



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting, October 10, 2005**  
Wicking Library, South High School  
11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS – 8:00 P.M.**

**I. Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

President Broderick called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

**Present:** Trustees Broderick, Dindoffer, Ismail, Kennedy, Kosinski  
Vreede and Walsh

**Also Present:** Superintendent Klein, Assistant Superintendents Allan and  
Fenton

The pledge of allegiance was led by Trustee Kennedy.

**II. Superintendent's Report**

**P.A. 25 Report**

President Broderick spoke about the progress on the district's Strategic Plan. A draft of the action steps and plans was presented to the board at a work session this evening. Another work session of the board is scheduled to continue the discussion of the strategic plans. A very important element of the plan is good communication with the community.

Dr. Klein reported on the question raised last week about elementary instrumental music scheduling. She noted that parents choose strings instruction for grade 4 students, and in grade 5, band and orchestra. The district has worked with Dr. Michael Rettig on the scheduling options. There is a meeting scheduled October 11, 2005 to discuss the current schedule and see how to make it as workable as possible for everyone. The conversations and work continues on this subject.

Dr. Klein reported that one of the district communication strategies is to upgrade Channel 20 which brings the broadcast of board meetings across the community. Brian Stackpoole, TV instructor at North, and Steve Geresy, TV instructor at South, have done a revamp to the look of the channel as well as broadening the scope of where information that is broadcast can be coming from.

We will be looking for materials from the teaching staff, middle school TV and production classes, and other classroom activities for Channel 20 viewers. We hope that people will notice the new look of Channel 20 as we welcome ideas and suggestions from the community.

Richard Elementary School just celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary last weekend with a Pumpkinfest.

Nationally know speaker, Dr. Eric Jensen, will be speaking tomorrow evening at 7:30 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Academy Field House about “How a Child’s Brain Works”. Dr. Jensen has written extensively on brain-based learning.

The report to the board this evening focused on student learning outcomes in elementary and middle school presented by principals at both levels.

Dr. Klein also welcomed Dr. Roger McCaig, former Grosse Pointe Schools Director of Research and Evaluation.

Dr. Allan offered a powerpoint presentation on student learning outcomes for Grades K-8, focusing on “How Do We Measure Success?” She explained that there are four critical questions that are asked when assessing student learning outcomes:

- What do we want students to know?
- How do we know that students know?
- What do we do when students don’t know?
- What do we do when students already know?

National, state and local tests measure the successes of students in Grosse Pointe including: CTP, ACT, SAT, AP, MEAP, MI-Access, and the Grosse Pointe Writing Assessment. Dr. Allan focused on the elementary and middle school MEAP/MI-Access results, analysis and implications for action. She noted percentages of elementary students passing the MEAP in Math, Science and Social Studies and provided an analysis. Kerby School had 100% pass rate in Science, and Ferry was the 6<sup>th</sup> highest in the state in Social Studies. There were many excellent individual scores in various areas.

Dr. Middlekauff, Mason Principal, Mrs. Satut, Maire Principal, Mr. Buslepp, Pierce Middle School Principal, and Dr. Dib, Brownell Principal highlighted implications for action for learning results at their levels. Dr. Allan explained the district implications for action for student learning results and summarized that:

- Elementary MEAP scores in reading, math, science and social studies are strong and stable or improving
- Middle school MEAP scores increased in language arts, math, and social studies and are stable in science

- Writing in grades 1-3 is strong and improving; and writing instruction in grades 4-8 needs to be and is being energetically addressed

Dr. Allan added that the high school would present their student learning outcomes at a November meeting. Information on Just 5 Clicks would be presented in December and/or January. An Assessment Committee report will be available in November and February.

Dr. McCaig, former Director of Evaluation and Assessment, was invited to answer some of the Board's questions. He explained the writing assessment results for students and how improvements could be made.

Trustee Walsh said that he was very encouraged by the presentation and discussion, adding that it was refreshing and welcomed the proactive approach in addressing student needs, specifically in writing.

Other Board members concurred with Mr. Walsh on the direction and action underway regarding student learning results.

Dr. Klein introduced Rebecca Fannon, Community Relations Coordinator for the school district, who joins us after having recently worked in the St. Clair Intermediate School District.

### **III. Public Comments on Non-Action Items**

No one came forward to speak.

### **IV. Public Comments on Consent Agenda Action Items**

No one came forward to speak.

### **V. Consent Agenda Action Items**

#### **A. Human Resources Report**

The Human Resources Report highlighted the appointments of six instructional staff members, and the resignations of one instructional staff member, one plant/cafeteria staff member and one technology staff member.

