



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education**  
**Minutes of the June 13, 2005 Regular Board Meeting**  
**Wicking Library, Grosse Pointe South High School**  
**11 Grosse Pointe Blvd. Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS – 8:00 P.M.**

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

President Richardson called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m.

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

**Also Present:** Superintendent Suzanne Klein and Assistant Superintendents Allan and Fenton

The pledge of allegiance was led by Trustee Brennan.

**II. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Klein introduced Mrs. Grace Smith, Academic Technology Coordinator, who enlisted Monteith students to design the logo for the Parent Connect webpage. The student responsible for creating the picture is Katie Murray, 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Monteith. She was introduced along with her teacher, Mrs. Marilyn Lister. Her creation will be used on all Parent Connect correspondence and is available for viewing on the district webpage.

Dr. Klein also noted that end of the year school promotion ceremonies are underway this week with the North and South graduations scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday.

Summer School information has been placed on the district web page. Classes will begin on July 5, 2005. Dr. Klein also mentioned that there are also summer opportunities for students through the Community Education program offerings.

Dr. Klein announced that the next meetings of the Board will be held at Parcels Middle School on June 20, 27 and July 11, 2005.

**III. Public Comments on Non-Action Items**

Cindy Pangborn, 403 Moran, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke on high school athletics.

**IV. Public Comments on Consent Agenda Action Items**

No came forward to comment.

**V. Public Comments on Regular Agenda Action Items**

No one came forward to comment.

**VI. Consent Agenda Action Items**

Dr. Klein noted that the following items, discussed at the Board Conference Meeting of June 6, 2005, were contained in the Consent Agenda for vote:

- A. Human Resources Report**
- B. Business Items: Accounts Payable**
- C. Layoff of Support Staff**
- D. G.A.A.A. #5**
- E. Field Trip to Stratford, Ontario**
- F. Approval of Policy on Community Service**
- G. Bid - Transportation**
- H. Approval of Agreements with Paraprofessional, Technology and Non-Instructional Supervisors Groups**

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

**THAT the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

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

**Nays:** None      **Motion carried.**

**VII. Regular Agenda Action Items**

- A. Approval of Minutes from Closed Sessions of May 2, 16 and 26, 2005, Work Session Minutes of May 2, 9 and 12, 2005, Special Meeting Minutes of May 16 and 31, 2005, Conference Minutes of May 2, 2005 and Regular Minutes of May 9, 2005**

The above minutes were presented for approval.

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

**THAT the Board Approve the Minutes as presented.**

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

**Nays:** None      **Motion carried.**

**B. Approval of Annual Meeting and Board Calendar for 2005-2006**

The Calendar of Board Meetings was presented for approval.

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

**THAT the Calendar be approved as presented.**

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

**Nays:** None      **Motion carried.**

**C. Approval of Construction at Elworthy Field**

The Board is asked to approve the construction at Elworthy Field.

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

**THAT the Board approve construction at Elworthy Field.**

After Board discussion, issues were raised and:

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

**THAT the Approval of Construction at Elworthy Field be tabled until the Meeting of June 20, 2005.**

**Trustee Kennedy stated she would not vote due to a familial relationship.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Brennan, Broderick, Dindoffer, Ismail, Richardson and Vreede

**Nays:** None      **Motion carried.**

**D. Bid – South High School Doors**

The Board is asked to approve the bid for installation of the new doors at South High School.

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

**THAT the Board approve the bid for installation of Doors at South High School.**

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

**Nays:** None      **Motion carried.**

**E. Approval of Central Office Administrator Contracts**

The Board is asked to approve the agreement with central office administrators.

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

**THAT the Board approve the agreement with central office administrators.**

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

**Nays:** None      **Motion carried.**

**VIII. Items for Information and Discussion**

**A. Textbook Recommendations for Adoption as a Result of the K-8 Language Arts Curriculum Adoption**

Mrs. Chris Kaiser, Language Arts Specialist, was available to answer questions.

