



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education**  
**Minutes of Conference Meeting, March 7, 2005**  
Wicking Library, Grosse Pointe South High School  
11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

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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 8:08 p.m.

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

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

Trustee Kennedy led the pledge of allegiance.

**II. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Klein thanked the over 9,000 community members who voted 'yes' for the millage proposals on February 22, 2005. That support and confidence in the school system will help the district move forward to bring some of the budget uncertainty under control. Dr. Klein said that waiting for the state perspective on the school funding will not be made until late spring or early summer. .

Dr. Klein offered kudos to North High School students on their production of "South Pacific." She congratulated staff members, Mandy Scott, Heather Stockpoole, and David Cleveland, and the North pit orchestra musicians for their part in the "South Pacific" performance.

The Blue Dolphins synchronized swimming team presentation at South was superb. Dr. Klein congratulated all of the swimmers who were part of this event.

Dr. Klein congratulated the South High School band and orchestra members on the first student performance in the renovated auditorium, Dan White as well as James Gross who conducted the concerts, and Dean Doss who assisted.

A variety of recent athletic events at both North and South High Schools were reviewed. The North basketball team was congratulated as was the girls' volleyball team, and the North men's hockey team. Various other groups, including cheerleaders, gymnasts, the swimming team, and the wrestling team were wished well as their athletes move on to state level competition.

The *Parcells Scribe* literary magazine was recently honored by the National Association of Teachers of English, the only middle school literary magazine so honored. Congratulations to Karen McLeod, Doris Krier, and the many students who contributed.

Dr. Klein congratulated Jamie Ding, 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Parcells, and Matthew Vengalil, also from Parcells, on their recent math competition performance placing them in the top 5% in the nation.

Congratulations were also extended to the North Math Field Day team which placed 2<sup>nd</sup> among Class A schools at the University of Michigan Flint's annual field day. Dr. Klein congratulated senior Nick Ridella; Juniors Arnav Moudgil, Ruvani Fonseka, Steven LaRue; and Freshman Katie Brennan. A variety of other students are moving on in the Michigan Math prize competition. Their names will be posted on the website. Dr. Klein noted that students traveling on the band and orchestra trip to Toronto will be rescheduled for the up-coming MEAP tests.

The productivity of the staff development day held on Monday, February 28 was noted which allowed elementary staff and library media specialists to work on the recently approved Board of Education English Language Arts Curriculum and the 6+1 writing program.

Dr. Klein also mentioned the variety of work in science in light of a work session the board will hold next week regarding middle school science. During the staff development day, some of our middle school science leaders visited Oxford and Hazel Park Middle Schools to take a look at science equipment.

Dr. Allan also highlighted the workshops on improving writing instruction. The 6+1 writing traits are a way of instructing students in writing, giving them very specific feedback about components of writing: voice, organization, content and ideas. Dr. Allan noted that this specific rubric, in which all of the K-5 classroom teachers, middle school English teachers, librarians and reading specialists have been trained, enables the district to use a very consistent approach to helping students improve their writing ability in targeted ways.

Dr. Allan mentioned that the librarians spent time reviewing their curriculum and what modifications might be needed here to reinforce the new English Language Arts approved curriculum and the writing curriculum.

Vocal and instrumental teachers spent the day working with an expert on music teaching and technology, while a number of special education teachers joined in the writing workshop.

Dr. Klein displayed the thank you letter and certificate of appreciation from the American Red Cross to the district's students for student contributions for the Tsunami Relief Fund.

### **III. Tentative Agenda for the Regular Meeting of March 14, 2005**

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

Dr. Klein highlighted the appointment of one .4 instructional staff member, the extended leaves of absence of two instructional staff (currently on leave), and the resignation of one special education classroom assistant.

#### **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. Approval of Minutes of the February 7 and 21, 2005 Board Meetings, Work Session Minutes of February 21, 2005, Closed Session Minutes of February 2, 2005, and Special Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2005**

The Board is asked to approve the Minutes of the February 7 and 21, 2005 Board Meetings, Work Session Minutes of February 21, 2005, Closed Session Minutes of February 2, 2005, and Special Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2005. Any questions regarding the minutes can be directed to the Board Secretary, Mr. Brennan, or to the Superintendent's office.

#### **D. Approval of Study to Determine the Feasibility of Outsourcing District Technical Support**

The district is considering ways of to provide the necessary technical support services required to maintain its operation while significantly reducing the costs associated with these services. One of the methods is the possible outsourcing of support functions, such as technical support.

To adequately study the feasibility of outsourcing the technical support function of the district, the Technology Cabinet sought the advice of BDO Siedman and Wright & Hunter to assist in the process. Wright & Hunter was one of the bidders that submitted a proposal to conduct a study.

