



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of Conference Meeting, November 1, 2004
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 8:10 p.m.

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

Also Present: Superintendent Klein, Assistant Superintendents Allan
and Fenton

Absent: Trustee Jeffrey Broderick

The pledge of allegiance was led by Trustee Kennedy.

II. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Klein shared news that Latin students who attended the Junior Classical League Fall convention at Western Michigan University were awarded 2nd place overall in the state for school spirit and won a variety of other awards individually.

Dr. Klein also mentioned that throughout the month of October our 4th graders participated in the Disability Awareness workshops. Information was posted in school newsletters and websites for parents to see.

Dr. Klein noted that the district verifies residency for all of our new students as a part of the routine entry procedures, and, when necessary, throughout the year.

Dr. Klein commented on information from Dr. Allan noting that the district has received approval of our 2004-2005 gifted education grant. The amount this year is \$1,028, down from previous amounts of well over \$20,000.

Dr. Klein also noted the distribution of the District Calendar designed by Courtney McDonald, Grade 4 from Defer which will be sent out to all school families. The larger version will be part of the Defer art show this spring.

The next part of the Superintendent's Report was a report from the audit representative of BDO Seidman. (Information from this report is included in Item IV.D.)

III. Public Hearing to Discuss the Board Election Calendar

One of the decisions the Board must make before December 31, 2004 is to select the date on which they will hold the regular election for Board of Education members. It has been past practice to hold that election in June, however the new election law only gives 4 particular dates on which to hold elections. According to state law, the school district is required to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed date of the Regular Board of Education election for May 3, 2005. However, individual board members would continue to serve and finish their terms until July 1.

Joan Richardson opened the public hearing on the proposal to move the board election to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May.

No one came forward to speak on the public hearing

Trustee Vreede asked for a clarification of who would be running these elections.

Mr. Fenton commented the city and township clerks will be running the elections.

Trustee Brennan noted, as a point of clarification, that prior to this election, board elections were operated by the district itself.

Mr. Fenton stated that absentee ballots would be available through the municipalities, but based on the election coordinating committee, it is possible that there will be other options to pick up absentee ballots, either through schools or the district web site as long as it meets requirements of law.

Mr. Fenton noted that the ballots are only handled by the cities and townships.

Ms. Richardson closed the public hearing as there were no further comments or questions.

President Richardson suggested allowing other public comments at this time to accommodate the number of people in the audience wishing to speak.

Chris Kaiser, 6 Charles, Grosse Pointe City, spoke about the teaching staff and the importance of negotiating a fair and equitable contract.

Marilyn Lister, 5th Grade teacher at Monteith, spoke about the teachers and administration negotiating a fair and equitable contract.

Darcie Livingston, 23360 Westbury, St. Clair Shores, 4th Grade teacher at Monteith, shared concerns about the teacher contract being negotiated.

Ruth Wilson, 2151 Beaufait, Grosse Pointe Woods, 5th Grade teacher at Monteith, spoke about the teachers and administration negotiating a fair and equitable contract.

IV. Tentative Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of November 8, 2004

Dr. Klein said that the meeting would begin with the acknowledgement of the National Merit Semi-Finalists and Commended Students as well as Advanced Placement Scholars.

A. Human Resources Report

Dr. Klein noted the appointments of three classroom assistants and two plant and cafeteria employees.

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. Vreede, Board Treasurer.

C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of October 4 and 11, 2004, Work Session Minutes of October 4 and 11, 2004, Closed Session Minutes of October 4, 2004, and Special Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2004.

Any questions regarding the minutes may be directed to the Superintendent's Office or Mr. Brennan, Board Secretary.

D. Approval of Audit Report

The 2004-2005 Financial Audit and the Single Audit Act report were reviewed by the Audit Committee on October 29, 2004. The Audit Committee is composed of Lisa Vreede (Treasurer), Jeff Broderick (Vice President), Joseph Brennan (Secretary), Donald Sweeny (community member), Patrick

Mansfield (community member), Suzanne Klein (Superintendent), Christian Fenton (Assistant Superintendent-Business), and Isha Smith (Business Manager). Mark Tschirhart, BDO Seidman, presented the findings of the 2004-2005 Financial Audit Report and Single Audit Act Report. He discussed the audit, financial statements and answered questions from the Board. The basic financial statements were found to be in compliance with governmental accounting standards Board (GASB) #34. Mr. Tschirhart thanked members of the audit committee as well as Chris Fenton and Isha Smith for their help with this report. He also stated that audit findings were excellent and a very "clean audit" report. He also found no weaknesses with an analysis of internal controls, policies and procedures. Mr. Tschirhart mentioned that Federal programs and expenditures were reviewed. The Board asked is there were any suggestions for improvement. Mr. Tschirhart added that there were not any significant suggestions at this time.

