



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 13, 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 Dindoffer called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m.

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

Also Present: Superintendent Klein, Assistant Superintendents Allan and Fenton

Absent: Trustee Ismail

The pledge of allegiance was led by Trustee Dindoffer.

II. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Klein offered congratulations to the North choir for the fine performances last Friday and Saturday evenings. North choir sang at the Rotary meeting held today at the War Memorial and did a wonderful job representing the school district.

Dr. Klein invited the community to attend the South's Holiday Jazz Band Concert on Wednesday, December 15th at 7:30 p.m. in South cafeteria, and the South Choir Concert, also on Wednesday at the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Klein congratulated North and south students for participating in the Michigan Mathematics prize competition.

Dr. Klein also mentioned that the new Grosse Pointe Park Library opens in January, 2005. Tomorrow the Children's Book Brigade will move the last 100 books from the old Park Branch Library at Pierce Middle School to the new Park Branch Library on Jefferson.

Dr. Klein pointed out that the *Partners in Learning* section of the Community Education brochure describes the millage proposals for the February election.

Dr. Klein also mentioned that the next Revenue Estimation Conference in Lansing to discuss school funding will be on January 13, 2005.

III. Public Comments on Non-Action Items

Leo Nouhan, 1326 Yorkshire, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about maintaining the excellence in the school system no matter what the cost.

Christy Winder, 312 Cloverly, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke about the high school report presented and the proposal to switch to a 6 hour school day.

Julie Artis, 916 University, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about the proposal to switch to a 6 hour school day.

Ben Lupo, 1825 Roslyn, Grosse Pointe Woods, commented on proposed budget cuts that would decrease academic opportunities and presented board members with petitions to maintain the 7 period day.

Ruvani Fonseka, 17 Hawthorne Rd., Grosse Pointe Shores, spoke against the proposal to cut the 7 hour school day to 6 periods.

Vicki Boyce, 57 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Woods, commented on the proposed 7 to 6 hour change in the school day.

Judy Gilbert, 419 Lincoln, Grosse Pointe, commented on teacher contract provisions and the six hour day proposal.

Kari Anne Stall, 1447 Anita, Grosse Pointe Woods, protested the proposed cut in the school day which could negatively affect fine and performing arts choices for students.

Lu Battaglieri, 1216 Kendale, Lansing, spoke about the teacher's contract.

Tom Briske, 19258 Eastborne, commented on the teacher contract negotiations.

Matt McGuire, 1965 Kenmore, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke regarding teacher contract negotiations.

Jeff Nardone, 1365 Harvard, Grosse Pointe Park, commented on the attributes of teachers.

Pat Pompei, 829 Grand Marais, Grosse Pointe Park, talked about a day in the life of a Lifeskills teacher.

Dan Griesbaum, 835 Hidden Lane, Grosse Pointe Woods, commented on the teacher contract and coaching.

Barbara Gruenwald, 1335 Whittier Rd., Grosse Pointe Park, commented on the teacher contract.

Tom Berschback, 1214 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park, commented on the teacher contract.

Frances Pelham Carnaghi, 1170 Balfour, Grosse Pointe Park, commented on teacher negotiations.

Cheryl Lapensee, 1201 S. Oxford, Grosse Pointe Woods, commented on the teacher contract.

President Richardson thanked those who spoke for their comments and recommended that the Board take a five minute break.

IV. Public Comments on Consent Agenda Action Items

No one came forward to speak.

V. Public Comments on Regular Agenda Action Items

No one came forward to speak.

VI. Consent Agenda Action Items

A. Human Resources Report

Dr. Klein noted the resignations of two classroom assistants.

B. Business Items - Accounts Payable

The business items were presented for Board approval.

C. Approval of Conference and Regular Meeting Minutes from November 1 and 8, 2004, Work Session Minutes of November 8, 15, 16 and 30, 2004, and Closed Session Minutes of November 1, 2004

The Board was asked to approve the minutes as presented.

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

Mr. Fenton explained the changes in the General Fund requested since the last budget amendment was approved on October 11, 2004. This included 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 was asked to approve the General Appropriations Act Amendment #2 to the General Fund, School Service Fund, and Capital Project Fund.

E. 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 Board was 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.

It was Moved by: Trustee Broderick **Supported by:** Trustee Dindoffer

THAT the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Brennan, Broderick, Dindoffer, Kennedy, Richardson and Vreede

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

Absent: Trustee Ismail

VII. Regular Agenda Action Item

A. 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 1) 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. This provides room for the Headlee rollback.

It was Moved by: Trustee Broderick **Supported by:** Trustee Brennan

THAT the Board approve the Resolution for the Millage Election.

