



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 13, 2016  
North High School – Library Media Center  
707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Gafa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Board members present:** Trustees Gafa, Roeske, and Weertz

**Absent:** Trustee Ismail, Pangborn, Summerfield and Valente

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Destination Imagination Teams

**Also Present:** Superintendent Niehaus, Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR June 13, 2016**

**A quorum does not exist this evening, therefore the Board meeting will consist of the Superintendent's Report and Information and Discussion.**

**III. Superintendent's Report**

**A. Destination Imagination Teams**

Maureen Bur introduced Kristen Beardslee to speak on behalf of the Destination Imagination Teams. Ms. Beardslee has been involved in DI for 11 years because she and the students are passionate about it. The Program develops opportunities to inspire the global community of leaders to utilize diverse approaches, applying 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and creativity and has many large company sponsors. Students learn patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect for others and their ideas and collaborative problem solving process. D.I. would be perfect for all schools in Grosse Pointe. Maureen and Keith handed certificates to the teams of Departed Dogs, The Diamonds, CATS Team, Purple Panthers and Presidential Pandas..

**B. Good News Items – Laura Mikesell**

Laura was unable to attend this evening.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR June 13, 2016.**

Brendan Walsh, Grosse Pointe Park stated that it is inexcusable that the Board has taken seven months to address the Modified Formula Clause that was brought about by the 2015 audit and pleased to see that it is being discussed in an Open Session. He encourages the Board to vote no on the Letters of Understanding.

Jeannie Fellows, Grosse Pointe Woods is alarmed, saddened and frustrated by the previous speaker. She had seven children go through the Grosse Pointe School System who went to the schools of their choice and gone on to be successful adults. She feels strongly that this is the result of the School system. Employees have already taken a pay cut and she is aware of other districts that offer better pay and benefits to their staff that do not have the responsibility that our teachers have.

**V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL 11, 2016**

- A.     **Approval of Human Resources Report for June 13, 2016 - skipped**
- B.     **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2016 as presented. - skipped**
- C.     **Acceptance of Letters of Understanding - skipped**
- D.     **Approval of Transportation Bids**
  - 1.     **Athletics**

Mr. Fenton is asking the Board to approve Trinity Transportation. A vote will be at the June 27, 2016 meeting.

- 2.     **Special Education**

Per Mr. Fenton, he is asking the Board of Education to approve Trinity Transportation for the Special Education transportation. A vote will take place at the June 27, 2016 meeting.

## **VI.     AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR June 27, 2016**

- A.     Approval of Human Resources for June 27, 2016

Dr. Dean advised the Board that the search for an Assistant Principal at Brownell will begin this week. Human Resources hope to have a candidate to present to the Board by the July 11, 2016 meeting.

- B.     Approval of Regular session meeting minutes of June 13, 2016
- C.     Approval of G.A.A.A. #4

Mr. Fenton advised that in the G.A.A.A. #4 is typical as prior years, with a few minor changes to the current budget. A couple of changes to the 2016-17 budget and will be brought to the Board on June 27, 2016.

- D.     Approval of Budget for 2016-2017

President Gafa would like to have a Special meeting of the Board to discuss the 2016-17 budget prior to the June 27, 2016 meeting.

- E.     Approval of Food Service Bids

Mr. Fenton has received three bids for 16-17 school year. The low bidder is Chartwell, with other bids received by SFE Food Service and Sodexo. He is meeting with several parents to discuss and also meeting with Chartwell to discuss their food program. All these companies are major corporations in the United States. SFE has no presence in school districts; Chartwell is one of the three largest companies in schools. We will continue to evaluate and bring a proposal on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **VII.    INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

- A.     Extracurricular Code of Conduct 2016-2017

This item was presented to the Board of Education on April 25<sup>th</sup>. This is scheduled for implementation for the start of the new school year. August 1<sup>st</sup> officially starts the season of extracurricular activities. A request from a Board Member for further discussion was made. Trustee Roeske stated that the Board Member who requested additional information is not here this evening and it would be best to hold off.

B. Food Service Bids

Previously discussed.

C. Budget Discussion for 2016-2017

Mr. Fenton advised that the information on the Budget is on the website and updated. Trustee Weertz asked if possible to have another meeting to discuss before the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. President Gafa advised that there are several meetings that are in the works and that they are actively searching for a candidate for the Board to replace Lois Valente who will be leaving as of June 30, 2016. Per Mr. Fenton, there will be two required public hearings before the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Breakfast Program and Budget hearing.

**VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A. Special Meeting of the board, Monday, June 27, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Brownell Library
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, June 27, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, July 11, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- D. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, July 25, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS**

John Shook, Grosse Pointe Farms, he says that many taxpayers and stakeholders are disappointed about passing 5111. He feels the Board should be ashamed of themselves. He feels the Board is losing the battle of gaining the taxpayers trust and that this is a serious issue. His advice is to start cutting and do it quick. Where are the results to Compliance One. Why are they not published?

Mike Rennell, President, GPEA, asked to speak and comment about the previous speaker. The Teachers are not a whiney employee group. We are hard working professionals and the best in the State. The teaching group in Grosse Pointe is incomparable to any others. 5111 passed and we are grateful for that.

Kristin Fellows, Grosse Pointe Woods, Teacher at Monteith wanted to address Mr. Shook's comments. Last week Monteith underwent their evacuation drill and it was an excellent experience. She thanked Dr. Niehaus for giving them this experience. There was so much to learn and she hopes that the day never comes that they use these skills. I am proud to be a teacher here in Grosse Pointe. Maybe someday I will be able to save the life of your child.

**X. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Trustee Roeske would be inclined to having a special meeting to discuss the budget.

Trustee Weertz had no comments.

Superintendent Niehaus reminded everyone that graduations are this week. Wednesday is G. P. North and Thursday would be G. P. South. Also the last evacuation drill will be Tuesday at Barnes. We will have completed the rounds with full cooperation of our police departments and police chiefs. It has been a great opportunity for us to learn from them and them to learn from us with regards on the procedures if an emergency should exist. We have updated our safety and security booklets from 2002 and these are in the hands of the schools.

President Gafa congratulated all of our graduates. It is the best time of year in the school system. She congratulated Mr. Rodger Hunwick on his appointment to Brownell Principal. In response to Mr. Shook's comments, President Gafa said that she is very proud of the way she has served this community for the last eight years. Not ashamed at all and I am never going to be ashamed of her service on the Board. She will continue to serve very proudly and in a way that she feels is in the best interest of the School District.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at: 7:45 p.m.

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Cindy Pangborn, Board Secretary