If Board approved, Wright & Hunter will work with the district to define the scope of hardware, software, services, maintenance, locations and staff to be included in a managed service RFP. It will develop an outsourcing RFP and assist the district in the evaluation of the responses.

The Board is asked to approve the proposal from Wright & Hunter to provide the preliminary research and develop an RFP to assist the district in the evaluation of the feasibility of outsourcing district technical support, at a total cost of 11,500.

Mr. Jim Frantz, Technology Manager, elaborated on this proposal and answered questions of the Board.

**E. Approval of a Feasibility Study for a District-Owned Wide Area Fiber Optic Network**

One of the recommendations outlined in the 2005-2008 District Technology Plan (approved by the Michigan Department of Education) is the development of a feasibility study to determine potential advantages of a district-owned wide area fiber optic network. Presently the district leases its wide area network from Comcast. While the district will continue to need to lease its wide area network for the next several years, there may be long term potential advantages for the district to develop its own wide area fiber optic network. Potentially the cost savings of owning versus leasing might be significant, the time needed for return on the investment of constructing a private network might be relatively short, and the cost savings of upgrading network capability, when necessary, might prove substantial over time.

Wright & Hunter presented a proposal and would work with the district to define the capacity and redundancy requirements of a district-owned wide area fiber optic network that connects all district locations. It will perform the necessary study and planning to develop a preliminary design and estimate of material, labor and maintenance costs for the network. The study will estimate the costs of a star configuration and an upgraded limited ring and star configuration (the manner in which the fiber optic cable is laid to provide service) to all buildings. Wright & Hunter will also assist in the analysis of leasing versus owning a private fiber optic network.

The Board is asked to approve the Wright & Hunter proposal for \$8,600 to develop a feasibility study for the development of a district owned wide area fiber optic network.

**F. Middle School Proposal for Modification of Sixth Grade Rotation**

Confronted with the likelihood of significant budget reductions, the middle school administrators have sought ways to reduce expenditures while minimizing the impact on classroom instruction. To that end, the district is proposing a modification in the traditional sixth grade rotation. The modification will be reviewed along with proposals concerning the other elective components of the middle school day in preparation for the budget for the 2006-2007 school year.

Administrators will review the implications of this proposal after registrations are processed and a tentative school schedule is developed. It may be necessary to return to the Board with some modifications pending students' elections and enrollment. The expected savings is 1.2 FTE over all three schools.

The Board is asked to approve the modification of the sixth grade rotation as presented.

#### **G. Approval of American Studies Course for Community School**

Students at Community School are likely to benefit from the exploration of both traditional and non-traditional academic content in depth and a variety of instructional methods. As a result, Community School teachers look for ways to integrate and synthesize content while preserving the core standards and benchmarks of the Grosse Pointe Public School System's curriculum.

The proposal presented is to integrate the *American Literature* and *U.S. History* courses into one course in American Studies. The proposal from Community School requests that this course be reinstated (it was dropped in the past because of low enrollment) using an updated district curriculum and incorporating engaging and holistic teaching techniques that are likely to appeal to Community School students. Students will have the opportunity to connect their learning across two subject areas and truly see how one impacts the other.

The financial impact of the course is also likely to be positive since the two teachers will work as a team with a larger class size.

The Board is asked to approve the American Studies Course for Community School as presented.

#### **H. Approval of Introduction to Literature and Composition for Community School**

*Introduction to Literature and Composition* for Community School will integrate components of the *Reading Workshop*, *Expository Writing* and *Freshman English* courses into one two-year course in *Introduction to Literature and Composition*. The course would serve 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in Community School and will integrate key skills taught in the reading and writing course with the objectives and literature of the *Freshman English* course. By "front-loading" needed skills, students will receive the intensity of instruction and time to ensure success in the remainder of their four year English sequence.

The financial impact of the course is also likely to be positive since the integration of two electives into a required course for all Community School 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders will result in the consolidation of electives and a larger class size.

The Board is asked to approve the new course in Introduction to Literature and Composition.

**I. Bids**

**1) Pierce Gym Remodeling**

The project for the Pierce gym remodeling includes: removing the center wall and replacing it with an operable wall; replacing the floor; adding folding bleachers; masonry wall repair; and converting a storage room to an office. The remodeling project will provide a full size court option with bleacher seating for spectators. The low bidder, Bernco, Inc., is the recommended bidder to complete the project.

The Board is asked to award the Pierce gym remodeling project to Bernco, Inc., for \$294,773.

**2) South High School Science Remodeling Project**

This is the second major component of the science renovations. The first component, the science addition, will be completed this spring. This project includes the complete remodeling of the second floor of the S building, including 7 science labs and the “greenhouse” room on the first floor. The project provides new flooring, ceilings, paint, and casework in the classrooms as well as ceiling and lighting in the hallway. Also included is replacement of air handling units, environmental work, and insulation. The air handling units were a planned expenditure in the sinking fund.

