



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of Conference Meeting, January 3, 2005
Wicking Library, Grosse Pointe South High School
11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

ORDER OF BUSINESS – 8:00 P.M.

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

President Richardson called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

Present: Trustees Brennan, Dindoffer, Ismail, Richardson and Vreede

Also Present: Superintendent Klein, Assistant Superintendents Allan and Fenton

Absent: Trustees Broderick and Kennedy

The pledge of allegiance was led by Trustee Vreede.

II. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Klein congratulated South High School students and staff for receiving the Exemplary Athletic Program Award from the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Dr. Klein reported on the Book Brigade which took place on December 14, 2004. Students from Trombly, Pierce and Defer passed the last 100 books hand to hand from the Park Branch of the Public Library at Pierce to the new Park Branch at Lakepointe and Jefferson. One of the 1,000 students who participated in this event commented that the line of students must be, "... the largest line of people ever in Grosse Pointe." The library's official opening is Saturday, January 8, 2005.

Dr. Klein talked about the changes in the millage voting procedures and precincts due to the new state election law. The school district will inform residents of changes through the district website and channel 20, as well as flyer distribution throughout the community.

Dr. Klein noted that there was a Winter Sports Camp being held at North High School during the winter break.

Dr. Klein also noted that state school finance information was available to view at www.Mich.gov/mde. She said that State Superintendent of Instruction, Tom Watkins, had presented a discussion paper to the State Board of Education with recommendations for addressing funding concerns.

III. Tentative Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of January 10, 2005

A. Human Resources Report

Dr. Klein noted the appointment of one instructional staff member, the leave of absence of one classroom assistant, and two resignations.

B. Business Items: Accounts Payable

The business items will be delivered this week to allow for the close of the year reports. Any questions regarding the business items and accounts payable may be directed to Mr. Fenton's office or to Mrs. Vreede, Board Treasurer.

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes of the December 6 and 13, 2004 Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes of December 8 and 13, 2004

The minutes of the December 6 and 13, 2004 Board Meetings, and Closed Session Minutes of December 8 and 13, 2004 were presented. (The correction to the Closed Session Minutes of December 8, 2004 from p.m. to a.m. has been noted and is attached to these minutes.) Any questions regarding the minutes may be directed to the Superintendent's Office or Mr. Brennan, Board Secretary.

D. Approval of the Pilot for Honors Journalism

The Honors Journalism pilot is proposed as an alternative to the traditional Journalism course in the high school curriculum. Like the traditional Journalism course, Honors Journalism is a 10 credit course that will fulfill one year of the graduation requirement in English. The honors course will enable those students who enter high school with some Journalism experience to experience the challenge of a more rigorous course. The focus of the honors class will include critical analysis of current research, interviewing-skill development, and several major investigations, plus the publication of two issues of the high school newspaper.

President Richardson suggested including the following items for the consent agenda for action at the January 10, 2005 Board meeting: **A) Human**

Resources Report; **B)** Accounts Payable Report; **C)** Minutes (with the corrections to the December 8, 2004 Closed Session Minutes); and **D)** Approval of the Pilot for Honors Journalism.

IV. Items for Information and Discussion for the January 10, 2005 Regular Meeting will include:

- A. Millage Renewal and Restoration**
- B. Project Oversight Committee Update**
- C. Budget Committee Update**
- D. Revenue Enhancement Committee Update**
- E. High School Diplomas for World War II and Korean War Veterans**
- F. Revised Rates for Extended Day Kindergarten**
- G. Enrollment Update**

V. Future Meetings

A Board Work Session will be held on January 10, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 198 followed by a Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. in the Wicking Library at South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

VI. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Brennan wished everyone a “Happy New Year!”

Trustee Vreede congratulated South High School on their recent Exemplary Athletic Program status. Mrs. Vreede also thanked Mr. Jeffrey Nardone, Mrs. Elizabeth Soby and Mrs. Chris Kaiser for their hard work and presentation regarding the Honors Journalism Pilot Course.

Trustee Vreede also mentioned the budget forums recently held at both the high schools and middle schools, and that there would be a number of additional forums coming up in the near future regarding the upcoming millage election, as well as the budget process.

The state revenue estimation process will be held in Lansing on January 13th. Dr. Klein will be sharing information at the next board meeting.

Trustee Dindoffer wished everyone a “Happy New Year!”

Trustee Ismail welcomed everyone back with wishes for a “Happy New Year.” Mr. Ismail also mentioned that absentee ballots would only be available (at this writing) at municipal offices.

Trustee Ismail also mentioned the “cultural marathon” he attended, along with Dr. Klein, on the 15th of December to hear the South Band, Choir, and Jazz Combo performances held at both South High School, and Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

Dr. Klein said that, as the district looks at the months ahead, there are many things the district would like to accomplish: to complete the year with success for each student with a year of learning and preparation for the next step; to continue to collaborate with parents, staff and community; to continue the excellence within the school system despite the challenges ahead. “Our creativity, resourcefulness, and optimism, are going to be challenged”, noted Dr. Klein. She added that everyone working hard together will make sure that the plans created for next year will do justice to the students in the district and maintain the excellence that Grosse Pointe is known for.

Dr. Klein offered sympathy and support to the DiStefano family of North High School upon the recent death of their daughter.

VII. Meeting Open to the Public

No one came forward.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Richardson adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Board Secretary