#### **B. Business Items: Accounts Payable**

The business items were presented for Board approval. Any questions regarding the business items and accounts payable may be directed to Mr. Fenton's office or to Mrs. Dindoffer, Board Treasurer.

**C Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of September 6 and 12, 2005, Work Session Minutes of September 7, 2005, and Special Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2005**

The minutes of the Conference Meeting of September 6, 2005, Regular Meeting of September 12, 2005, Work Session minutes of September 7, 2005, and Special Meeting minutes of September 29, 2005 are presented for approval. Any questions regarding the minutes may be directed to the Superintendent's Office or Mrs. Kennedy, Board Secretary.

A correction has been made to the minutes of September 6, 2005.

**D. Approval of Bids**

**1. Support Service Facility**

The central maintenance department is currently housed in the basement at South High School and needs to vacate that premises before the pool construction begins there. The bid for a support services and maintenance building includes construction of a 5-bay vehicle facility. The block and brick building, 4,783 sq. ft., will be located next to the rear parking lot at Parcels along Sunningdale. This facility will house 50% of the central maintenance staff.

The project will be funded from the Sinking Fund.

The Board was asked to award the bid for the new maintenance facility to Bernco, Inc. for \$552,420.

**E. Approval of Policy DFG – Fees, Payments and Rentals**

The Board Policy Sub-Committee, Mrs. Dindoffer (chair), Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Broderick reviewed Policy DFG and made revisions in the section describing fees for providing copies of public records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The Board was asked to approve Policy DFG – Fees, Payments and Rentals as presented.

**F. Approval of Appointment of Co-Chairs for the Human Sexuality Advisory Board**

One of the new provisions of the Michigan School Code is that two co-chairs must be appointed by the school board to chair the Human Sexuality Advisory Board. One of the co-chairs must be a parent of a child attending a district

school. The educator asked to co-chair the Advisory board is Dr. Michael Dib, Principal of Brownell Middle School; the parent, Dr. Debra Wright. Dr. Wright is a physician, a parent of a South graduate, and has children at Maire and Pierce.

The Board was asked to approve the appointment of Dr. Dib and Dr. Wright as co-chairs of the Human Sexuality Advisory Board.

**G. Approval of Consultant Fees for Dr. Roger McCaig**

As part of the curriculum study to assess and improve the language arts curriculum, Dr. Roger McCaig was asked to review the district's writing program.

Dr. McCaig's work is a part of the continuing improvements to the district's language arts program. By mutual agreement, his total fee for services rendered this year will not exceed \$28,880. A large portion of that amount (\$15,185) has been funded through the Title II grant.

The Board was asked to approve the reimbursement for consultant fees to Dr. McCaig, not to exceed \$28,880 for the 2005-2006 school year.

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

**THAT the consent agenda be approved as presented.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Broderick, Dindoffer, Ismail, Kennedy, Kosinski, Vreede and Walsh

**Nays:** None **Motion carried.**

**VI. Items for Information and Discussion for October 10, 2005**

**A. Revenue Enhancement Committee Update**

Trustee Vreede said that the Richner and Richner capacity building study is proceeding according to plan. A community committee is engaged to help guide the process and is proceeding thoughtfully with carefully constructed plans. Richner and Richner are in the process of data gathering including benchmarking with other school districts in and outside of the state, interviews, and focus group meetings. Richner and Richner will deliver a report later this year which will include a fund development growth model, uniquely tailored to reflect the community's interests and readiness, as learned through the data gathering now underway.

## **B. Budget Committee Update**

President Broderick stated that there has be a change in how the Board more efficiently utilizes their meeting time and reports the progress of each committee. The Board and administration's desire for public comments will be supported through multiple communications venues including: monthly board meetings; work sessions; the district website; monthly coffee and conversation meetings; and community forums. Trustee Vreede explained that the budget process for 2006-2007 has begun, noting that the Board and the administration are taking a one-year and a three-year view of the budget to plan and prepare for school improvement actions, as well as potential programming changes as needed. The district strategic plan, along with a set of budget assumptions, will drive the framework for discussion. A timing plan and action steps are being developed. The Board will have monthly work sessions on the budget for 2006-2007. Charles Sabino and Fred Minturn, community members with significant professional experience with budgets and finance, will be providing input to the budget and planning process.

## **C. Project Update**

Mr. Fenton met last week with members of the Project Oversight Committee to discuss the support services facility that was approved this evening. The committee will also meet to discuss the South pool project and middle school science labs. A booklet highlighting all building and site projects that occurred this summer was provided to Board members.