**1. Kindergarten – Grade 3 English Language Arts Textbooks**

An extensive pilot study was conducted to identify materials for kindergarten through grade 5. After a review of existing programs and their alignment with the curriculum, two companies were selected for the pilot study. For Kindergarten through grade 3, the Houghton Mifflin materials were selected for purchase. The materials provide an integrated approach to reading, writing, grammar, spelling and handwriting and are well aligned with the new district English Language Arts Curriculum. The Board will be asked to approve these materials for a cost of \$244,554.

**2. Grades 4 and 5 English Language Arts Instructional Materials**

A pilot study was conducted to identify materials for kindergarten through grade 5. Pilot teachers recommended the purchase of materials for vocabulary, writing, and comprehension instruction to use with previously selected literature. *Wordly Wise* has been selected as a tool for teaching vocabulary in grades 4 and 5. It is available at a variety of skill levels allowing for differentiation within a classroom. The cost, if approved would be \$9,145.

**3. Additional Literature for Approved Titles List for Grades K-8**

The Grosse Pointe Public Schools maintains two lists of literature titles that carry Board approval, but are not core or reserved titles. These lists are called Board Approved Language Arts titles. There is one list for Kindergarten through grade 8 and another for grade 6 through high school. Teachers use the list as reference when selecting supplemental reading for their students. Literary works are added to the list by teacher request. Two titles have been recommended for addition to the K-8 list: The Canada Geese Quilt by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, and Love That Dog by Sharon Creech.

The Board will be asked to approve the addition of these two new titles to the list.

**B. Information Regarding Language Arts Instructional Materials in Grades 1 through 8**

The board is asked to approve Language Arts Instructional materials: Writing Traits Classroom Kits for writing instructional in grade 1-8 for a cost of \$30,430; Fundamentals in Sentence Writing Strategy and the Proficiency in Sentence Writing Strategy for middle school at a cost of 43,100; and Daily Oral Language Plus materials for the English classes at middle school at a cost of approximately \$1,850.

**C. Adoption of Honors Journalism Textbook**

Honors Journalism is a pilot course replacing the traditional Journalism course currently offered at the high school. It was designed primarily for 10<sup>th</sup> graders, giving them the opportunity to produce two issues of the high school newspaper and offers a more challenging, fast-paced writing environment for students. The Radical Write by Bobby Hawthorne is proposed as the primary textbook for Honors Journalism. It will be used to study narrative structure, learn the conventions of journalistic style, and evaluate excellence in journalism. If approved, the cost would be \$594.

**D. Special Education Human Sexuality Instructional Modifications**

Students with special needs must have access and understand the district's human sexuality curriculum. Materials must be presented using language at the appropriate level. Since it is important to address and emphasize areas of special concern, the district is recommending that the Board adopt the Family Life and Sexual Health program (F.L.A.S.H.), which is an adapted curriculum of the reproductive health curriculum used in the general education setting. The curriculum would be taught to secondary students with cognitive impairments, with the intent of expanding it to secondary students with autism as well.

Procedures to inform parents/ guardians of the new curriculum will be put into place to observe all of the guidelines approved by the district for the general education population as well as some additional accommodations.

**E. Revenue Enhancement Update**

Trustee Vreede said that as well as herself, Mrs. Dindoffer, Mrs. Kennedy, Dr. Klein, and Mr. Fenton comprise the Revenue Enhancement Sub-Committee team and recently had established a contract with fund raising consultant, Cedric Richner of Richner & Richner. He will help guide the study and a report of that study will be presented in the fall.

**F. Project Oversight Update**

Trustee Broderick reported that a meeting prior to the board meeting this evening discussed the bond project spending to date as well as remaining projects and their cost estimates. Future projects discussed were the South High School pool and multi-purpose room and Science projects at the middle schools and several other projects. The Board

discussed funding concerns for some of the projects where the project scope had changed since the passing of the bond. He said that the Board discussed where those funds would be reallocated from to cover finishing those projects. The Board was also brought up to date on other projects in progress.

#### **G. Board of Canvassers Report**

Mr. Fenton said that the Board of Canvassers, a locally appointed board, met on May 10, 2005 and certified the regular election. Alice Kosinski was certified as the new board member and Joan Dindoffer as returning board member of that election. The Board of Canvassers no longer provides the district with minutes of their meetings, but posts the election results on the Wayne County website.

