



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of Conference Meeting, December 6, 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

Vice-President Broderick called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

Present: Trustees Brennan, Broderick, Dindoffer and Vreede

Also Present: Superintendent Klein, Assistant Superintendents Allan and Fenton

Absent: Trustees Ismail, Kennedy and Richardson

The pledge of allegiance was led by Trustee Dindoffer.

II. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Klein noted that North High School student, Lauren Major, won first place in the 9th grade category for the North American International Auto Show Poster contest. Her poster will be on display at the auto show. She will receive a \$500 award and a packet of tickets to the auto show.

Dr. Klein also congratulated the North and South High School parents and music students who presented a wonderful holiday tea. The students provided a wonderful concert, and will be performing several other times during the next two weeks. North Choir will be performing at First English Lutheran Church on Friday, December 10, and Saturday, December 11 at 7:00 pm. South's holiday concert will be held at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church on Wednesday, December 15 at 7:30 pm. The jazz band will perform in the South cafeteria at 7:30 the same evening. A variety of other concerts are taking place at our elementary and middle schools and we welcome our gold card holders as well as other community members to join the festivities.

Dr. Klein shared information regarding the revenue estimation conference held by state lawmakers in Lansing. State revenues have come in considerably lower than predicted. The Department of Treasury estimated a \$113 million dollar shortfall in the state's school aid fund alone, as well as a \$256 million dollar shortfall in the general fund. Based on what Mr. Fenton

projects, this may mean anywhere between a \$2.5 to \$5.5 million dollar shortfall for Grosse Pointe Schools for the 2005-2006 school year. On January 13th another revenue estimation forecast will be held to determine whether the state school aid payments to school districts will be adjusted during this school year.

Dr. Klein also mentioned that on December 3 there was a meeting to apprise people from school districts across the county about state school financial issues. Thomas White, Michigan School Business Officials Executive Director, discussed the state school aid budget tracing the steps of state school finance from 1994, when Proposal A came in to effect, to the current day. Our parents and staff who attended will help form a communications network around the district to share information as it unfolds. We are very proud that one of our Richard parents, Laura Huebner, has offered to coordinate information. We hope there will be a concerted effort from school districts not only across Wayne County, but across Oakland and Macomb County, to contact the legislators and urge them to find solutions for school funding.

Trustee Vreede shared information regarding that meeting and stated that this rally was the start of a massive grass roots effort. Some major success was realized last fall with people emailing, writing, and phoning our legislators alerting them of the potential loss of revenue to the 20J districts.

Mrs. Vreede also noted that we need to get the word to Lansing from the voters that there is a structural problem with the way schools are presently funded and that we need them to work with us to ensure that we have increasing funds to allow us to continue to provide quality education to our students.

Dr. Klein shared that the Grosse Pointe School's Strategic Planning Task Force has held its second meeting. She expressed her appreciation for the participation of various people from the community and the staff who are helping us to see how well we are doing as a district and how we can continue to improve the quality of our work.

Dr. Klein noted that the board would hear later in the evening about the proposed millage election in February. As the Community Education brochure arrives across the community this week, it includes Partners in Learning insert about the millage election. A citizens' committee has begun work to support the millage and will be sharing information as well.

Dr. Klein noted that there were inaccuracies in recent comments appearing in the Grosse Pointe News as well as comments made at a public forum held

at Grosse Pointe North High School regarding the staffing at the central office and the current budget. The comments made regarding staffing levels at the central office, previously discussed in March 2001, were inaccurate in regard to the number of staff members there. Substantial cuts have been made in the interim and a number of the positions have already been eliminated.

Dr. Klein also clarified that services mentioned included language arts support specialists, which at that time were included in the central office budget, but are now in elementary budgets. Mentioned also were technology staff, a district library media specialist, elementary science specialists, technology integrators and differentiation specialists who have all been eliminated. Additional reductions have been made in instructional TV coordinator, TV broadcasting, and central office staffing for administrators and secretaries.

Trustee Broderick noted that staffing information is available from Mr. Fenton and Dr. Klein.

Dr. Klein noted that Dr. Allan and Mr. Warras are presently updating information regarding the curriculum, instruction, assessment, evaluation and technology departments. District staffing gets summarized each year in the information book and is available at central office, as well as city offices.

Trustee Brennan again noted that this information would be shared with anyone who requested this information.

III. Tentative Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of December 13, 2004

A. Human Resources Report

Dr. Klein noted the resignation of two classroom assistants.

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 November 1 and 8, 2004, Work Session Minutes of November 8, 15, 16 and 30, 2004 and Closed Session Minutes of November 1, 2004.

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

D. G.A.A.A. #2

Mr. Fenton explained the deviations in the General Fund requested since the budget was approved on October 11, 2004. They include a decrease in the district fund equity of \$194,488; an adjustment in the Capital Project Fund since June 30, 2004 of \$7,284,837 for expenditures; an adjustment from the beginning fund balance with a decrease of \$105,457; and a \$50,000 capital revenue increase, leaving the district with a \$55,457 decrease in ending fund equity. The board is asked to approve the General Appropriations Act Amendment #2 to the General Fund, School Service Fund and Capital Project Fund.

E. Approval of Resolution for Millage Election

The Board received a resolution pertaining to the millage election which will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2005. The ballots include: Homestead Hold Harmless, which is a continuation of two millages from 2000', 2) Renewal of the Non-Homestead Millage, which is a renewal of the current rate; and 3) Restoration and "Guarantee" up to 18 mills. While items #2 and #3 will be 19 mills, the school system can only levy a maximum of 18 mills.

