



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2016
Brownell Middle School – MultiPurpose Room
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Roeske called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: none

Late Arrivals: Trustees Gafa and Valente

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Ismail

Also Present: Superintendent Niehaus, Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR MAY 9, 2016

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Ismail

Trustee Summerfield made a motion to move Agenda Item # VIII Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent to # IX, Motion to Convene to Town Hall Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Pangborn.

THAT the Board Agenda be approved with switching Item VIII to IX.

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

Absent: Trustee Gafa and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5– 0 vote.

III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Recognition, Brian Stackpoole, DAFT Film/Video Educator of the Year award

Director Bur congratulated Brian Stackpoole, DAFT Film/Video Educator of the Year, the Nation’s longest running student festival. Brian was nominated by his peers and former students who wrote recommendation letters. Brian has worked with the district since 1999 and his classes are always at a maximum enrollment. Mr. Stackpoole thanks the Board and the Grosse Pointe community for allowing him to do what he loves.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR May 9, 2016.

None

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR MAY 9, 2016

A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2016.

It was Moved by: Trustee Weertz

Supported by: Trustee Ismail

THAT the Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2016.

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

Absent: Trustee Gafa and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 - 0 vote.

Trustee Valente arrived at 6:03 p.m.

B. Approval of Resolution of Rating Exemption for Line of Credit

Deputy Superintendent Fenton explained that the Department of Treasury has a new requirement when applying for a Line of Credit. This is new this year and is in the best interest of the District that we apply for an exemption as it is costly and not needed.

Trustee Summerfield abstained from voting, due to his involvement with Comerica Bank.

It was Moved by: Trustee Valente

Supported by: Trustee Weertz

THAT the Board approve the Resolution of Rating Exemption for Line of Credit

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

Absent: Trustee Gafa

Abstained: Trustee Summerfield

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 - 0 vote.

VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Full Circle Lease

Deputy Superintendent Fenton advised that we lease the property at the corner of Cadieux and Mack Avenue for the Full Circle Resale Shop with classrooms. This is for our special needs students between the ages of 19 and 26. The building is owned by Full Circle and we lease the space to house the programs. Mr. Ismail asked if the fees are reimbursable by Act 18 and yes it is. Trustee Valente asked if the program will be able to accommodate the 10 to 15 students that will be coming to the program for the 16-17 school year? Mr. Kratz, member of the Board for Full Circle and Ms. Hayes, Director of Student Services came to the podium to answer Trustee Valente's question. Ms. Hayes says that the projection of enrollment for the 2016-17 school year will be able to accommodate the additional students and the expansion of the school is scheduled for the 2017-18 school year. Ms. Valente requested clarification that not all students go into Full Circle programs. The program works closely with the school to place these students.

B. Family Center Lease

Per Deputy Superintendent Fenton, the Family Center Lease has been existence since 2013 and is a non-profit organization with offices located at Barnes. They occupy 275 sq. ft. and there is no charge for the lease at this time.

C. Grosse Pointe Education Association (GPEA) Lease

Deputy Superintendent Fenton advised that the GPEA's office is located at Barnes. \$18.00 per sq. ft. and the lease is similar to the lease from the past.

D. Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE) Lease

Per Deputy Superintendent Fenton, this Lease is similar in nature to the others, but the GPFPE is housed at the Administration Building at 389 St. Clair. 153 sq. ft. is currently being used. There is no rental fee. This was adopted last year.

E. Transportation Bids

1. Athletics

Ten companies were contacted and this was put on the State's website, per Deputy Superintendent Fenton. Two quotes were received from Metro Car and Trinity Transportation our current provider. Metro Car is slightly higher and the administration is asking for approval for Trinity Transportation. Trustee Roeske confirmed the transportation is for middle and high school. Trustee Ismail asked about payment. Does it come from the particular sport or a lump sum? Mr. Fenton says it goes into one account but can be broken down into a spread sheet.

2. Special Education

Again, per Mr. Fenton, this went out to bid to 10 companies and posted on the State website. We did receive three bids, however one was incomplete. ServiCar and Trinity were the only two who bid. Trinity is our current contractor and ServiCar was used eight years ago. ServiCar was the lowest bid and will provide cameras on all busses. We spend approximately \$938,000 on special education transportation a year with a reimbursement from the State for about 70% of our costs.

F. Bids

1. Richard Floor

Richard gym floor has been repaired and patched for several years and it is time to replace it, says Deputy Superintendent Fenton. Two proposals were received when it went out to bid. We are asking the Board to approve the lowest bid for \$31,900.

President Gafa arrived at 6:30 p.m.

2. Grosse Pointe North Stage

Deputy Superintendent Fenton says the floor is original to the building built in 1968 and has been resurfaced, restained and repaired many times. We are asking the Board to approve North American Construction to do the work at a cost of \$79,980. Trustee Pangborn asked about the hydraulic system, would it be cheaper to replace that at the same time. Deputy Superintendent Fenton says it is totally different and would not save any money to tie the two together.

3. Parcels Roof

The bids for the Roof have not been received yet. It is for the South section of the building. Six companies did attend the pre-bid meeting. Bids are expected on May 11th and will be brought to the Board for approval.

G. Policy 8330, Student Records (additional First Read)

Trustee Summerfield stated that the Policy Committee reviewed again this policy based on the comments from the Board. The big change comes from the Armed Forces recruiting section. They tried to eliminate a lot of the wording that was redundant.

