



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of Conference Meeting, June 6, 2005
Wicking Library, Grosse Pointe South High School
11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

ORDER OF BUSINESS: 8:00 P.M.

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

President Richardson called the meeting to order at 8:12 p.m.

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

Also Present: Superintendent Klein and Assistant Superintendents Fenton and Allan.

Trustee Vreede led the pledge of allegiance.

II. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Klein commented on the discussion from the Board Work Session on the budget that was held prior to the conference meeting. She noted that Mr. Fenton had highlighted details of the support services budget. He reported that after careful study, the district has decided not to outsource custodial services for the 2005-2006 school year. Mr. Fenton said that there were a variety of firms that bid for the service, but the recommendation was that the district would continue hiring its own custodial employees for the next school year. If cost constraints continue, outside services and other options will again be investigated.

Secondary school parents have recently received information explaining the Parent Connect service now available to middle and high school families in the district. Dr. Klein noted that this program is an opportunity for parents to have direct access to important student information at home. Parents may view attendance, grades, report card marks, transcript data and other pertinent information.

The art on the Parent Connect letter was designed by Katie Murray, a student at Monteith Elementary School. Her design portrayed the concept of the parent connecting with the schools by computer from home.

Dr. Klein complimented South students on an excellent Broadway 2005 production as well as North scholar athletes who received their honors. On the

15th and the 16th of June, North and South students will receive their diplomas as graduation ceremonies take place.

Dr. Klein also congratulated high school athletes that participated in state level contests over the past weekend. She highlighted those winners in the State Special Olympics games.

Dr. Klein made note of a community forum last week that provided information regarding revised enrollment and residency procedures. The administrative staff has been working on these revisions with Mark McInerney, school district legal counsel, for a number of months in anticipation of creating a revised process for the 2005-2006 school year. The powerpoint presentation explained: 1) enrollment procedures for the next school year; 2) the process for a residency re-verification; and 3) other means and measures to verify residency. Dr. Klein said that parents of **all** students would need to re-register at a designated registration site in person. Dates and times will be published and posted in schools and on the district website. The location is yet to be determined as construction throughout the district restricts where this process could be located. Part-time and current employees will be hired to re-register students as confidentiality factors are important considerations. However, the administration has determined that there are elements of the re-registration process that could be staffed by volunteers.

The Board then had an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. McInerney about the process. He said that the administration could proceed to finalize the re-registration details once the Board gives them the authorization and direction to continue with the process outlined by Dr. Klein. This would give the administration the time needed to complete the details, communicate the process to the community, and have the district-wide re-registration process finished by the time school opens.

Dr. Klein shared news from both Ferry and Kerby Elementary Schools whose students have had wonderful results on the elementary MEAP scores. Dr. Allan noted that Ferry, out of about 2600 elementary schools in the state, had the 6th highest MEAP score in Social Studies. Kerby had a 100% passing rate in Science, which tied them for first place with 55 other state schools. Dr. Allan provided additional information on district MEAP results.

The following community members commented on residency and re-registration plans:

Dan Schulte, Grosse Pointe Shores
Chris Cullen, Grosse Pointe Shores
Jeanne Lizza, Grosse Pointe Woods
Dave Weiner, Grosse Pointe Park
Tija Spitzberg, Grosse Pointe Park
Michelle Minturn, Grosse Pointe Shores

Carol Clemens, Grosse Pointe
William Dennis, Grosse Pointe
Leslie Derrick, Grosse Pointe Shores
Pat Zens, Grosse Pointe Park,
Rob Brown, Grosse Pointe Woods
Mr. Maniaci, Grosse Pointe Woods, also addressed the bidding process.
Peter Schuler, Grosse Pointe Farms

III. Public Comments on Regular Agenda Action Items

Sue Steiger, Grosse Pointe Park, shared comments on the Grosse Pointe Public Library board selection.

Ann Kondak, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared comments on the Grosse Pointe Public Library board selection.

Frank Romano, Grosse Pointe Park, commented on the library board selection.