#### **H. Enrollment Update**

Mr. Fenton said that based on the spring count which was 8,986 students, he expects enrollment to remain about the same for next year. However, Mr. Fenton said that there was a slight increase in elementary enrollment offsetting the slight decrease in high school enrollment. He said that enrollment looks “flat” at this time.

#### **I. Transfer Regulations for Community School**

Community School currently services students in Grade 9 to 12 at South High School. Freshman and sophomores attend Community School for the entire day. Juniors and seniors attend Community School for half a day. Additional information about the Community School program is contained in their brochure.

Regulations have been developed by the high school administrators and Community School Director to clarify Community School enrollment and transfer procedures.

Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, students who are admitted to Community High School will be given the option to transfer to the Community High School host school. Students who are admitted prior to the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year will have the option of transferring to the host school until they leave Community High School. Enrollment in the host school, when the host school is not the student’s school of residence, will be contingent upon the student’s continued enrollment at Community High School. If the student leaves Community High School, he will be re-enrolled in the school of residence. If a student chooses not to transfer to the host school, he must return to his home school to participate in extracurricular activities or athletics unless that activity is not offered at the host school. Any and all participation in athletics is governed by MHSAA rules or the rules of the governing body for non-MHSAA sports.

Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, students who are admitted to Community High School will automatically be enrolled in the host school. This enrollment in the host school, when the host school is not the student’s school of residence, will be contingent upon the student’s continued enrollment at Community High School. If the student leaves Community High School, he will be re-enrolled in his school of residence.

## **IX. Future Meetings**

A Public Hearing on the budget will be held on June 20, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. On June 27, 2005 a Special Meeting of the Board will be held to approve the budget for 2005-2006 and on July 11, 2005, the Board will hold its Annual Organizational Meeting at 7:00 p.m. All three meetings will be held at Parcels Middle School in the auditorium, 20600 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.

## **X. Other Comments from Board Members and the Superintendent**

Trustee Vreede thanked Mr. Brennan for all that he has given to the Board for the past eight years. She said at this time of the year we celebrate many successes. She also called attention to a very much needed increase to our state per pupil funding. Mrs. Vreede thanked Mrs. Laura Huebner for her organization and support of a grass roots effort which will include a visit to Lansing on June 21<sup>st</sup> for a rally on school funding. She encouraged all who are available to attend this opportunity to speak on behalf of school funding.

Trustee Kennedy echoed Mrs. Vreede's comments regarding Mr. Brennan. She also thanked her own children's teachers for all that they have given to her children.

Trustee Broderick congratulated and thanked Mr. Brennan. He said that over the last four years, he has appreciated his thoughts and continued support to the board and school district. He wished him well on his retirement from the school board.

Trustee Dindoffer said that she came on board the same time as Mr. Brennan and it has been a pleasure to work with him. She noted Mr. Brennan's quick wit and decisiveness and said that the community owes a great debt to Mr. Brennan for his service on the board. Mrs. Dindoffer congratulated the school district on another great year. She thanked the many wonderful teachers in the district who have made an impact on the students.

Trustee Ismail said that it was a 'fun night' at the Maire performance of "Charlie Brown". He said that he was very impressed with the Grosse Pointe South choir booster's annual meeting and the amount of money that they have raised for the program. He asked Dr. Klein for a final budget update and information on how community members may get a copy of that budget.

Trustee Brennan said that he has been "blessed many times over" during his time on the board. He added that it has been a wonderful experience, and he leaves with a tremendous amount of gratitude to the community. He recognized his fellow trustees who have always been driven by an interest in improving the district and the quality of education in the district. He also said that the community is fortunate to have the fine, quality input of the current board. He also said that Dr. Klein, Mr. Fenton, Dr. Allan and Mr. Warras are special administrators and they lead wonderful teachers. He concluded that the district must move forward in spite of the difficult challenges and come together with respect, keeping open-mindedness toward each other and accepting the consensus of the board. He wished the board "not friendship, but fellowship."

Dr. Klein said that it has been her pleasure to get to know Mr. Brennan over the past eight years. She said that we have come to know him as a person of great wisdom and wit. She said the district would miss his care and commitment to the job. Dr. Klein then presented Mr. Brennan with a gift from the school district.

## **XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

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Board Secretary