



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, September 12, 2005
Wicking Library, Grosse Pointe South High School
11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

REVISED MINUTES

ORDER OF BUSINESS: 8:00 P.M.

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

President Broderick called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

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

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

Absent: Trustee Dindoffer

The pledge of allegiance was led by Trustee Vreede.

II. Superintendent's Report

A preview of the new district website design was given by Jeremiah Staes of Portage Media, Inc.

He explained the design of the new website and showed a preliminary version of it. The new web site format should be operational by October 1, 2005.

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. Public Comments on Regular Agenda Action Items

John Bruce, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, thanked the school district and Board of Education for their continuing partnership over the years.

VI. Consent Agenda Action Items

A. Human Resources Report

The Human Resources Report presented for approval included sixteen instructional staff appointments; ten special education classroom assistant appointments; two retirements; and seven resignations or general leaves.

B. Business Items - Accounts Payable

The business items were presented for Board approval.

C. Approval of Closed Session, Work Session and Conference Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2005, Regular and Work Session Minutes of August 15, 2005, and Special Meeting Minutes of August 23, 2005. (Corrections were made to the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2005)

The Board was asked to approve the minutes as presented.

D. Approval of Technology Contract with Jeffrey & Associates

The Board was asked to approve the letter of agreement for computer software support from Jeffrey and Associates not to exceed \$70,000 for the 2005-2006 school year.

E. Approval of Physical Therapy Contract

The Board was asked to approve the letter of agreement for physical therapy services from Kristen Walkowicz for the 2005-2006 school year at an amount of approximately \$20,000.

It was Moved by: Trustee Kosinski **Supported by:** Trustee Walsh

THAT the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Dindoffer

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

VII. Regular Agenda Action Item

A. Approval of 2005 Tax Rates

The Truth in Taxation Hearing was held on September 6, 2005. Rates presented reflect the projected blended enrollment decrease of 57 students.

The Board of Education is asked to adopt the resolution presented calling for a 6.2647 Homestead "GAP" millage for operating purposes, 18.0000 mills for Non-Homestead, 0.9867 mills for Sinking Fund and 1.3090 for Debt.

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

THAT the Board approve the 2005 Tax Rates as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Dindoffer

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

B. Approval of Lease with Neighborhood Club

The Neighborhood Club has used the Grosse Pointe Public School facilities for the past several years. The district has established a lease agreement for the use of the gyms (field use has been handled though the Field Use Committee and does not require a separate lease).

The district has established a flat fee which covers the use of the facilities and payment of the required custodians. This lease arrangement was the result of a recommendation from the Building Use Committee several years ago.

This year the amount of the lease is \$24,000. Lease language was modified to include in bullet #2: "...such gymnasium space will be made available only on such days and at such times that do not interfere with the Landlord's educational program **including, but not limited to, curricular and extra-curricular activities**, construction activities in its school buildings, or the duties of its school custodians **in accordance with Policy KG and KG-R.**"

The Board is asked to approve the lease with the Neighborhood Club for \$24,000 for 2005-2006 and authorize Christian Fenton, Assistant

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

Absent: Trustee Dindoffer

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

VIII. Items for Information and Discussion

A. Enrollment Update

Mr. Fenton distributed the most recent enrollment summary as of September 12, 2005. He said that the decrease in enrollment is 102 students from the 2004-2005 final count. He showed a decrease in the kindergarten, 6th grade, and special education.

Mr. Fenton's office will continue to update the Board as enrollment changes.

Board members requested enrollment numbers for Community School and that the enrollment chart be made available on the district website.

B. Project Update

Mr. Broderick said that the current Project Oversight Committee is composed of Mr. Ismail, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Broderick, Dr. Klein, and Mr. Fenton. Mr. Fenton said that the gym floor at Mason is taking more time than originally expected but that it should be completed soon. Other projects on the timeline are air conditioning, heating and cooling projects, and the South Science renovations (which are on schedule).

Mr. Fenton thanked the building engineers, Wayne Halkides and Peg Reichhold for staying on top of all projects as they progressed in the buildings. Mr. Broderick mentioned that Mr. Diver, South High School Principal, took Board members and central office administrators on a tour through South prior to the board meeting.

C. Study Travel Warning Update

The Department of State remains concerned about the continued threat of terrorist attacks, demonstrations and other violent actions against U.S. citizens and interests overseas. Americans are reminded that demonstrations and rioting can occur with little or no warning. As the Department continues to develop information on any potential security threats to U.S. citizens overseas, it shares credible threat information through its Consular Information Program documents, available on the

internet at <http://travel.state.gov>. In addition on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

The decision the Board must make is whether or not they want travel approvals brought before the board or if that decision should be delegated to the administration to determine.

Trustee Kosinski feels that the administration should approve all field trips knowing that should there be any serious threats to the students, the administration would bring that 'out of the country' trip to the board.

The Board concurred with giving the administration the ability to make decisions regarding field trips.

D. 2004-2005 Elementary Curriculum Guide

The district's new Strategic Plan Guiding Principles were included with the *Curriculum Guide for the Elementary School K-5 2005-2006* in this revised draft.

