



# **Grosse Pointe Board of Education**

## **Minutes of the February 7, 2005 Conference Meeting**

**Wicking Library, Grosse Pointe South High School**

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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 8:02 p.m.

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

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

Trustee Dindoffer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **II. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Klein thanked members of the South Mother's Club and community who attended the opening of the refurbished South High School auditorium on February 5, 2005. It was a cooperative project that was part of the bond issue renovation as a capital project as well as something that was supported by the Mother's Club and generous donations from people throughout the community. The Saturday night performance was the first official opening. She hoped that other members of the community would have an opportunity to see a performance or just stop by to see how wonderful it looks.

Dr. Klein shared information about Amy Zaranek, 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Monteith, who won an essay contest sponsored by the DAR.

In addition, a number of high school students have artwork that will be on display at the Center for Creative Studies.

Volunteers are needed to serve on the grades 6-12 Industrial Arts Curriculum Review Committee. Interested teachers, parents, and high school students can contact Dr. Allan's office.

Poupard celebrated the Chinese New Year today with a parade involving the entire school. Each grade had prepared a different symbol as part of the new year. On behalf of the students and staff at Poupard, Dr. Klein shared a happy new year to everyone!

The Board of Education is interested in gathering information about parent preference for the schools starting before or after Labor Day. A survey will be available on the district website, in schools and at libraries.

### **III. Tentative Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of February 21, 2005**

#### **A. Human Resources Report**

The Human Resources Report included the leave of absence of one instructional staff member and the resignation or retirement of one instructional staff member, one office staff member, one technology staff person and three classroom assistants. Dr. Klein highlighted the retirements of Margaret Monaghan and Rodger Hynan from North and Thomas Williams from Brownell. She also expressed sympathy on the death of Sharon Hammel, a classroom assistant in the Ferry program for autistic impaired students.

#### **B. Business Items**

The 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. Approval of Minutes of 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 Minutes of January 3 and 10, 2005, Work Session Minutes of January 8 and 10, 2005, and Closed Session Minutes of January 5, 2005. Any questions regarding the minutes can be directed to the Board Secretary, Mr. Brennan, or to the Superintendent's office.

#### **D. Approval of Middle School Program of Studies**

There are no major changes in the 2005-2006 Middle School Program of Studies. However, English/Language Arts is currently under curriculum review and additional changes may be made pending EPLC review and Board approval. Additional modifications may result from schedule and structural changes that are still under consideration as a result of the budget process.

#### **E. Approval of K-12 Language Arts Curriculum Revisions**

Christine Kaiser, Language Arts Specialist, gave a presentation highlighting work done on the Language Arts Curriculum. As a part of the periodic review of content area curricula in the district, the English Language Arts Curriculum Committee began its work in the fall of 2003. The proposed curriculum presented contains all of the state grade level expectations for kindergarten through grade eight in the four domains of language arts: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In addition to the state expectations, items have been added by the committee for rigor and for support.

She said that no changes are being recommended at this time for the twenty high school courses because the last curriculum revision has only been in place for two years. The federal government has announced plans to extend the "No Child Left Behind" legislation to high school which would require a district curriculum revision (grades 9-12) based on new, state-authored grade level content expectations.

Mrs. Kaiser said that the proposed Grosse Pointe Schools English/Language Arts Curriculum had four areas to consider as the Curriculum Review Committee met to navigate the revisions needed: 1) Michigan K-12 Standards; 2) Multi-year benchmarks; 3) Michigan grade level content expectations; and 4) Grosse Pointe grade level expectations.

#### **F. Approval of 457 Plan**

Larry Lobert, Executive Director of Human Resources, explained the details of the 457-b tax- sheltered savings program for all school district employees. He said that the 457 Plan allows employees to invest pre-tax dollars for later withdrawal when they are presumably in a lower tax bracket. There are minor differences with the 457 in regard to loan and withdrawal provisions. A particular benefit of the 457 is that it allows an individual to withdraw funds after termination of employment at any age. The main advantage of establishing this program for our employees at this time is that it stands along side of the 403-b program, offering employees a second investment vehicle, significantly enhancing the opportunity for tax-sheltered savings.

Mr. Lobert said that a meeting will be held on March 3, 2005 with district-approved vendors of 403/457 programs from 4-6 p.m. at Monteith Elementary School.