## **D. Summer Programs Update**

Mr. Warras presented a summary of the district's summer activities that took place in 2005. He noted that many fine programs covered a broad spectrum of activity, including academics, the arts and sports.

In June, Chris Clark and Matt Outlaw, the high school athletic directors, sponsored a number of **sports clinics** for students in grades 3-12. Clinics were provided in numerous sports: football, baseball, basketball (boys and girls), softball, volleyball (boys and girls), swimming (boys and girls), gymnastics, wrestling, track, cross country, soccer (boys and girls), field hockey and cheerleading. The response for these clinics increased to well over 1,000 participants between the two high schools.

**Camp Invention** is a nationally acclaimed discovery program for students in grades K-5 that provides exciting, innovative activities that emphasize discovery, invention and the integration of science and the arts. This is the second summer Grosse Pointe sponsored this activity. Karen Sullivan, a teacher at Ferry and the district's science curriculum specialist, led a group of dedicated

teachers and high school students providing 80 Grosse Pointe elementary students an exciting one-week adventure at Camp Invention.

The **Summer Enrichment Program** for students with special needs was held from June 27 to August 4. Field trips were scheduled for this program as well as swimming activities, an Ice Cream Social, Field Day and Open House. Betty Lou Rowe oversaw the following summer enrichment programs: **Extended School Year**, a free program for students who qualify based on the student's IEP goals and objectives; and **SCAMP**, offered to those students with autism and/or cognitive impairment who do not qualify for the extended school year program.

The (traditional) **Grosse Pointe Summer Learning Program**, one of the largest in the metropolitan area, provides skill building and enrichment opportunities for students in grades K-12, as well as opportunities for high school students to take courses for credit or improve their grades in courses previously taken. On-line courses were also available for high school students through the summer learning program. This extensive summer program was directed by Ranae Beyerlein, South High School teacher, and Russell LeBlanc, retired Pierce Middle School principal. Over 625 students attended classes from July 5 through August 11, 2005.

New to the summer programming this year was the inclusion of grade 2 students in the no-charge skills development program for reading and math achievement. Also new were peer tutoring opportunities in secondary courses, courtesy of ten North High honors students, who provided over 240 volunteer hours of tutoring.

The **Summer Select Choir** staff met with 360 students for the thirteenth annual Select Choir Workshop sponsored by Grosse Pointe Schools vocal music staff and guest director for the high school, Eugene Rogers, from the University of Michigan. Each group prepared three songs which were performed for two sold out audiences on August 19, 2005. Mary Jane Failla, vocal music teacher at Parcels, oversees this summer music experience for students.

**Camp'O'Fun** is the school district's program to provide child care during the summer months for those families who have that need. Cheryl Dorman and Sally Rossberg organize this program which enrolled 80 children this summer.

Trustee Kennedy noted that the district should move toward generating more profit from the programs that run during the summer in the district.

## **VII. Future Meetings**

A Conference Meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, November 7, 2005,

and a Regular Meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, November 14, 2005, both at 8:00 p.m. in the Wicking Library of Grosse Pointe South High School.

Trustee Broderick noted that there would be a Board Work Session on Monday, October 17, 2005, at 6 p.m. in the Board Room at 389 St. Clair to continue discussion of the draft of the Strategic Plan. A work session is also planned for October 26, 2005.

### **VIII. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent**

Trustee Kosinski had no comment.

Trustee Vreede thanked everyone for the presentation this evening on student learning outcomes PA 25 Report.

Trustee Walsh thanked the Grosse Pointe South Mother's Club for the invitation extended him to their morning meeting. Mr. Walsh mentioned the preparation on the Board's part to reorganize the committee structure and he applauded them on this work.

Trustee Ismail thanked Mr. Minturn and Mr. Sabino for the time they devote to the budget committee.

Trustee Dindoffer asked about the schedule for upcoming meetings and work sessions.

Mrs. Dindoffer shared the comments of the others regarding keeping the main thing the main thing and said that keeping focused on student learning should be the key force driving budget decisions.

Trustee Kennedy reiterated a prior comment that she was in full support of Dr. Michael Dib and Dr. Debra Wright as co-chairs of the district's Human Sexuality Advisory Board. She said she was also pleased with the presentations this evening.

Dr. Klein thanked the PTO Council for their time this past Tuesday evening as they participated in a focus group discussion for revenue enhancement options.

President Broderick noted that the district has good scores, excellent academics and successes, and that the community and board should not lose sight of the things that we do well. He noted that the school district has a lot of things to be proud of and he applauded the parents, teachers, administrators and board for their efforts.

**IX. Meeting Open to the Public**

No one came forward to speak.

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business, President Broderick adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

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Board Secretary