



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of Conference Meeting, May 2, 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 8:05 p.m.

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

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

Absent: Trustees Ismail and Vreede

Trustee Broderick led the pledge of allegiance.

II. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Klein invited the community as well as those in attendance to join the district in the many events occurring in schools during May and June.

This week alone there are many events taking place: Maire Elementary School is having their concert tonight; Ferry, Richard and Defer are having concerts tomorrow night; Kerby is having a vocal concert on Wednesday; Thursday night is the Mason vocal concert and Trombly instrumental; and on Friday the elementary and middle school band and orchestra from the honors program is having their concert at Parcels at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Klein encouraged the community to check the district website for the applause section which highlights noteworthy student achievements and events across the district. The Quiz Bowl competition found the North High School team in third place under the direction of Pat Hicks; at the intermediate level, the Parcels team coached by Scott Cooper won the whole event; Brownell placed fourth, coached by Jeannie Brousseau. The Tower Newspaper staff received awards this month; the Columbia Scholastic Press Association recognized students as well as the newspaper for overall excellence and received the prestigious Spartan Award. Students recognized in the National French exam, Spanish exam, and other foreign languages. They will be invited to join the Board at a meeting in June.

Mike Dib was invited to join Dr. Klein up front as another piece of good news was shared. Mr. Ted Reaume, Brownell head engineer, was nominated by fellow staff members at Brownell as support employee of the year for Grosse Pointe Schools. He received recognition at an awards assembly at the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn.

The district is beginning a study of the kindergarten program and Mr. Warras is putting out a call for members from the community as well as staff to be part of this study. The early elementary / early childhood component from the elementary study group is continuing their work and a request is now up on the website for interested community persons that would like to join this study.

Dr. Klein also noted that across the nation, this week is designated as Staff Appreciation Week. In honor of the employees of the school district, Dr. Klein said that a contribution will be made to the Fund for Excellence to show the district's appreciation to its staff members as well as to reinvest in the Grosse Pointe Schools at this time of budget constraints.

The Library Board appointments are on the agenda for later in the evening.

III. Tentative Agenda for the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2005

A. Human Resources Report

Dr. Klein highlighted the retirement of Dr. Susan Nowosad after thirteen years of service; the appointment of one classroom assistant due to enrollment growth; and the resignations of one instructional staff member due to relocation and one custodial engineer.

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. Meeting Minutes of April 4 and 11, 2005, Work Session Minutes of April 11, 14, 25, and 28, 2005, and Special Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2005

The Board is asked to approve the Minutes of April 4 and 11, 2005, Work Session Minutes of April 11, 14, 25 and 28, 2005, and Special Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2005. Any questions regarding the minutes can be directed to the Board Secretary, Mr. Brennan, or to the Superintendent's office.

D. Retirement Resolution

The Board is asked to adopt the resolution honoring the service of staff members who are retiring: Charles Erikson, Parcels; Helen Finkelmann, Ferry; Rodger Hynan, North; Pamela Lemerand, Student Services; Margaret Monaghan, North; Susan Nowosad, Maire; Janet Watt, Ferry; and Thomas Williams, Brownell.

E. Schools of Choice Resolution

Schools of Choice is part of the current School Aid Act under Section 105. By law, a school board must determine whether or not it will opt-in to schools of choice for the 2005-2006 school year by June 1, 2005.

The Board is asked to approve the resolution which meets the timeline required under the Schools of Choice provision of Public Act 300, and resolve to opt-out of the School of Choice provisions of PA 300 noting Board Policy JBC which traditionally provides two exceptions to the school board's residency policy.

F. G.A.A.A. #4

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 April 11, 2005 have been presented as part of the General Appropriations Act Amendment #4: \$1,985,921 increase in revenue due to a state aid and regular special education adjustment, additional Act 18 monies and a court placed agency adjustment; an increase in expenditures due to reclassification of fringe benefits and retirement estimates; an increase in funds from grants, leaving a total expenditure increase of \$1,207,570 and \$778,351 increase in fund equity.

The Board is asked to approve the General Appropriations Act Amendment #4 to the General fund as presented.

G. Resolution on WCRESA Budget for 2005-2006

The Michigan Legislature passed a number of new laws affecting ISDs. Although most of these laws do not affect local districts, two new areas of law were created that require ISD constituent school boards to take formal action in areas that were not previously required.

Section 380.624 of the Revised School Code now includes language which requires each constituent school board of Wayne RESA to participate in RESA's budget development process. WCRESA must submit its proposed general fund operating budget to the board of each constituent district no later than May 1 each year.

Not later than June 1 of each year, each local school board must review the proposed budget, adopt a board resolution expressing its support for or disapproval of the proposed budget, and submit to the RESA board any specific objections and proposed changes the constituent district board has to the budget. The Board is asked to adopt a resolution to support the WCRESA General Fund Operating Budget for 2005-2006.

Trustee Dindoffer questioned the need for each board member to sign this resolution as opposed to just the Board President and Secretary. Dr. Klein indicated that the resolution could be modified to reflect that change. President Richardson feels that the Grosse Pointe Board of Education does not have adequate knowledge of the Wayne County RESA budget to be able to sign such a resolution, and noted that she would not be signing in support of the resolution.