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

The school system normally has a physical therapist on staff. Since current employee has taken a leave of absence. For the remainder of the year, the school system would like to once again contract with Michigan Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Services for physical therapy services. A contract with Michigan Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Services, Inc. has been prepared for board approval.

The Board has asked that minor changes be made in the contract: *Michigan Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Inc. shall be made aware of any invoice that is in dispute within 5 school days (instead of 3 days); two weeks (instead of 60 days) advance written notice by either party for termination; and revised language in the last paragraph which states, "GPPS agrees not to hire any individual who has worked in GPPS as an MPT&RS subcontract therapist for a period of one year after the subcontract therapist has ended his/her relationship with MPT&RS. If GPPS does employ a subcontract therapist from MPT&RS before the one year period identified above, GPPS will compensate (MPT&RS) \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars).*

#### **H. Bids**

##### **1. North High School Press Box**

The Project for the North High School press box includes: one baseball and one softball brick press box; a soccer field building which includes concession/bathroom/storage and ticket booth; photo platforms; and sewer work.

Mr. Fenton has asked the Board to table the North High School press box project because he had hoped that certain aspects of this bid (i.e. the ticket

booth, photo platforms) would have school and/or community donations. Since That this did not materialize, Mr. Fenton feels that the bid should be rejected.

**2. South High School Lockers**

The project for the South High School lockers includes the replacement of existing hallway lockers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the main building with the installation of 811 new lockers. The existing lockers are 40+ years old, rusted, and in need of replacement. Alternates include 252 new lockers for the entire S building and 630 lockers for the 1<sup>st</sup> floor in the main building.

This project will be financed from the sinking fund. 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.

**3. Brownell Windows**

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

Primary concerns in replacing the windows, given the short summer time frame, are: timely shipment of windows by the manufacturer; timely removal of old windows given environmental issues; sufficient crews to install windows; and the availability of work crews to complete and finish work and internal detail after hours, if necessary.

It is recommended that this window project be funded completely from the energy bond proceeds. This will close out the energy bond projects.

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

President Richardson suggested including the following as Consent Agenda items: A) the Human Resources Report; B) Business Items; C) Approval of Minutes; D) Approval of Middle School Program of Studies; E) Approval of K-12 Language Arts Curriculum Revisions; F) Approval of 457 Plan; G) Approval of Physical Therapy Contract with Michigan Physical Therapy, Inc.; and H) 2. South High School Lockers, as Consent Agenda Items. Mr. Fenton requested that the Board reject H) 1. North High School Press Box. H) 3. Brownell Windows has been placed on the Regular Agenda for next week.

**IV. Items for Information and Discussion for February 21, 2005**

Dr. Klein noted that the following items will be included on next week's agenda for Information and Discussion:

- A. Millage Update
- B. Board Election Calendar and Election Coordinating Agreement
- C. Camp O'Fun Fees for Summer 2005
- D. Project Oversight Committee Update

**V. Public Comments on Regular Agenda Action Items for February 7, 2005**

No one came forward to speak.

**VI. Regular Agenda Action Items**

**A. Approval of High Speed (WAN) Wide Area Network**

The district currently connects its 17 locations with a leased fiber optic network from Comcast. The current network provides an average link of approximately 23 Mbps to each building. While this network works adequately today, the growing demand and other factors are expected to saturate these lines by the end of this school year. WCRESA, which provides our Internet service, is scheduling an upgrade of the Internet connections from 11 Mbps to 100Mbps. To take advantage of this increased capacity it is necessary to increase the capacity of the district's internal wide area network (WAN). The new network will maintain the quality of the internal telephone service and enhance the speed at which data travels on the network. Currently, the lease of network services from Comcast costs \$204,000 per year plus another \$22,000 in state and federal fees.

SBC and Comcast bid in direct response to the district's request. Another bid from SBC that WCRESA negotiated is something to consider. The direct cost is lower from Comcast than from either SBC option. Comcast has made it attractive to start with the lower speed network and then increase to the higher speed when and if it should be needed.

The bid was reviewed by two members of the Board Budget Subcommittee, Mrs. Dindoffer and Mrs. Vreede. This project is funded out of the General Fund. In order to meet the deadline for e-rate submission and reimbursement on February 18, 2005, the Board is being asked to review as well as approve these bids on February 7, 2005.

The Board is asked to approve the Comcast bid for a 100Mbps network with option to increase speed to 1 Gbps for a lease term of (5) years for approximately \$250,000 per year.