The recommendation is to award the project to MICCO, LLC, the low bidder. The work will be completed in three phases: Phase 1 will be done by October 3, 2005; Phase 2 by March 1, 2006; and Phase 3 by August 1, 2006.

The Board is asked to award the bid for the South High School science remodeling project to MICCO, LLC, for \$3,106,700.

**3) Defer Lockers**

The administration is recommending replacement of 80 recessed double-tier lockers on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors at Defer with new recessed Republic lockers. The work will be done in the summer.

The Board is asked to award the locker project for Defer Elementary School to Rayhaven Group for \$10,040.

**J. Approval of Contract with Grosse Pointe Education Association**

The administration has been negotiating with the GPEA (the teachers’

association) since May, 2004. An agreement has been presented which calls for language changes, benefit changes, and pay increases as previously discussed. This agreement will carry the teachers' contract through August, 2007.

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

President Richardson suggested including the following items as Consent Agenda items: A) Human Resources Report; B) Business Items; C) Meeting Minutes; D) Approval of Study to Determine the Feasibility of Outsourcing District Technical Support; E) Approval of a Feasibility Study for a District Owned Wide Area Fiber Optic Network; F) Middle School Proposal for Modification of Sixth Grade Rotation; G) Approval of American Studies Course for Community School; H) Approval of Introduction to Literature and Composition for Community School; and I) Bids, 1) Pierce Gym Remodeling, 2) South High School Science Remodeling, 3) Defer Lockers. Item V.J) Approval of Contract with Grosse Pointe Education Association has been placed on the Regular Agenda for next week.

#### **IV. Items for Information and Discussion for March 14, 2005**

Dr. Klein noted that the followed items will be on the agenda for Information and Discussion at the March 14, 2005 Regular Meeting:

- A. Project Oversight Update**
- B. Revenue Enhancement Update**
- C. Board Policy Sub-Committee Update**
- D. Revision of Policy JHCA Student Media (School-sponsored Media and Non-School Sponsored Media)**
- E. Approval of Field Trip – North High School Students to Pelee Island, Ontario, Canada**

#### **V. Future Meetings**

A Conference Meeting of the Board will be held on April 4, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in Wicking Library of Grosse Pointe South High School followed by a Regular Meeting of the Board on Monday, April 11, 2005.

#### **VI. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent**

Trustee Brennan expressed gratitude to the negotiating teams on both sides. He said that both sides possessed a purposeful group of people who were able to move forward and come to a settlement.

Trustee Ismail thanked Dr. Klein and Mr. Lobert for their efforts to hold forums for both staff and the community regarding the selection process for a new

Director of Special Education. He noted that there would be a parent forum tomorrow, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. at 389 St. Clair.

Trustee Dindoffer echoed both of her colleagues on their comments regarding the great negotiating teams that just reached a settlement, and the efforts of Dr. Klein and Mr. Lobert to allow the public to express their perspective about a new Special Education Director.

Trustee Broderick thanked the community for overwhelmingly passing the millage request, noting that he felt it was the mark of a good school system. He thanked Pat Burke, PTO Council President, and other PTO members for their hard work in keeping the community informed, as well as local papers for the excellent coverage they gave the issues. Mr. Broderick also thanked the negotiating teams for their hard work in reaching a contract settlement.

Trustee Kennedy had no comment.

Trustee Vreede highlighted the “Strong Girls” program at North High School headed by Erin Weber, who presented to North’s Willow group. She said that this was the brainstorm of MaryAnn McMillan, school social worker at Kerby, to have high school girls mentoring younger girls. Mrs. Vreede applauded the effort of these Grosse Pointe staff members and the high school girls willing to keep the continuum of support strong.

Mrs. Vreede also noted many upcoming performances and competitions in the district, and thanked the community for the support given during the contract negotiations and the passing of the millage.

## **VII. Meeting Open to the Public**

Betsy Bangs, 16206 Pine Ridge Dr., Fraser, and Pierce teacher, spoke about the proposal to alter the 6<sup>th</sup> grade rotation.

Bonnie Middeldorf, 21640 Elmway, Clinton Township, and Pierce teacher, thanked the Board for the fair contract just voted on by the teachers. She also addressed the proposal to alter the 6<sup>th</sup> grade rotation.

Karleen Viviani, 1211 S. Oxford, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke about her concerns about changes to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade rotation.

Laura Huebner, 491 Lincoln, Grosse Pointe, shared her thoughts on the proposal to modify the 6<sup>th</sup> grade rotation.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, President Richardson adjourned the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

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Board Secretary