H. Policy 5111, Enrollment (additional first read)

Trustee Summerfield says that the Policy Committee revisited this policy after the last read and discussed concerns of the Board and community. He stated that the big focus was that the staff students are being treated as fairly as the resident students in the in-district transfers. Trustee Roeske advised that there was a peer district follow-up that was provided to the Board as requested. Trustee Pangborn wanted to remind people that this is a policy and a year of elections with four seats available. Policies can change and that she feels this policy would be better as a contract negotiation. Trustee Summerfield reminded her that contracts are voted on as well and that he feels this is a great way to help our staff and show our appreciation.

An intermission took place to hear Defer students, Ms. Eckert's class, play their ukuleles that they have been practicing all year and share their Living Bio Museum to the Board.

Trustee Ismail stated that there are many ways to increase enrollment, but the real question is, is this the wishes of the community? Trustee Summerfield says since many things have been changed with the staff and when we can find things to show our appreciation to the staff, we should be looking for this and this is one way to do that. This policy is no cost to the district and shows our appreciation. Trustee Pangborn thinks it is premature and that the budget has not even been discussed. Dr. Niehaus moved the meeting along and reminded the Board that a Town Hall meeting is scheduled to follow this meeting.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Town Hall Meeting of the Board, May 11, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Ferry Elementary, 748 Roslyn, Library
- B. Town Hall Meeting of the Board, May 12, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Defer Elementary, 15425 Kercheval, Library
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board, May 23, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownell MultiPurpose Room, 260 Chalfonte
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, June 13, 2016, 7:00 p.m., **North Library**, 707 Vernier
- D. Regular Meeting of the Board, June 27, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Brownel MultiPurpose Room, 260 Chalfonte

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Kelly Boll, 1255 Nottingham, GPP, by showing the districts appreciation to non-resident staff by allowing their children to attend Grosse Pointe Public Schools tuition free is unfair. Approval of this would remove a valuable incentive to seek permanent residence in this community.

Judy Sheehy, 941 Woods Lane, GPW, she has concurred with the previous speaker regarding Policy 5111. She also questions the "everybody else is doing it". Ms. Sheehy asked if the union approached the District for this policy. Dr. Niehaus reminded the people that a survey was done in the fall and to provide their top 10 wishes. Number 10 was the request to consider allowing non-resident staff's children to attend. The Board of Education is elected to represent the residents and students.

Catherine Saurbier, Provencal Road, GPF, said that the tax payers of Grosse Pointe pay a significant additional amount for school taxes. Her question was will the out-of-district students be paying the additional amount or would the Grosse Pointe tax payers be paying that?

David Fannon, 160 Kerby Road, GPF, he mentioned that he had numerous questions. He asked if providing non-resident staff's children to attend is only for the benefit of the staff? There are no other purposes? Other questions are similar to what others have asked. Where is the money going to come from, roughly \$8000 from the State, where will the other \$6,000 come from? He also asked about the Private Investigators.

Gordon Post, 304 Kerby, GPF, he would like to know where the money is going to come from? He feels this is a slippery slope; will people who work in the village and the hill get to attend?

Diane Karabetsos, 1221 N. Oxford, GPW, she wanted to verify that Policy 5111 will be tuition free and that it can be any staff member? When comparing to other districts, are the open enrollment because we are a closed district. What is this really about? Closing schools, increasing taxes or laying off staff.

Trustee Gafa clarified that the like districts are not school of choice.

Larua Mikesell, 810 Lincoln, GP, Mrs. Mikesell said that she is a proud 25 year teacher in this District, as well as a tax paying resident with children in the District, also the GPEA President. As of today, we have 52 members expressing an interest to enroll their children. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) is forecasting that the school age population in our region will decline till at least 2026. They also predict that the Wayne County district will experience the greatest decline. Last fall Moody's Investor Services downgraded 47 school districts because of financial uncertainty. She has never advocated for school of choice, the Board has not done so and no GPEA member has ever done so. Policy 5111 is a realistic manageable way to attract young families to the district.

IX. MOTION TO CONVENE TO TOWN HALL MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mike Wilmot of Michigan Leadership Institute called the meeting to order at 7:38 p. m.

Board members present: Trustees Gafa, Ismail, Pangborn, Roeske, Summerfield, Valente and Weertz
Absent: none

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

II. TOWN HALL AGENDA OF May 9, 2016

An overview of the Strategic Plan was presented by Trustees Summerfield and Weertz.

Laura Claeys of Plante Moran provided bond program analysis from other school districts and State of Michigan data.

Superintendent Dr. Gary C. Niehaus presented why these discussions were being held regarding projects in these three areas: health and safety, teaching and learning, and building needs.

Dale Ehresman and Marc Chamberlain of Ehresman & Associates discussed projects within those three areas to maintain the district's estimated \$330 million in assets: health and safety, teaching and learning, and building needs.

The community members were divided into four tour groups to view potential and past projects at North High School.

Laura Claeys of Plante Moran provided a presentation on funding mechanisms available to the district.

Mike Wilmot facilitated tabletop discussions on these questions: A-ha moments from the evening, what do we need to do differently than in past bond efforts, and what additional questions remain.

There were no Board of Education actions taken.

X. ADJOURNMENT

President Gafa adjourned the meeting at: 9:50 p.m.

Cindy Pangborn, Board Secretary