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

**Supported by:** Trustee Broderick

**THAT the Board approve the High Speed (WAN) Wide Area Network.**

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

**Nays:** Trustee Ismail

**Motion carried.**

**B. Approval of Analog Phone Line Bid**

The district uses approximately 133 analog telephone lines spread among the buildings for various purposes. These lines are used for emergency backup phone service in the event that our phone system or network is not operating (e.g., during a power outage). These lines are

also required by code for elevator and swimming pool locations. Currently the lines are provided through SBC on a month-by-month basis for approximately \$15 per month.

In addition to two bids from service providers, we have access to Wayne RESA pricing through its contract with SBC. The SBC option is the least expensive, and, compared to our current service, will save the district approximately \$12,000 per year should the Board approve joining the RESA consortium SBC contract. An additional savings of close to \$3,000 from anticipated e-rate reimbursement will also be a district savings with the WCRESA SBC contract. This phone line bid will be funded from the General Fund, Support Services budget. In order to meet the deadline for E-rate submission and reimbursement on February 18, 2005, the Board is asked to review as well as approve these bids on February 7, 2005.

The Board is asked to approve joining the RESA consortium SBC contract for analog telephone line service for 2005-2008 at a cost of \$34,468.20 per year for three years.

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

**THAT the Board approve the Analog Line Bid as presented.**

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

**Nays:** Trustee Ismail

**Motion carried.**

**C.     Approval of Digital PRI Phone Line Bid**

The district uses three PRI lines to provide the connection from our private phone system to the public telephone network. We currently have a contract with Focal Communications through July 2006, but, due to changes in the e-rate program, we have to re-bid the contract in order to qualify for reimbursement.

The Board is asked to approve the contract with Focal Communications for three years at approximately \$42,000 per year.

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

**THAT the Board approve the Digital PRI Phone Line Bid as presented.**

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

**Nays:** Trustee Ismail

**Motion carried.**

## **VII. Future Meetings**

A Board Work Session will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 9, 2004 in Room 198 at South High School followed by a Regular Board Meeting of the Board on February 21, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Wicking Library of Grosse Pointe South High School.

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

Trustee Brennan had no comment.

Trustee Ismail complimented Peter Sabino, 15 years old, who was a solo clarinetist with the Grosse Pointe Symphony.

Trustee Dindoffer also congratulated the Sabino family and Peter, in particular, on his fine achievement. She also congratulated South Mothers' Club on obtaining generous private donations to augment monies from the voted bond issue to redo the South High School auditorium. She reminded the community that the millage election on February 22, 2005 is equally important. She encouraged community members to educate themselves on the details of the millage requests and to vote.

Trustee Broderick complimented our teachers for their efforts and initiative. He recognized former French teacher, Guido Reggelbrugge, as a dynamic teachers and coach. Mr. Regelburgge had expectations and love for the children he taught and the teaching profession. He was a teacher who stood out as a unique individual.

Trustee Kennedy thanked the South Mother's Club for the wonderful evening at the reopening of the South auditorium on Saturday, February 5. She congratulated Megan Grano, a 1995 graduate, on her participation in the Second City performances.

Trustee Vreede complimented those participating in a number of activities that have taken place over the last month: the Brownell musical performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" was tremendous; Parcels, "Mack Avenue Magic" received Michigan School Vocal Music Association commendation for their performance; the South students received the honor to participate in the state level Solo and Ensemble. She thanked Mrs. Laura Huebner for her support of the district and its initiatives and for heading the grass roots effort in Grosse Pointe. She encouraged everyone to support the school system on February 22 and vote.

Dr. Klein announced another millage brochure arriving in homes this week contained the polling locations.

Dr. Klein also shared sadness at the passing of former teacher Guido Regelbrugge, an extraordinary human being and educator.

Dr. Klein also said that she and a few others met with State Representative Ed Gaffney earlier in the day to discuss revenue, assessments and the staff budget process.

Dr. Klein also addressed the timeliness of the network and phone line items being voted on by the board this evening and hoped that it did not cause unnecessary inconvenience.

Dr. Klein spoke about the February 22, 2005 millage election. February 22 is also the last date for the Board of Education to determine if there is a proposal they would like to add to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot. Mr. Fenton discussed options to add millage proposals to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot.

**IX. Meeting Open to the Public**

Mrs. Laura Heubner, 491 Lincoln Road, Grosse Pointe, spoke regarding the grass roots effort to enlist community members to voice concerns to legislators about school funding.

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

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**Board Secretary**