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

F. Approval of Neighborhood Club Lease

The Neighborhood Club has used Grosse Pointe School facilities for their programs for several years. A lease agreement for use of the gyms has been established as a result of a recommendation from the Building Use Committee several years ago. This year's lease for \$20,000 will continue the district's cooperative relationship with the Neighborhood Club which provides recreational opportunities for children and adults.

The Board is asked to approve the Neighborhood Club lease as presented.

G. Approval of High School Program of Studies & Course Proposals

The current High School Program of Studies continues progress in increasing the consistency between both high schools, reflecting changes and improvements in the district curriculum and clarifying district regulations to make them more accessible to parents and students. There is no major

curriculum change in this year's High School Program of Studies. Changes are primarily in wording to clarify meaning.

The Board is asked to approve the 2005-2006 High School Program of Studies as presented.

H. Bid – Piano Replacement

Mary Jane Failla and a committee of music teachers evaluated the pianos being replaced and concluded that the Yamaha grand piano would be the best piano for the schools and the Steinway piano for auditoriums. The pianos will be purchased from the voted bond. The budget for the pianos is \$319,983. Although the combined pianos total \$328,249, the district will be trading in its older pianos for a rebate of \$9,200.

The Board is asked to award the bid for 39 Studio and 5 Yamaha grand pianos to Evola Music for a total of \$234,635, and the bid for 2 Steinway grand pianos to Hammell Music for a total of \$93,614.

Vice-President Broderick suggested including the following items for the consent agenda for action at the December 13, 2004 Regular Board Meeting: **A) Human Resources Report; B) Accounts Payable Report; C) Minutes; D) G.A.A.A. #2; and H) Bid – Piano Replacement.** Items **E) Approval of Resolution for Millage Election, F) Approval of Neighborhood Club Lease and G) Approval of High School Program of Studies and Course Proposals** will be placed on the regular agenda for action.

IV. Items for Information and Discussion for the December 13, 2004 Regular Meeting will include:

- A. Middle and High School Scheduling Report: Options for 2005-2006 (7 period, 6 period day and other possibilities)**
- B. Extended Day Kindergarten Rates**
- C. Staff Development Report**
- D. Community Education Annual Report**
- E. Project Oversight Committee Update**

V. Future Meetings

A Board Work Session will be held on Monday, December 13, 2004 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.

VI. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Vreede thanked those who came to tonight's meeting. She also mentioned the grass roots effort being formed to generate a web-based campaign that would bring about school finance solutions. Mrs. Vreede said that it was important for the community to do all that it can to protect what it holds important.

Trustee Dindoffer also agreed that it is important to pursue the grass roots effort to secure funding for school programs. She said she looks forward to the superb High School Program of Studies and is looking forward to celebrating its many offerings.

Trustee Brennan commented on the number of teachers that came to the meeting tonight to voice their concerns over the absence of a contract. He said he, along with the teachers, hopes to come to a fair and equitable contract settlement soon. He added that it is his sincere hope to resolve the issues regarding the teacher contract in light of the complicated financial and ever-shrinking funds facing the district.

Dr. Klein offered her thanks to the music department and Mrs. Failla for their work on researching the information needed for the piano replacement. She thanked Mr. Broderick, Mr. Ismail and Mrs. Vreede who joined her on Saturday, December 4 at the School Finance workshop presented by Clark Hill. Dr. Klein added that January, February and March will be key months for school finance decisions.

VII. Meeting Open to the Public

Dorothy Wrosch, 280 Fisher, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke on the teacher's contract being settled in a fair and equitable manner.

Nancy Schulte, 114 Handy, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grade 3 teacher, Richard elementary, commented on the need for a positive and production teacher contract as soon as possible.

Kathleen Kelly, 560 Cadieux, Grosse Pointe Park, Richard teacher, commented on a fair and equitable contract for teachers.

Holly Bendure, 1310 Three Mile, Grosse Pointe Park, Richard teacher, shared concerns on a fair and equitable contract for teachers.

Yvette Vctor, 540 Neff, Grosse Pointe City, Richard teacher, spoke about a fair and equitable contract for teachers.

Dorothy Black, 225 McKinley, Grosse Pointe Farms, Richard teacher, commented on the need for a fair and equitable contract for teachers.

Kathleen Hilton, 1636 N. Renaud, Poupard teacher, commented on the need for a fair and equitable contract for teachers.

Sonja Franchett, 1141 Yorkshire, Grosse Pointe Park, Trombly teacher, shared concerns on the contract for teachers.

Marty Weaver, 475 Lakeland, Grosse Pointe City, Trombly teacher, commented on the need for a fair contract for teachers.

Helen Utchenik, 25416 Henley, Huntington Woods, Trombly teacher, shared concerns on the settlement of a fair contract for teachers.

Eric Frakes, 1028 Nottingham, Grosse Pointe Park, Trombly teacher, shared concerns on the settlement of a contract for teachers.

Trustee Broderick expressed the Board's acknowledgement and appreciation of the efforts, devotion and initiative of the teachers in the district. The quality of the students who have graduated are a reflection of this effort. We hope for a contract that meets the needs of the teachers as well as the district and the community.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice-President Broderick adjourned the meeting at 10:29 p.m.

Board Secretary