



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, September 13, 2004
Wicking Library, Grosse Pointe South High School

ORDER OF BUSINESS: 8:00 P.M.

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

President Dindoffer called the meeting to order at 8:05 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 said that since the last board meeting, both houses of the state legislature have passed a budget for state school aid which keeps the school districts' 20J funds intact for the 2004-2005 school year. Dr. Klein thanked the community for contacting their legislators in Lansing and communicating their concern about potential cuts in school funding. Grosse Pointe residents alone sent in over 300 e-mails to Lansing in one day. The next step will be for school districts across the state to work together to obtain adequate school funding for every district.

Board members had an opportunity to discuss school funding with administration. Board members reiterated Mr. Fenton's comments that the \$74 per pupil that was given back to the district represents a restoration of the level of district funding from two years ago and that there are still funding issues ahead.

Mr. Fenton gave a brief powerpoint presentation explaining the school taxes residents pay and discussed the summary in the fall Community Education brochure. Mr. Fenton included a summary of the tax rates for 2003 – 2004 and 2004 – 2005.

III. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Action Items

Jerry Kaminski, 1118 Kensington, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about the new Grosse Pointe Gator Swim Club.

IV. Public Comments on Consent Agenda Action Items

No one came forward to speak.

V. Public Comments on Regular Agenda Action Items

Allison Baker, 1148 Devonshire, Grosse Pointe Park, and Defer PTO President, spoke about the Defer PTO gift being presented to the Board for approval and the need for air conditioning improvements at Defer.

Mary Saylor, 455 Lakeland, Grosse Pointe City, spoke on the truth in taxation hearing.

VI. Consent Agenda Action Items

A. Human Resources Report

Dr. Klein highlighted the appointments of nine instructional staff members, three classroom assistants and one paraprofessional staff member, the leave of absence of one instructional staff member, and the resignation of five professional staff and one classroom assistant. The death of one maintenance staff member was also included in the report.

B. Business Items - Accounts Payable

The business items were presented for Board approval.

C. Approval of Minutes from August 9 and 16, 2004 (with changes on page 6 of August 16th), and Work Session Minutes of August 9 and 16, 2004 and Closed Session Minutes of August 9, 16 and 23, 2004

The Board was asked to approve the minutes as presented.

D. Approval of Contract with Occupational Therapist

The Board was asked to approve the letter of agreement with Kristen Kohlruss, Occupational Therapist in Private Practice, who services the needs of students at private and parochial school in Grosse Pointe.

E. Approval of General Counsel

The Board was asked to retain the services of Mr. Mark McInerney, of Clark Hill PLC, as the board's general counsel for the fiscal year 2004-2005 at the discounted rate of \$200 per hour with work done by other attorneys at Clark Hill billed at their normal rate but not to exceed the capped amount of \$200.00.

F. Approval of Contract with Jeffrey & Associates

The Board was asked to approve the letter of agreement with Jeffrey & Associates for a maximum amount of \$70,000.

G. Approval of Resolution for Cash Flow Borrowing for 2004-2005

The Board was asked to approve the resolution for \$6 million in State Aid borrowing and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign and approve the necessary documents.

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 Item

A. Approval of Resolution of 2004 Tax Levy

For the 2003-2004 school year the Homestead Hold Harmless ("GAP") millage rate was 5.6691 mills for general operation purposes and 1.0330 mills for technology. The millage proposal for 2004-2005 is 5.5213 and .9894 respectively. The sinking fund millage rates is .9867 this year. The debt millage for 2004-2005 has been reduced by .4000 mills.

The resolution approving the 2004 tax levy has been reviewed by Amanda Van Dusen of Miller Canfield. A truth in taxation hearing was held on September 7, 2004.

The Board is asked to approve the Resolution for the 2004 Tax Levy.

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

THAT the Board approve the Resolution for the 2004 Tax Levy.

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

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

B. Approval of Defer PTO Gift

The original gift from Defer was for \$80,000 to be donated by the Defer PTO over a two year period to pay for additional improvements for the air conditioning and ventilation on the second floor. As a condition of this gift, the school system administration was to receive a letter of commitment or pledge for this gift.

Since the Defer PTO did not have at least half of the amount determined to meet the air conditioning improvements proposed, Mr. Fenton adjusted the request to reflect the reduced amount of \$40,000 to be gifted instead of \$80,000. The improvements would be done in two phases with next spring being the final phase. This would allow the Defer PTO to furnish half of the money up front and fund-raise for the other half during the 2004-2005 school year. This plan was vetoed at the August 16, 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board.

The Defer PTO would now like to present the school district with a \$20,000 gift to be used to begin air conditioning in some areas on the second floor of Defer.

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

THAT the Board accept the gift of \$20,000 from the Defer PTO for designated second floor air conditioning improvements.

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

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

C. Appointment of Reinstatement Panel

Board Policy JCD Student Code of conduct calls for the Board to appoint a Reinstatement Review Panel composed of two Board members, one administrator, one teacher, and one parent to review any petition for reinstatement of a student following expulsion if such a petition is received during the school year. Appointment of a

standing panel is a prudent provision to make for the 2004-2005 school year. With the assistance of the PTO council and the GPEA, a panel and alternates were identified as: Joan Richardson and Joan Dindoffer will be the board representatives, with Ahmed Ismail as the alternate; Allan King will serve as administrative representative with Pamela Lemerand as alternate; Rosalie Bryk from the GPEA will be the teacher representative with Richard Underwood and Paul Booker as teacher alternates; and Pat Burke, PTO Council President, will be the parent representative with George Boomer, Richard parent, as the alternate.

The Board was asked to approve the Reinstatement Review Panel for the 2004-2005 school year as named above.

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

THAT the Board approve the Reinstatement Panel as presented.