Dr. Allan noted that the greatest changes were in the Language Arts section, which have all been previously approved by the Board. Changes were highlighted so that comparisons could be made between the old and new information.

E. Approval of Reinstatement Panel for 2005-2006

Board Policy JCD Student Code of Conduct calls for the Board to appoint a Reinstatement Review Panel composed of two Board members, one administrator, one teacher, and one parent to review a petition for reinstatement of a student following expulsion if such a petition is received during the school year. With the assistance of the PTO Council and the GPEA, a panel and alternatives were identified as follows: Alice Kosinski and Angela Kennedy as board delegates, with Jeffrey Broderick as an alternate; Alan King, administrative delegate, with Gary Buslepp and Mark Mulholland as alternates; Rosalie Bryk, teacher delegate, and Richard Underwood as the alternate; and Patrick Burke, parent delegate, with Fran Czarnecki as the alternate.

The Board decided to bring this item to a vote this evening.

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

That the Board approve the Reinstatement Panel for 2005-2006 as presented.

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

Absent: Trustee Dindoffer

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

F. Revision of Board Policy – DFG: Fees, Payments and Rentals

The Board Policy Sub-Committee, Mrs. Dindoffer (chair), Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Broderick, have recently 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).

IX. Future Meetings

A Conference Meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Wicking Library of South High School followed by a Regular Meeting on Monday, October 10, 2005.

Mr. Broderick mentioned that there was a Project Oversight Meeting at 8:00 a.m. in the board room tomorrow morning, September 13th, to discuss projects in progress and future projects. He also said that the Board would meet on September 29th for a training workshop on the Open Meetings Act. Brad Banacek from the Michigan Association of School Boards is the speaker.

A “Community Coffee and Conversation” meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5th in the board room at 389 St. Clair at 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Klein encouraged parents to join the back to school nights as they begin.

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a public forum on September 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the War Memorial on public school finance. Mrs. Dindoffer is the school board representative and will be part of the panel.

Dr. Klein noted that September 17th is Constitution Day across the United States. Since this is a Saturday, schools will participate on Friday, September 16th at 2:00 p.m. More information about Constitution Day is available on the district website.

South High School had the opportunity to have Mr. Mike Fink, former NASA astronaut, speak to high school science students. He will speak to the public at 8:00 p.m. at South High School on September 14, 2005.

The "48230" magazine that celebrates life in Grosse Pointe recently highlighted several school programs including Building Bridges, a story about the Maire School camp experience, as well as the cross country program at the high school.

Dr. Klein congratulated the Grosse Pointe South High School Jazz Band who performed over the Labor Day weekend at the Detroit Jazz Festival.

The state school aid budget process is coming to an end as there is a September 30th deadline. It appears that the \$175 per pupil will be approved and that the 20J funds will continue to flow to the district.

The Ferry stop sign has now been re-installed as of Friday thanks to the efforts of the Director of Public Safety, Mr. Makowski and council member, Vicky Granger.

X. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Kennedy had no comment.

Trustee Ismail had no comment.

Trustee Walsh said that the timing of the first 'coffee and conversation' meeting was not ideal as it was the first week of school. He did add, however, that those who did attend came away very pleased about the format and feeling that there was a good exchange. He encouraged the community to join the superintendent for the next coffee meeting on Wednesday, October 5th.

Mr. Walsh also mentioned the League of Women Voters public forum on school finance on September 19th.

Trustee Walsh said that it was hard to believe he had been on the board only one week today. He said the most informative thing he has learned is that the Open Meetings Act is a fairly lucid document and helps a lay person to understand how things 'move along' on the board and in the manner in which they do.

Trustee Vreede thanked Mr. Broderick for his leadership over the past two years on the Project Oversight Committee as she will no longer be a member.

She also recognized Mr. Ismail's eye for detail and Mr. Fenton's careful planning, management and implementation.

Trustee Vreede said that touring the science labs prior to the board meeting was wonderful as many projects were completed and others were in stages where visible improvement to the learning environment could be recognized. She encouraged parents visiting schools for Parent Night to see the improvements around buildings as they enter the schools.

Mrs. Vreede asked if there would be opportunities for community members without students to be able to tour the buildings. Dr. Klein noted that there was a group that toured South High School with Mrs. Yankee, assistant principal. Community Education would be scheduling some tours for interested residents, as well as the possibility of a 'virtual tour' on the district website.

Mrs. Vreede asked Dr. Klein about the status of the Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Klein said that one more meeting of the Planning Group would be needed.

Trustee Kosinski thanked Mr. Jeremiah Staes and Portage Media for the work they have done on the district website and their presentation this evening.

Mrs. Kosinski congratulated South's boys and girls cross country team for winning the 18th Annual Muskrat Invitational at Algonac this past weekend.

President Broderick also congratulated and thanked Jeremiah Staes for the fresh and updated look of the website plans. He also thanked Dr. Klein for her work with Portage Media in this undertaking.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Broderick adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Board Secretary