The Board is asked to approve the 2004-2005 Financial Audit report and single Audit Act Report as recommended by the Audit Committee.

E. Bids

1. Monteith Elevator

Five companies attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting for the Monteith elevator. This elevator project will provide additional classroom space, an ADA compliant elevator, an improved entrance, and renovation to the first and second floor restrooms.

The additional operating costs for this project will amount to approximately \$4,000 per year which will be budgeted in the 2005-2006 school year General Fund Support Services utilities budget. The improvements in the restrooms will result in a savings due to continued repairs needed in the existing piping.

The Board is asked to award the contract for the Monteith elevator project to Degenhardt & Sons for \$770,285.

2. Parcels Multi-Purpose Room

The scope of this project includes a multi-purpose room, field restrooms, interior restrooms, and a new hallway and entrance. This project eliminates the need for a separate, stand alone restroom for the field and renovation of the gym to remove the wall.

The additional operating costs for this addition will amount to approximately \$16,000 per year. When the project is completed this

will be budgeted in the 2005-2006 school year in the General Fund Support Services utilities budget.

The Board is asked to award the contract for the Parcels multi-purpose project to Bernco, Inc. for \$1,375,000.

3. Environmental Facilities

The sinking fund millage requires each project to be bid and be over the limit of \$17,932. In order to satisfy this requirement, we have accepted bids for environmental work which will be done on an as-needed basis for the next year, with an option to renew after that time. The work will be primarily for asbestos and lead abatement. The administration is recommending the environmental work be awarded to Michigan Mechanical Abatement, Inc., the low bidder. However, if scheduling or availability problems arise, Certified Abatement Services will be awarded the contract.

The Board is asked to contract with Michigan Mechanical Abatement, Inc. and Certified Abatement Services for environmental work for one year as needed through November 30, 2005, with an option to renew the contract for the following year.

F. Field Trips

1. South High School Band and Orchestra to Toronto, Canada

Because the United States State Department continues to extend its Worldwide Caution for Americans traveling outside the U.S., the Board's Study Warning (Policy IFCB) banning foreign field trips remains in place for students. However, a few exceptions to the Study Warning have been made on a case-by-case basis since 2001 so that Grosse Pointe students can take advantage of valuable learning experiences.

The Board is asked to approve the waiver of the Study Warning on student foreign travel for the South Band and Orchestra field trip to Toronto, Ontario on April 15 to April 17, 2005.

2. Trombly Students to Ska-Na-Doht, Melbourne, Ontario, Canada

Because the United States State Department continues to extend its Worldwide Caution for Americans traveling outside the U.S., the Board's Study Warning (Policy IFCB) banning foreign field trips remains in place for students. However, a few exceptions to the Study Warning have been made on a case-by-case basis since 2001, so that Grosse Pointe students

can take advantage of valuable learning experiences.

On Wednesday, November 17, 2004, Walt Fitzpatrick, Eric Frakes, and Susan Howey of Trombly School would like to make a day trip to Ska-Na-Doht Native American Village, Longwoods Road Conservation Area, Melbourne, Ontario, Canada with 47 students to review and enhance Native American studies. Mr. Fitzpatrick and the Trombly staff are requesting a waiver of the Board's Study Warning for this field trip to Canada on November 17, 2004.

3. Pierce Orchestra and Choir to Toronto, Ontario, Canada

On Friday, April 22, 2005 through Sunday, April 24, 2005, Pierce 8th grade orchestra and 8th grade choir students under the direction of James Gross, would like to make a trip to Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Activities would include an adjudicated performance at the Heritage Music Festival at a Toronto University; a performance by the Kirov Orchestra of St. Petersburg, Russia at Roy Thomson Hall for the orchestra students; a Broadway performance of "Wicked" for the choir students; and an exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum of Art, Ontario, Canada.

The Board is asked to approve the waiver of the Study Warning on student foreign travel for the Pierce Orchestra and Choir to Toronto, Ontario, Canada on April 22 to 24, 2005.