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

Nays: None **Motion carried.**

VIII. Items for Information and Discussion

A. Enrollment Update

Mr. Fenton distributed the most recent enrollment summary and noted that there has not been much change since his last report. He also said that the last time the school district was above 9,000 students was 25 years ago. Staff members have been added to meet the need of the additional enrollment which is 62 above what was originally projected.

Mr. Fenton added that there are two count days in the school district. The first one is on the fourth Wednesday in September, with a second pupil count in February.

Mr. Fenton's office will continue to update the Board as enrollment changes.

B. Building and Site and Bond Project Update

Mr. Broderick shared an update from the most recent Building and Site and Bond Project meeting. The Building Project Oversight Committee is composed of Mrs. Vreede, Mr. Ismail, Mr. Broderick, Dr. Klein, and Mr. Fenton. Mr. Broderick said that the major items discussed at the morning's meeting were the middle school science

projects. He noted that a process has begun to evaluate the middle school science needs as well as individual building needs. Mr. Broderick also mentioned that a meeting scheduled for September 23rd would be a single item meeting just to continue the discussion of these science facility projects.

Mr. Broderick said that the committee reviewed spending reports and the projects for the other capital funds (Durant funds and the energy bond funds). He noted that the committee is evaluating project fees that have been charged to the general fund which could be charged to the bond fund. Some other issues discussed were the bond spending status; creating one master project spreadsheet; and the installation of the new floors at South, Monteith and Richard.

Mrs. Dindoffer thanked the bond oversight committee for their work.

Mr. Brennan echoed Mrs. Dindoffer's comments that the bond oversight committee has been working hard to keep the board and the community up to date on the projects taking place throughout the district.

Mr. Fenton also echoed the above comments about the bond oversight committee, saying that Mrs. Vreede, Mr. Ismail and Mr. Broderick have been working very hard to keep all the information current and staying on top of each project.

C. Elementary Curriculum Guide for 2004-2005

The *Curriculum Guide for the Elementary School K-5* can be found on the district website at www.gpschools.org/newpub/parents.htm. This year there are no major changes in the 2004-2005 elementary curriculum guide. The revised Science curriculum was reported last year and Language Arts is currently under development. Minor changes include: the title change from *Curriculum Guide and Program of Studies for the Elementary School* to *Curriculum Guide for the Elementary Schools*; Language Arts under curriculum review; Science reflects the removal of the 3rd grade unit on *Invertebrates* and the addition of the 5th grade unit on *Mixtures and Solutions*; Computer Education changes in the program description and grade level; Health revised and updated details in wording; Instrumental Music modifications in time allocation and report language to reflect changes due to block scheduling; Kindertalk removed as it is not offered this year; Kinderclub/Extended Day Kindergarten program description added; and the Program for Gifted and Talented students a revised description added to reflect two, rather than three, locations.

X. Future Meetings

A Conference Meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, October 4, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. in the Wicking Library of South High School followed by a Regular Meeting on Monday, October 11, 2004.

XI. Other Comments from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Vreede thanked the Defer PTO members for their gift of \$20,000 to benefit the Defer staff and students. She also thanked them for their enthusiasm as they continue to fund raise for Defer School. Mrs. Vreede mentioned that Back to School Nights are underway and that she had a fabulous experience at her child's school at **Brownell**. She thanked the staff for their efforts to make the school such a positive place. Trustee Vreede also thanked central office staff for their hard work in making sure that all of the projects occurring in and around the schools are taken care of and acknowledged the work of the custodians and engineers as they continue to keep the buildings in such outstanding condition.

Trustee Kennedy encouraged the Bond Oversight Committee to keep project fees charged to the most appropriate fund.

Trustee Kennedy also mentioned that she thinks that the additional \$640,000 in state aid should be restored to fund equity.

Trustee Broderick said that fees for projects have always been applied to the general fund as that is the process as projects become activated. He also mentioned that as bids are listed on the agenda, fees could be identified at that time with each bid. Mr. Broderick acknowledged the dedication of Chris Fenton and his staff for their hard work on all of the projects and in keeping everything organized. Mr. Broderick encouraged the community to ask questions if they see something in writing that they do not understand.

Trustee Dindoffer had no comment.

Trustee Ismail echoed Mr. Broderick's and Mrs. Vreede's comments regarding Mr. Fenton and his staff and the hard work they do keeping all of the projects in order. He thanked the Defer parents for their generous gift. Mr. Ismail questioned whether or not the policy subcommittee might look into changing the policy regarding receiving gifts from PTO's on multi-phase projects.

Trustee Brennan had no comment.

Trustee Richardson echoed the comments made to thank the Grosse Pointe community for taking the time to address the legislators in Lansing about

their concerns for school funding. She personally thanked all who wrote letters, e-mails, or called Lansing and voiced their concerns. She also thanked Dr. Klein and Mrs. Dindoffer for their trip to Lansing to express their concerns to the legislators.

Trustee Dindoffer thanked Ms. Richardson for her article on school funding that appeared in the paper recently. She mentioned that people in Lansing said that it was concise, well articulated and clearly got the point across.

Dr. Klein echoed Mrs. Dindoffer's comments about Ms. Richardson's article.

Dr. Klein also thanked Mrs. Allison Baker, Defer PTO President, and the Defer PTO for their commitment and hard work on behalf of Defer students and staff.

Dr. Klein commented on the Back to School nights taking place and asked parents to stop and look at the improvements in the buildings as they visit their child's school.

Dr. Klein thanked Grace Smith, Academic Technology Coordinator, for her work on the district website to keep the community informed on the latest information regarding the schools.

Dr. Klein also thanked the custodial staff across the district for preparing the schools for the return of students and staff.

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Richardson adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m.

Board Secretary