IV. Regular Agenda Action Items

A. Approval of Library Board Trustee

Following the League of Women Voters forum held on May 16, 2005, the Nominating Sub-Committee of the Board of Education (Mr. Broderick, Mr. Ismail, Ms. Richardson) met to review the candidates' credentials.

The Board is asked to receive the report of the Nominating Sub-Committee and take action to appoint a new trustee for the Grosse Pointe Public Library.

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

THAT the Board receive the report of the Nominating Sub-Committee and take action to appoint Mr. Edwin C. Frederickson to the Public Library Board.

Ayes: Trustees Broderick, Ismail, Kennedy, Richardson and Vreede

Nays: Trustees Dindoffer and Brennan

Motion carried by a 5-2 vote.

V. Tentative Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of June 13, 2005

A. Human Resources Report

Dr. Klein highlighted the retirements of two instructional staff members, Donica

Keogh, 19 years of service, and William Taylor, 37 years of service, both from Parcels Middle School; two classroom assistants, Sandra Buell and Constance Mergos; and one cafeteria staff member, Barbara Sangret.

B. Business Items – Accounts Payable

Business items were presented for 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. Layoff of Support Staff

Due to staffing reductions and changes it is necessary to layoff support personnel.

As resignations and requests for leaves of absence are received, support personnel being laid off will be recalled provided they are qualified for the open positions.

The Board is asked to approve the resolution as presented so that necessary layoff notices may be given.

D. Meeting Minutes of Closed Session Minutes 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 Board is asked to approve the Closed Session Minutes 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.

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

Michigan law and the policy of the Board of Education require that a schedule of the proposed date, time, and location of the regular monthly meetings of the Board be adopted and published prior to August 1st of each year.

The Board is asked to approve the Calendar for Board meetings for the 2005-2006 school year.

F. G.A.A.A. #5

According to Public Act 621, from which the General Appropriations Act is derived, there can be no deviation from the original Appropriations Act without amending the act.

Deviations requested since the budget was approved on May 9, 2005 have been presented as part of the attached General Appropriations Act Amendment No. 5.

The Board is asked to approve the General Appropriations Act Amendment #5 to the General Fund, Durant Fund, Sinking Fund, Capital Projects Fund and Debt Fund.

G. Field Trip to Stratford, Ontario

In October, 2005, Community School would like to make a day trip to Stratford, Ontario so that students and chaperones are able to see a production at a Festival Theatre. Plans are in the formative stage, but the students would travel and return (by bus) the same day. Since it is predictable that the State Department "Worldwide Caution" will still be in place at the time of the trip (September 7, 2005), and since planning and group ticket purchase need to be completed soon, Judith Olkowski, the trip's sponsor, is requesting a waiver of the Board's "Study Warning" for this field trip.

H. Approval of Policy on Community Service

Each school board has been directed to establish a community service policy that includes criteria for qualifying community service activities. Recent requirements mandate that, beginning with the graduating Class of 2006, each Michigan Merit Award eligible student shall complete a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer service prior to the June 30th of the graduation year.

It is the intent of the Merit Board that students perform service that directly benefits someone other than the student. Payment of the student's award will not be made unless the Merit Award office receives verification that the service has been completed.

I. Approval of Construction at Elworthy Field

At its May 16, 2005 meeting, the Grosse Pointe City Council gave conditional approval to construct a platform tennis facility at Elworthy Field. It will be located near the current tennis courts.

Since the property is owned by the school system and leased to the City, the lease provides language that states that the city "will not construct other structures on the premises...without the approval of the school system."

The Board is asked to approve the construction of a platform tennis facility on the Elworthy Field.

J. Bids

1. Transportation

Servicar of Michigan, Inc. of Royal Oak, Michigan has been providing special education transportation services for the school system for the past twelve years. It has been publicly advertised twice and extended for one year three times. Since the school system does not own or maintain a bus fleet for special education or other services, we rely solely on contracted services for transportation of special education students.

Since Servicar is primarily the only special education provider in this area, there would be very little benefit in developing the specifications and publicly advertising the bids.

In accordance with the Purchasing Policy DJED, the administration is asking that in accordance with sole source provisions the Servicar contract be extended for two years. The administration will reevaluate their services and costs at the end of the fiscal year 2006.