Ayes: Trustees Brennan, Broderick, Dindoffer, Kennedy, Richardson and Vreede

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

Absent: Trustee Ismail

B. Approval of Neighborhood Club Lease

The Board was asked to approve the Neighborhood Club Lease at a rate of \$20,000 for the year, which will continue the district's cooperative relationship with the Neighborhood Club at a rate of \$20,000 for the year.

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

THAT the Board approve the Neighborhood Club Lease.

Ayes: Trustees Brennan, Broderick, Dindoffer, Kennedy, Richardson and Vreede

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

Absent: Trustee Ismail

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

The Board was asked to approve the 2005-2006 High School Program of Studies which continues to increase the consistency between the two high schools. It reflects changes and improvements in the district curriculum and clarifies district regulations to make them more accessible to parents and students. There are no major curriculum changes in this year's High School Program of Studies.

It was Moved by: Trustee Dindoffer **Supported by:** Trustee Brennan

THAT the Board approve the High School Program of Studies and Course Proposals as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Brennan, Broderick, Dindoffer, Kennedy, Richardson and Vreede

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

Absent: Trustee Ismail

VIII. Items for Information and Discussion

A. Middle and High School Scheduling Report: Options for 2005-2006 (7 period, 6 period day and other possibilities)

Dr. Klein began by explaining the reasons for the continued financial problems facing the school district. She added that in spite of those problems, the district strives to maintain support for students and staff, high expectations and standards for students and staff, focus on individual student learning needs, and personalization of the school environment. Dr. Klein reviewed the budget cuts that have occurred over a three year period at central office and revenue enhancement from sources like the *Fund for Excellence*, naming opportunities, creating alumni fundraising programs, expanding registration fees for extra-curricular middle and high school activities, and continuing to seek grant funding.

Dr. Michael Dib, Brownell principal, began the middle school portion of the presentation by explaining the options for middle school programs and services for 2005-2006. He began by reiterating Dr. Klein's comment that these options are not recommendations, but rather choices in response to the request for information about funding in the secondary schools.

Dr. Dib's powerpoint presentation gave the decreases over the past three years and the cost reduction possibilities with options that included increasing class size, reducing other spending and reducing the day from 7 to 6 periods.

Mr. James Steeby, North High School principal, continued the discussion by pointing out the key elements of the high school academic program and the possible cost reduction options for high schools. He elaborated on the potential savings of each option including increasing class size, reducing other spending and reducing the day from 7 to 6 periods.

Dr. Klein concluded by adding that the financial outlook is poor as more cuts will likely be necessary in 2005-2006. She added that categorical 20J cuts are still a possibility also. Other issues impacting the district at this time are union contracts, (which are being negotiated), and the millages, which will expire at the end of the 2004-2005 school year.

Dr. Klein also added that the highest priority for the district is a top quality K-12 instructional program.

B. Extended Day Kindergarten Rates

The tuition rate for the 2005-2006 Extended Day Kindergarten Program will be \$2,850, an increase of \$125.00 (4.6%) from the 2004-2005 school year. Tuition fees are used to pay the costs of classroom salaries and benefits, and extra supplies for the additional half-day the children attend school.

C. Staff Development Report

A staff development report was distributed to board members at an earlier time. Dr. Allan will be glad to respond to any questions from Board members. No questions were asked of the report at this time.

D. Community Education Annual Report

A community education report was distributed to board members at an earlier time. Mrs. Jarvis will gladly respond to any Board questions. No questions were asked at this time.

E. Project Oversight Committee Update

Mr. Broderick explained there will be a Project Oversight Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2004 at 7:00 a.m. in the small conference room of the Administration Building.

IX. Future Meetings

A Conference Meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, January 3, 2005, followed by a Regular meeting of the Board on January 10, 2005 in the Wicking Library of Grosse Pointe South High School.

X. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Brennan had no comment.

Trustee Dindoffer commented that these are difficult times. Teachers do extraordinary work every day in classrooms and she appreciates each teacher that spoke tonight.

Trustee Broderick talked about the community forums to be held after the first of the year to provide opportunities for community questions and involvement in the millage process. He encouraged people to come to these forums to learn about the millage.

Trustee Kennedy thanked members of the South High School choir for the caroling session she received over the weekend.

Trustee Vreede commented that there was no proration of state aid for now which means no budget cuts for now. She said that funding is flat from the state per pupil allocation, and also mentioned the grass roots effort taking place and encouraged the community to e-mail their availability to participate in this effort. She said that legislators need to hear from the voters.

Mrs. Vreede made note of the holiday concerts taking place in schools throughout the district. She thanked those involved with the Strategic Planning effort, as well as those that attended tonight's meeting.

Dr. Klein noted that the millage information is now on the district website. She also mentioned the grass roots effort on state school finance.

Dr. Klein said that there would be a Strategic Plan report to the Board in the spring. Information about the Strategic Plan work underway is on the district website.

Dr. Klein wished everyone a safe and restful holiday!

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Richardson adjourned the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

Board Secretary