G. Approval of Resolution for Board Elections

The Board is asked to approve the resolution for the Regular School Election to be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2005.

H. Approval of Resolution for a Millage Election

Each year the Board of Education must take action regarding specific plans for the millage election. A resolution which pertains to the millage election to be held Tuesday, February 22, 2005 has been presented.

The Board is asked to approve the resolution for the millage election to be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2005.

President Richardson suggested including the following items for the consent agenda for action at the November 8, 2004 Board meeting: **A)** Human Resources Report; **B)** Accounts Payable Report; **C)** Minutes; **D)** Approval of

Audit Report; **E) 1.** Monteith Elevator; **E) 3.** Environmental Facilities; **F)** Field Trips **1, 2 and 3.** Items **E) 2,** Parcels Multi-Purpose Room, **G)** Approval of Resolution for Board Elections and **H)** Approval of Resolution for a Millage Election will be placed on the regular agenda for action.

V. Items for Information and Discussion for the November 8, 2004 Regular Meeting will include:

- A. Staff Development Update**
- B. Bond Project Update**
- C. Community Education Annual Report**
- D. Middle School Football**

VI. Future Meetings

A Board Work Session will be held on Monday, November 8, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 198 at South High School followed by a Regular Meeting of the Board at 8:00 p.m. in the Wicking Library at South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

VII. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Ismail had congratulatory comments for the students of the week at Parcels and North.

Trustee Dindoffer had no comment.

Trustee Kennedy congratulated the third grades at Richard whose teacher, Mrs. Flanagan, raised \$1,420 which was donated to various charities. She also congratulated the Maire PTO President, Ed Jackman, and its members for their final payment of \$50,000 which was for the Maire air conditioning project.

Trustee Vreede asked Dr. Klein if she could share with the community a Strategic Planning update. She thanked the staff for their professionalism as they continued to negotiate a contract. Mrs. Vreede said she looks forward to meeting the Merit Scholars and Commended Students being honored at next week's board meeting.

Trustee Vreede also congratulated Ellen Bowen and her singers and technical people for their fine performance at the Fall Follies. She said that it was a display of phenomenal talent in a number of areas.

Trustee Brennan congratulated North's football team for being in the playoffs. He encouraged the community to attend.

Trustee Richardson said that the Fall Follies was spectacular this year. She also commented on the Pops and Pastries concert taking place on Friday, November 5.

Ms. Richardson mentioned that the South Girl's Field Hockey team won the state championship. She also commented on the mock election held last Friday at South High School, and thanked Mr. Briske for his work. She applauded the quality of work of the Tower Newspaper.

Dr. Klein thanked the Maire PTO for the many things that they do for the Maire community. She also offered kudos to Grosse Pointe North on the football game win and to South High School for their spectacular Fall Follies performance. Dr. Klein also recognized Mr. White's jazz band and noted that South High School will hold its Pops & Pastries concert this Friday and North's Pops and Pastries event will be on Saturday.

Dr. Klein said that the district had been holding its security updates over the last couple of weeks with Homeland Security Sessions for district staff. A grant has funded these updates.

Mr. Fenton noted that he appreciated the participation of the public safety officials in the community in the district's security update sessions.

Dr. Klein also made note of the "Applause" section on the district website which recognizes the accomplishments about students and staff.

Dr. Klein commented on the district staff development day held on the day of the national election. Elementary level staff studied topics by grade level and subject areas, language arts curriculum and science issues. The middle level staff looked at achievement results, school improvement issues, department by department. The high school staff heard a speaker, Dr. Bauer from Oakland Intermediate School District, talk on developing quality assessments.

Dr. Klein commented on the Strategic Planning work presently underway.

Dr. Klein noted appreciation for the efforts of staff, and the work done each day with students.

President Richardson commented on the closure of schools during election day, noting it served the best interest and safety of children as most district schools were used as precinct polling sites.

Trustee Brennan acknowledged present negotiations and thanked the teachers for continuing with their best education within the classroom.

VIII. Meeting Open to the Public

Chris Kaczanowski, 92 S. Deeplands, Grosse Pointe Shores, commented on general counsel appointments and other various issues.

Laura Huebner, 491 Lincoln, Grosse Pointe, addressed the September 30th date for the state budget adoption.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Richardson adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Board Secretary