers Space” at G. P. South High School

Deputy Superintendent mentioned that there were two bids for the project. He met with the low bidder and he agreed per the bid specifications to hold his price and he did and then discussed with him to reduce some of the costs by taking a couple of items out of the bid, painting of the room at a cost savings of \$3400 and also the HVAC component, both will be done internally. The low bid is \$83,600. Trustee Ismail asked the reason for doing two items in house? Per Deputy Fenton these two items can be handled in house with a cost savings. Trustee Ismail also asked what the guidelines would be if an outside source wanted to help fund a project? Mr. Fenton said there is no formula that is followed.

It was Moved by: Trustee Summerfield

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve the Contract for Construction of “Makers Space” at G. P. South High School

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 - 0 vote.

VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL 25, 2016

A. Approval of Human Resources for April 25, 2016

Dr. Dean briefly spoke that the interviews for the Mason Principal position is ongoing and should be able to bring a viable candidate to the Board of Education by its next meeting of April 25, 2016. We have a large pool of very good candidates. Trustee Ismail asked about internal candidates and Dr. Dean advised that we have seven internal people that are interested.

B. Approval of Regular session meeting minutes of April 11, 2016

C. Acceptance of Wayne County RESA 2016-2017 Budget

D. Approval of Technology Bids

1. Parcels Recabling and Technology Improvements Bid

Two bids were received. The low bid was from North American. Trustee Roeske confirmed that the funds were coming from the sinking fund. Trustee Ismail asked about the staggering difference in cost. Mr. Woloszyn advised that both contractors were consulted and the difference can be the result of the sub-contractors that are used.

2. Parcels Network Electronics

Per Mr. Fenton, there was only one bidder on this project. The first set of bids that were received was over budget and therefore it had to go out for bidding again. Only received one bid for project and that is with NeTech. Trustee Roeske says the bid shows infrastructure, are we getting hardware as well. No replacement of phones.

3. Additional Internet Service

We received five bids for this service. The Board is being asked to approve the AT&T Circuit. Grosse Pointe is looking to add to our existing circuit, which is allowed under the ERate Rules. This will allow us to get the ERate discount. AT&T is providing premium rates for the Wayne County districts. Per Mr. Fenton, this comes from the general fund.

4. Video Management Software

Three bids were received on this project and funds will come from the general fund of the Technology budget. We continue to review our video security software systems and find that our current software system is lacking in capacity and support. We have reviewed bids and visited partner schools and are comfortable with the software that is being recommended by NeTech for the software and implementation service.

E. Approval of Bids

1. Trombly Greenhouse Renovation

This project went out for bid and we were originally approached by some parents at Trombly to provide some funding for this project. We received only one bid by Axiom, who was also the low bidder for the GP South Greenhouse. PTO through the efforts of Michele Lindsay has raised some funds to assist with this project. The funding for this project will be 33% private funding of the total cost. This building does need to be brought up to date and kept with the architectural integrity and design of the building. This has been budgeted in the sinking fund for \$145,000. Trustee Pangborn wanted to confirm that the entire structure was being removed and replaced with a new one. Deputy Superintendent Fenton confirmed this as the structure is beyond repair. Trustee Valente asked what the greenhouse is used for. Mr. Fenton advised that they have a garden club as well as teachers who bring classes into it. The Secretary at the school helps to grow seedlings that then get distributed to other gardens throughout the area. President Gafa is very supportive of this project. She says that in the last eight years, this has been discussed along with the South and Defer greenhouses. PTO President Michele Lindsay would love to have a donor provide funding for this project, but they do have over 150 families and some smaller groups that have come together to support this project.

2. G. P. South Slate Roof (Phase 4) Replacement

This is in phase IV, final phase for the slate roof. There were two bidders on this project with Royal Roofing being the lowest bidder. The funds will come from of the sinking fund. Royal Roofing has done a good job for us.

F. Approval of Appointment of Auditors

Deputy Superintendent Fenton says that Plante Moran have been our Auditors since 2009-2010. We are asking the Board to extend their contract for two more years. They are listed as the 11th largest firm in the Country with offices located nationally and internationally. They do a significant amount of work with public schools in the State of Michigan, both with K-12 and intermediate.

G. Approval of Resolution Authorizing the School District to Obtain a 2016-17 Line of Credit

Mr. Fenton advised that the Cash Flow paperwork is currently being worked on. The application process will follow shortly. There are a couple of ways to borrow money, one through state aid, one through tax anticipation notes and line of credit. Line of Credit gives us more flexibility and less expensive than the other routes. Anticipated amount to borrow will be same or close to last year.

H. Approval of G.A.A.A. #2

Mr. Fenton advised that meetings are in house and with Mr. Summerfield, Treasurer to finalize some numbers. We anticipate having something for the Board to approve. April 30th is the goal for an initial draft for a first look.

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Board Policies

Trustee Roeske says nothing for a first read.

B. 2016-17 Budget Development

Deputy Superintendent Dean advised that a board memo was sent to the Board from Superintendent Niehaus and Mr. Summerfield with four documents for review. Deputy Superintendent Fenton added that the parameters are pointing to a 9% Fund Equity target for next year. Trustee Summerfield added that at this point, we have somewhat inconsistent parameters and if we move forward to meet the 9% fund equity target we are going to have to take some additional steps that would be inconsistent with some of the parameters that have been outlined. If we want to add to the budget, we are going to have to take out from the budget. Something to remember is that we had targets with our contracts to try to achieve the 9% fund equity. We have used our best efforts to get to the 10%. Dr. Niehaus reminded the Board that it is really early in the budget cycle. You are receiving estimates or our best guess estimates. President Gafa asked the board, after much discussion, if they would like to meet for an additional session in a week or two to discuss further budget cuts or revenue enhancements.

Trustee Ismail made a motion to have a Special Meeting of the Board on Monday, April 18, 2016 to discuss the 2016-2017 budget.

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

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 7 - 0 vote.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Policy Committee Meeting, April 20, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Board Room, 389 St. Clair
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, April 25, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Parcells Auditorium, 20600 Mack Avenue
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, May 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownell MultiPurpose Room, 260 Chalfonte
- D. Regular Meeting of the Board, May 23, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownell MultiPurpose Room, 260 Chalfonte

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

No speakers

X. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Ismail appreciates us moving forward with the April 18th meeting. He looks forward to sharing ideas.

Trustee Pangborn thanked the Cotton's for their generous donation for the "Makers Space" and thank the parent groups and others for raising the substantial amount of money for the Trombly Greenhouse.

Trustee Valente thanked Meaghan Post and the students who spoke about their journey with ASD. Also thanked the classroom assistants, as they are so valued and needed. She encouraged incoming Kindergarten parents to enroll

and register their children. A shout out and a thank you to our AP teachers and high school counselors for supporting the high school juniors in achieving their college goals.

Trustee Summerfield, no comment

Trustee Roeske, no comment

Trustee Weertz, no comment

Superintendent Niehaus reminded everyone that we have M-Step going on right now. Last year went well and we hope this year goes as well. He is looking forward to the results.

President Gafa thanked Lillian, Armani and John for sharing their journey this evening. They did a great a job. She thanked the Cotton's for their contribution for the "Makers Space" and Michele Lindsay and the Trombly families for letting them walk through the Greenhouse and then raising \$65,000. That is a lot of money for a small school. The North and South are getting ready for the fashion shows this month. The Foundation for Public Education also has their spring gala on April 23rd.

X. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at: 9:33 p.m.

Cindy Pangborn, Board Secretary