



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the February 21, 2005 Regular Board Meeting
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 Richardson called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

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

Also Present: Superintendent Klein, Assistant Superintendents Allan and Fenton

The pledge of allegiance was led by Trustee Brennan.

II. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Klein noted that during February parents of district students can participate in a survey about whether a pre-Labor Day or a post-Labor Day start of school would best meet their family's needs. Anyone wishing to voice their preference may log in at www.gpschools.org or obtain a copy of the survey in their local school office.

The Grade 6-12 Industrial Arts Curriculum Study Committee is looking for parent volunteers to join their committee. Notices have been in local newspapers and school newsletters requesting volunteers for this committee.

A press release from Grosse Pointe South High School detailed students honored with the 2005 Southeastern Michigan Regional Scholastic Art Awards. From 10,000 pieces of art work submitted, only 450-500 pieces are selected for awards. This year, South students received thirty-four awards. Students won in the categories of Drawing, Mixed Media, Photography, Jewelry Design, Product Design, Painting, Computer Art and Sculpture. The Gold Key Art portfolio winners this year are Ana De Roo and Natalie Fedirko. Their portfolios will be sent to New York City to be judged for national awards and scholarship competition. Gold Key winners for individual pieces are Alex McMillan (2), Courtney Graham and Jaako Kuivamaaki. Their art pieces will be sent to New York for judging in the National Student Art Show.

Silver Key winners are Paul Simon, Margaret Brady, Candice Ackerman (3), Claire Fecher, Natalie Fedirko (3), Mackenzie Whims, Paul Thomas, James Manganello, Lia Simcina, Gracie Turin, Sarah Battles and Kate Muelle (2).

Certificate of Merit winners are Sarah Domin (2), Lindsey Ross, Mallory Brownek, Ana De Roo, Claire Fecher, Natalie Fedirko, Julie Victor, Candice Ackerman (2), Tom Burns, Steve Davis and Paul Thomas.

Student's work may be viewed at the exhibit currently on display at the Ford Gallery on the campus of the College for Creative Studies, Detroit, through February 23, 2005.

Dr. Klein also congratulated Parcels students for their recent "Mack Avenue Magic" performance in Ann Arbor.

Dr. Klein noted Parcels teacher, Al Silverston, and the Mathcounts team that just competed at the University of Michigan. The first team of Jamie Ding, Matthew Vengalil, Will Colding and Matheus Simoes held a substantial lead three quarters through the competition allowing Jamie Ding to leave his team members early in order to participate in the Macomb Daily Regional Spelling Bee. Their team win allows them to represent the region in March at the State championship. Hats off also to Lydia Fuller, Michael Matula, David Ulmer, Schuaib Roza and Chris Pokladek, second team, who competed individually, scoring higher than most other competitors from the 17 teams entered. One member of this team was a current 5th grader who could not compete, but went for the experience.

Jamie Ding, 8th grader at Parcels, will represent Michigan again this year at the National Spelling Bee in Washington DC in May. His coach is Mr. Dan Bens from Parcels.

Dr. Klein mentioned several recent articles printed in the Grosse Pointe News regarding fund raisers from various district schools which were representative of a variety of things our students do to support others less fortunate than they. Kerby Elementary School's "Operation Smile" and Brownell's Tsunami relief are two of many projects.

Banners were in front of each elementary school to remind parents that it is now time to enroll children for kindergarten. Recent articles in the Grosse Pointe News speak to the enrollment process and the kindergarten program.

On March 5, 2005, the Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods is sponsoring a parenting symposium at Barnes.

III. Public Comments on Non-Action Items

Andrew Taylor, 657 Barrington, Grosse Pointe Park, thanked the Board of Education and both negotiating teams for their work on the teacher contract.

IV. Public Comments on Consent Agenda Action Items

No one 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 were contained in the Consent Agenda for vote:

A. Human Resources Report

The Human Resources Report included the leave of absence of one instructional staff member and the resignations or retirements of one instructional staff member, one office staff member, one technology staff person and three classroom assistants. Also noted was the death of a classroom assistant from Ferry Elementary School. The Board is asked to approve the Human Resources Report as presented.