The Board is asked to accept the one bid of Servicar of Michigan, Inc. estimated for \$420,000 for 2005-2006.

2. South High School Doors

This project includes replacing doors, frames, and hardware in six openings, with two doors per opening. The doors will be historically accurate to the building. Two of the openings have the original doors and the others have been replaced but are in bad shape.

This project will be funded from the sinking fund.

The Board is asked to award the contract to replace the doors at South High School to F.H. Martin for \$73,200.00.

K. Approval of Agreements with Paraprofessional, Technology and Non-Instructional Supervisors Groups

The administration has reviewed the compensation and benefit programs with the Paraprofessional, Technology and Non-Instructional Supervisor units. It is recommended that a successor agreement with each unit as outlined previously be approved. The new agreements call for benefit changes and pay increases as reviewed. These agreements will carry the Paraprofessional, Technology and Non-Instructional Supervisor employment agreements through August, 2007.

The Board is asked to accept and ratify the 2004-2007 agreements with the Grosse Pointe Paraprofessionals, Technology and Non-Instructional Supervisor units.

L. Approval of Central Office Administrator Contracts

The agreement with the central office administrative staff has expired. The full text of the modified agreement has been presented for review. The changes, reviewed by members of the Negotiations Sub-Committee, parallel changes to the agreement with building administrators.

The Board is asked to approve the salary and benefits agreement with the non-union central office administrators for 2004-2007 as designated.

President Richardson suggested including the following items in a Consent Agenda: A) Human Resources Report; B) Business Items; C) Layoff of Support Staff; F) G.A.A.A. #5; G) Field Trip to Stratford, Ontario; H) Approval of Policy on Community Service; J) 1. Transportation; and K) Approval of Agreements with Paraprofessional, Technology and Non-Instructional Supervisors Groups. Items D) Approval of Minutes; E) Approval of Annual Meeting and Board Calendar for 2005-2006; I) Approval of Construction at Elworthy Field; J) 2. Bid – South High School Doors; and L) Approval of Central Office Administrator Contracts, will be placed on the agenda for June 13, 2005 as Regular Agenda Action Items.

VI. Future Meetings

A Work Session of the Board will be held on Monday, June 13, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m., both in Wicking Library. A Public Hearing on the Budget will be held on June 20, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in Parcels Auditorium, and a Special Meeting to Approve the Budget for 2005-2006 will be held on June 27, 2005 at 7:00 p.m., also in Parcels Auditorium.

VI. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Vreede apologized for opening an old wound, but read a statement that highlighted the fact that she does not support Ms. Richardson's comments on diversity.

Mrs. Vreede congratulated students, staff and families for laying the groundwork for continued success in the schools.

Trustee Kennedy had no comment.

Trustee Broderick commented on bid documents that were referenced by Mr. Maniaci. He noted that the bids in question were past the official submission date and therefore not eligible for consideration. Mr. Broderick also noted that bid integrity is always upheld in the bidding process.

Trustee Dindoffer had no comment.

Trustee Ismail commented on the process needed before bidding on a project. He made reference to the procedure that was followed in the case of the resident who commented on the bidding process for the South doors.

Trustee Brennan had no comment.

Dr. Klein noted that Information and Discussion items for June 13, 2005 include the purchase of Language Arts materials and that there would be an opportunity before the regular meeting for the Board to review those materials in the library.

Dr. Klein commented on the progress of Strategic Planning team. She also mentioned the regular 'coffee and conversation' meetings that would be scheduled next year at different times to discuss school district issues and programs.

Trustee Ismail welcomed Mr. Frederickson aboard as he moved into the vacant seat on the Grosse Pointe Public Library Board.

VII. Meeting Open to the Public

Mr. Frederickson thanked the board for their confidence and decision to select him for the vacant seat on the library board.

Margot Parker, 1100 Berkshire, Grosse Pointe Park, commented on the budget process and the Strategic Plan.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board,

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

THAT the Board move into a Closed Session to discuss Negotiations at 10:50 p.m.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Board Secretary