



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of a Special Session of April 18, 2016
Board Room – Administration Building
389 St. Clair, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Gafa called the meeting to order at 7:01 p. m.

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

Absent: Trustee Weertz

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Gary Niehaus, Jon Dean, Christian Fenton

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA OF APRIL 18, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Valente

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the Special Session Agenda of April 18, 2016 as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Weertz

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

III. 2016-2017 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Deputy Superintendent Dean provided handouts for Budget Considerations and Initial Budget Recommendations. Deputy Superintendents Fenton and Dean explained the 2016-17 revenue enhancements and the 2016-17 cost reductions.

Trustee Pangborn expressed concerns regarding the cost of the preschool programs.

Trustee Ismail asked about student ratio. Dr. Dean explained that the ratio is 25 students per teacher at South High School and 24 per teacher at North High School.

President Gafa asked the Trustees if they are ok with the 8.6% fund equity or do they want to get to 9% projected?

Trustee Pangborn was satisfied with what the Administration had presented and would be ok with the safe route.

Trustee Ismail would like to be on the conservative side. He is not comfortable at the 8.6 % and would like to work on getting to the 9%.

Trustee Summerfield would like to put forth our best efforts to reach 9%. Would accept 8.6% if that is the best we can do.

Trustee Valente would like to push for the 9%. 10% would probably be too hard to get to.

Trustee Roeske commented that we have come a long way in the 3.5 years he has been on the Board. He is ok with 8.6 %, but would like to see the Administration continue to work towards 10%.

Trustee Roeske made a motion to amend the 2016-2017 Budget Parameters to accept the 8.6 % Fund Equity. Trustee Valente asked why do a vote, these are suggestions for the Administration.

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve amending the 2016-2017 Budget Parameters to 8.6% Fund Equity.

Trustee Ismail – No; Trustee Pangborn – Yes; Trustee Valente – No; Trustee Summerfield – Yes; Trustee Roeske – Yes; Trustee Weertz – Absent; President Gafa – Yes.

Motion carried by a 4 – 2 vote.

IV. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Board 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 Ave.
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, May 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownell MultiPurpose Room
- D. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, May 23, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownell MultiPurpose Room

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Jeannie Fellows, Grosse Pointe Woods, asked the Board of Education to add one more classroom at the elementary level for emotionally impaired children. She also wanted to remind the Board that teachers have taken a 20% pay cut two years ago.

Laura Mikesell, GPEA President, Grosse Pointe, advised the Board that she has a strong interest from non-resident staff that would have their children attend Grosse Pointe Public Schools if the Board approves such. Almost all like Districts allow non-resident staff's children to attend their schools.

Brendan Walsh, Grosse Pointe, asked the Board of Education to review the BMU and Staff Utilization reports carefully and revisit the reports from 2010.

Mickey Shield, Grosse Pointe Park, asked for a list of projects for the 2016-2017 schoolyear. Deputy Superintendent Fenton said that he would be able to provide that information.

VI. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Ismail thanked Mr. Fenton, Mr. Howell and Dr. Dean for their helpful information that they provided.

Trustee Pangborn liked what community Mr. Walsh said about revisiting contracts. She also feels that if we look for small savings in several places, it could add up to big savings.

Trustee Valente would like to get to the 9% Fund Equity. If the State does not come through with their increases, we need to be prepared to make some serious cuts. She also advised that she would entertain the idea of allowing non-resident staff's children to attend school here.

Trustee Summerfield reminded the Board and community that this is just the beginning of the budget process. He too would entertain the idea of allowing non-resident staff's children to attend Grosse Pointe Public Schools.

Trustee Roeske would be interested in allowing non-resident staff's children to attend school here and would be a good revenue enhancement for the district. He also agreed with Trustee Pangborn about reviewing the line by line items for small savings that could add up.

Superintendent Niehaus thanked everyone for coming out this evening. The Administration has received some good guidance and help. Dr. Niehaus shared information to the Board regarding the water testing of lead and copper. 130 samples were taken District wide during the spring break. Out of the 130 samples, 10 came back with a level higher than the State recommendation. The District has plumbers going into the schools to change out the faucets where needed and new samples will be taken, as well as drinking fountains affected have been turned off. The District has held a press conference, and notified staff and parents of the process. Dr. Niehaus reminded the Board that 92% of the tests were clear and that eight out of the ten samples were clear after a two minute flush. This has been a voluntary process on the part of the District as we continue to keep the best interest of our students and staff in mind.

President Gafa agreed with Trustee Summerfield that the budget is a process over the next couple of months. The Board will vote for the budget the last week of June, 2016. She would accept the 8.6% but would like to get to 9% fund equity. She commended the administration for the water testing.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Cindy Pangborn, Secretary