B. Business Items: Accounts Payable

The Business Items were presented for Board approval.

C. Minutes of the January 3 and 10, 2005, Work Session Minutes of January 8 and 10, 2005, and Closed Session Minutes of January 5, 2005

The Board is asked to approve the board meeting minutes and work session minutes as presented.

D. Approval of Middle School Program of Studies

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

E. Approval of K-12 Language Arts Curriculum Revisions

Language Arts Curriculum revisions were presented by Language Arts Specialist Mrs. Christine Kaiser for approval. The Board is asked to approve the K-12 Language Arts Curriculum revisions as presented.

F. Approval of 457 Plan

The 457 Plan is a tax sheltered savings program offered to all school district employees. Mr. Lobert said that a meeting will be held on March 3, 2005 with district-approved vendors of 403 and 457 programs.

The Board is asked to approve the 457 Plan for district employees as presented.

G. Approval of Physical Therapy Contract with Michigan Physical Therapy, Inc.

The current physical therapist has taken a leave of absence requiring the school system to contract with an agency in order to meet the needs of students for the remainder of the year. The Board is asked to approve the contract between the school district and Michigan Physical Therapy, Inc. to provide physical therapy services for the remainder of the year. (Revisions to the contract have been made as requested).

H. Bids – South High School Lockers

The Board is asked to accept the low bid from Rayhaven Equipment for the locker replacement project at South High School for a total of \$314,465.

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

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. Bid – Brownell Windows

This project at Brownell includes replacement of 424 windows. These windows are all of the windows with the exception of approximately 40 windows located in the areas of the proposed multi-purpose and science construction. The new windows are metal vertical lift windows which replace the metal projected vent windows that are original to the building.

It is recommended that this project be funded completely from the energy bond proceeds.

The Board is asked to award the bid for installation of windows at Brownell Middle School to Seabrook IXL for \$523,232.

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

THAT the Brownell Windows bid be approved as presented.

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

Nays: None

Mrs. Kennedy abstained from the vote due to a familial relationship.

Motion carried.

VIII. Items for Information and Discussion

A. Millage Update

Dr. Klein noted that a second millage mailing was sent to the entire community last week. She thanked the Grosse Pointe News for their coverage and front page count-down. She also thanked the citizens committee for their work on this millage. Dr. Klein said that as presentations were made throughout the community, one question she was frequently asked about is how this millage would affect the school district's financial outlook for the next school year. Dr. Klein explained that even if all three requests pass, a shortfall of \$2.9 million remains. These millages are very important because they provide 23% of the school system's operating budget. All of the money raised by these three millages directly benefits only Grosse Pointe School students, not the county or state.

The first request is for a "gap" millage (called "hold harmless millage" on the ballot) of 8.0784 mills on homestead property for five years. This "gap" millage proposal combines the "gap" and technology millage proposals of five years ago. In 2004-2005, the "gap" and tech millages provided \$1,893 per pupil.

The second request is for renewal of a non-homestead property millage of 16.7875 mills for five years. The number of mills has been reduced from the authorized 18 mills by the Headlee amendment. This proposal affects only business and commercial property, rental homes, and second homes. It does not affect homestead property homeowners.

The third request asks voters to restore the original 18 mill levy on non-homestead property in order for the school district to receive its full foundation grant from the state. It does not affect homestead property homeowners.

Regarding the ballot language, Dr. Klein explained that because all three millages expire on June 30, 2005, the millage rate on that date is considered to be zero. thus any amount asked for is termed an increase.

The local municipalities, not the school system will run the school elections. Residents should contact central office or any local municipality about the location of voting precincts.

B. Board Election Calendar and Election Coordinating Agreement

Effective January 1, 2005, all school elections are conducted by local municipalities and coordinated through Wayne County. As of the end of last week there were three candidates running for two board positions: Margaret Beck, Joan Dindoffer and Alice Kosinski.

Mr. Fenton said that the county clerks have been very helpful in this election. The Election Coordinating Committee plan of action for conducting school elections for 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 was presented to Board members for information. The

Coordinating Committee is composed of representatives from the six municipalities, the school system and the county.