H. Approval of Overnight Field Trips to St. Catherine's, Ontario

In June, 2005, with the State Department Worldwide Caution still in place, the Grosse Pointe North and South crew team is again requesting that the Board set aside its Study Warning to allow the teams to attend the annual St. Catherine's regatta on Thursday, June 2nd through Sunday, June 5th and to participate in the Royal Canadian Henley on Tuesday, August 2nd through Sunday, August 7th.

The Board is asked to approve the request from the crew team of Grosse Pointe North and South to attend the regatta and the Royal Canadian Henley in St. Catherine's, Ontario and waive the "Study Warning" on student foreign travel.

Dr. Klein noted that new legislation obtained from Mr. Fenton's office states that students would now be required to carry a passport to travel to Canada.

I. Approval of Day Field Trip to Ontario, Canada

On May 12, 2005, the South High School Honors Earth Science classes, taught by Lisa Bouda and Shawn McNamara, will take students on a day trip to Ontario so that they (110 students, 3 teachers, 8 parent chaperones) are able to conduct a geologic study of a paleo-environment where Devonian aged fossils are found. In addition to collecting fossils, students will also be studying nearby coastal dunes and shoreline features that were subject to glacial and wave erosion. The group will travel and return the same day.

The Board is asked to waive the "Study Warning" for student foreign travel and approve the request for the South High School Honors Earth Science field trip to Ontario, Canada on May 12, 2005.

J. Bids

1. Mason Gym Floor

The bid for the Mason gym floor includes removal of the existing floor and base and replacement with a new cushioned wood gym floor. It includes a ventilated base which allows the floor to breathe. The floor will also be replaced in the gym office and storage room. This project will be funded from the sinking fund. The substantial completion date for this project is August 1, 2005.

The Board is asked to award the Mason School gym floor replacement to Star School Flooring Corporation for \$29,485.

2. South High School Water Main

This project includes a complete replacement of the cold water line to the building, from the street to the existing water meter. It requires both inside and outside work. This is most likely the main reason only one bid was received. There are contractors who do outside work only, and contractors who mainly work inside the building.

The substantial completion date of this project is August 22, 2005. This project will be funded by the sinking fund.

The Board is asked to award the bid to replace the South High School water main to A.G. Excavating, Inc. for \$139,000.

K. Approval of Earobics Literacy Launch

Earobics® is a computer-based instructional program that focuses on phonemic awareness, in addition to vocabulary, fluency, phonics, and comprehension. In Earobics students are engaged in computer activities that track progress and match item difficulty with level of student ability. The materials are individualized to student needs. In addition to computer activities literature and phonics manipulatives are available in the Earobics program. Earobics provides individualized training for each child. This program will be funded from several sources: \$21,000 will come from *Golden Apple Award* won by the Poupard staff several years ago given in recognition of the improvements in achievements made at Poupard; from the Earobics publisher; and the remainder from the Poupard PTO. The materials support the grade level expectations of the 2005 Grosse Pointe English Language Arts Curriculum.

L. Approval of Contract with the Grosse Pointe Administrator's Association

The administration and the Administrators' union (GPAA) has been negotiating

and have concluded a successor agreement. The new contract calls for language changes, benefit changes, and pay increases as discussed. This agreement will carry the administrators' contract through August, 2007.

The Board is asked to accept and ratify the 2004-2007 successor labor agreement with the Grosse Pointe Administrators Association.

President Richardson suggested including the following items in a Consent Agenda: A) Human Resources Report; B) Business Items; C) Meeting Minutes; E) Schools of Choice Resolution; F) G.A.A.A. #4; H) Approval of Overnight Field Trips to St. Catherine's, Ontario; A) Approval of Day Field Trip to Ontario, Canada; J) Bids, 1. Mason Gym Floor; J) 2. South High School Water Main; and K) Approval of Earobics Literacy Launch. Items D) Retirement; G) Resolution on WCRESA Budget for 2005-2006; and L) Approval of Contract with the Grosse Pointe Administrator's Association, will be placed on the agenda for May 9, 2005 as Regular Agenda Action Items.

IV. Items for Information and Discussion for May 9, 2005

Dr. Klein noted that the followed items will be on the agenda for Information and Discussion at the May 9, 2005 Regular Meeting:

A. Project Oversight Committee Update

Mr. Broderick announced that there would be a work session before next Monday's Regular Board Meeting to discuss the South High School site projects.

B. Revenue Enhancement Committee Update

The next Revenue Enhancement Committee meeting is Friday, May 13, 2005.

C. Policy Committee Update

Mrs. Dindoffer informed students and parents that a draft of the Community Services program for seniors would be available before the end of the school year.

D. Library Board Trustees

Ms. Richardson noted that under the authority of the Board of Education, the League of Women Voters would be sponsoring a public forum for library board candidates on Monday, May 16, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in Wicking Library at Grosse Pointe South High School. Ms. Richardson noted that names of candidates that submitted applications for the vacancy on the Library Board will be announced later in this evening's meeting and community members wishing to comment may do so at the next board meeting on May 9th, which is in advance of the public forum.