Ms. Richardson noted that Mr. Joseph Brennan has chosen not to run again for a new term. She thanked him for 8 years of service to the community and the Board of Education. She was appreciative that Mrs. Dindoffer had chosen to run.

The last day to register for the May 3 election is April 4, 2005.

C. Camp O'Fun Fees for Summer 2005

Camp O'Fun is a summer day camp/day care program operating in the district since 1988. The program is a breakeven non-profit program that relies on tuition and registration fees for revenue. The revenue covers the direct costs and some of the indirect costs such as utilities and custodial services.

Last year Camp O'Fun had approximately 85 children in the program from ages 4 to 12 at Ferry Elementary School. This summer, the program will be offered at Maire from June 20th to August 12th. A tuition of \$190 (an increase of \$10), with a non-refundable registration fee of \$65, will be necessary to continue the breakeven point while continuing to cover some of the indirect costs.

D. Project Oversight Committee Update

Mr. Broderick said that the Project Oversight Committee comprised of himself, Mrs. Vreede, Mr. Ismail, Dr. Klein and Mr. Fenton have been meeting regularly to discuss projects in progress and new projects going out to bid.

Committee members review logistics, costs and funding options of all projects coming before the board. On Thursday, February 24, 2005 at 8 a.m., the committee would be discussing South science renovation, Defer lockers and Pierce gym projects. He reminded the community that all work sessions and committee meetings were open to the public.

He noted that the next discussion of projects would be at a Board of Education work session preceding the Conference Meeting of the Board on March 7, 2005 followed by a second work session on March 14, preceding the Regular Board Meeting.

IX. Future Meetings

A Special Meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 9:30 p.m. at 389 St. Clair. A Work Session of the Board will be held on Monday, March 7, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Conference Meeting. A Regular Meeting will be held on March 14, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Wicking Library of Grosse Pointe South High School.

X. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Brennan had no comment.

Trustee Ismail congratulated students, Jamie Ding and Matthew Vengalil, commenting on their previous successes with school fund raising as members of the “Snow Cone” team at Ferry. He thanked the Grosse Pointe News for their support and coverage during this election. Mr. Ismail urged everyone to vote. He said that it is imperative that all three ballots pass.

Trustee Dindoffer said that it is vital that residents vote to maintain excellence in our schools. She congratulated the Mathcounts team and Mr. Silverston at Parcels. She said she is grateful for the wonderful teachers in the district.

Trustee Broderick thanked Mr. Fenton and Dr. Klein for their hard work and diligence in informing the community about the millage over the past couple of months. He also thanked the Grosse Pointe News for their coverage of the process.

Trustee Kennedy encouraged the community to just say, “Yes, Yes, and Yes!”

Trustee Vreede asked the community to vote tomorrow – yes, yes, yes!

President Richardson thanked the individuals who decided to run for the board. She also added again that she was grateful that Mrs. Dindoffer was running for a third term. She thanked the other two candidates also and said that being on the board at this time was a daunting job.

Ms. Richardson also thanked the individuals who worked hard to reach a tentative teacher agreement. She was appreciative of their grace and diligence in coming to an agreement.

Trustee Richardson thanked Board members for their work on the millage. She thanked especially Mr. Broderick who organized Board attendance at the many PTO and booster club meeting dates. She thanked Pat Burke for his work in pulling the school community together and organizing the parent groups. She added that, since this meeting would not be telecast until after the voting was over, she thanked everyone in advance for their vote.

Dr. Klein said that she received a note from Mary Jane Failla that the new pianos were being delivered to schools, and extended an invitation to the community to experience these new instruments and the wonderful music the children create at the spring concerts.

Dr. Klein also noted that the district website, www.gpschools.org, contained a survey to be completed by the end of February where parents can indicate their preference to begin school either before or after Labor Day.

Dr. Klein also noted that the results from the millage election could be found either through the district website, www.gpschools.org, through Channel 20, or through the website of the City of Grosse Pointe Woods as the coordinating municipality for the election.

Dr. Klein extended her thanks to Pat Burke, Chair of the Citizen's Committee, the PTO and parent groups, volunteers, and everyone who participated in this important millage election, and urged everyone to vote.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Richardson adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Board Secretary