V. Public Comments on Regular Agenda Action Items

No one came forward to speak.

VI. Regular Agenda Action Items

A. Bid – Ferry Parking Lot

The bid for the Ferry parking lot includes replacement of the entire parking lot and extending the parking off the back of the existing lot. This will add approximately 21 parking spaces from the current 55.

The project will be funded from the sinking fund, \$45,781 (resurfacing), and the bond fund, \$88,869 (new construction), for a total cost of \$134,650.

The Board is asked to award the bid for the Ferry Elementary School parking lot to Pro-Line Asphalt for \$125,500.

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

THAT the Board award the bid for the Ferry Elementary School parking lot to Pro-Line Asphalt for \$125,500.

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

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

Absent: Trustees Ismail and Vreede

VII. Candidates for Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees

Nine individuals submitted their names to be considered for the vacancy on the library board: Harvey Weaver, Grosse Pointe City; Edwin C. Frederickson, Grosse Pointe City; Toni Gibson, Grosse Pointe Park; Frank Joyce, Grosse Pointe Park; Michael A. Trudel, Grosse Pointe Park; Stuart Pettit, Grosse Pointe Park; Jenny Nolan, Grosse Pointe Farms; Mary Adzigian, Grosse Pointe Woods; Jon Gandelot, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The open position is an at-large seat on the Grosse Pointe Library Board to fulfill the remainder of the term held by John Bruce . Next Monday is an opportunity for public comment on these individuals. A public forum will be held on May 16 at which any member of the community can participate and submit questions to the candidates. The Board will also be in attendance at this meeting to submit questions and following that, the nominating committee composed of Joan

Richardson, Jeff Broderick, and Ahmed Ismail will meet to make a recommendation of a single individual to the Board. Final action will take place on June 6.

V. Future Meetings

A Work Session of the Board will be held on Monday, May 9, 2005 in Room 198 followed by a Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. in Wicking Library of South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan.

VI. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent

Mr. Broderick had no comment.

Mrs. Kennedy commented that she spent an entire morning with Leann Peterson's kindergarten class at Ferry. Mrs. Kennedy commented on the effort Mrs. Peterson put in to her preparation, and how the class moved along effortlessly. She also thanked the students, and the classroom aides.

Mrs. Kennedy also thanked the employees for their dedicated work for the district.

Mrs. Dindoffer reminded everyone to vote in tomorrow's election, May 3rd. The polls are open from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

Mr. Brennan also encouraged everyone to vote. He also acknowledged the building engineers and custodians as being an integral part of the educational program. He expressed his appreciation for their efforts in keeping the district buildings clean, comfortable, inviting and warm places.

Dr. Klein noted that the summer school brochure with course offerings and enrichment opportunities was now available on the district website. Copies of the brochures are also available in school offices and district libraries.

Dr. Klein thanked the teaching staff, support staff, and extended volunteer group for their work in creating a school system of which we can be proud.

VII. Meeting Open to the Public

Tony Valentine, 20914 Ridgemont, Poupard Elementary, spoke on the subject of contracting out custodial services.

Maria Catalfo, 425 Roland Road, spoke on the subject of contracting out of custodial or food services.

Linda Peeples, 982 Washington Road, spoke on the privatization of cafeteria services.

Anca Vlasopolos, 820 Notre Dame, spoke on the issue of school records and confidentiality.

Gina Francis, 1547 North Renaud, Brownell Middle School, spoke of her concern on budget cuts and privatization of custodial and cafeteria services.

Culver Harrison, 325 Kerby, expressed concern regarding privatization of school services.

Margaret Beck, 445 Moran, expressed her appreciation for the custodial and food services staff, and her concern regarding privatization of these services.

Christine Cullen, 55 North Deeplands , commented that she had a signed petition to present, requesting that the district strengthen proof of residency requirements.

Elizabeth Williamson, 767 Rivard, continued the comments by the previous speaker concerning strengthening of the district residency requirements.

Helen Srebernak, 1024 Maryland, expressed her appreciation for the district custodial staff.

Dan O'Rourke, 425 Roland, expressed his concern regarding privatization of the custodial services in the district.

Leslie Derrick, 84 Fontana Lane, commented on the proof of residency issue.

Leslie Day , 56 Lakeshore Lane, expressed his concern regarding the residency issue.

Laura Huebner, 491 Lincoln Road, commented on the importance of changing the ways our schools are presently funded. She invited audience members to join the newly formed SOS group (petehu@ameritech.net) whose purpose is to have the state change the way our schools are presently funded.

John Maniaci, 1859 Littlestone Road voiced his concern regarding construction projects, and expressed his appreciation for the district custodial services.

Tom Zaglaniczny, President of Plant and Cafeteria, voiced his concern regarding replacement of support personnel.

Doug Ulmer, 19972 Clairview, expressed his concern regarding the residency issue.

Board President, Mrs. Richardson thanked the audience for expressing their concerns, and commented that the Board would continue to work on the budget which is required by law to be in place by June 30.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Richardson adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Board Secretary