



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education**  
**Minutes of Conference Meeting, October 4, 2004**  
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 8:10 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 shared information that Dave Cleveland, band director at North High School, was honored at the Rotary meeting earlier in the day and given a 'Service Above Self' award for his hard work and dedication to his students. Dr. Klein said that the Parcels Mack Avenue Magic Choir was one of two choirs invited to participate in the Michigan Music and Service Convention which will take place in January.

Dr. Klein also mentioned that there are two district committees needing community volunteers: Review of K-12 Testing Program, (contacts may be made to Dr. Allan's office); and the Human Sexuality Advisory Board, (Dr. Mike Dib, Principal at Brownell, contact person).

Dr. Klein invited community members to join in the celebration of North's homecoming parade and football game this weekend followed by South's next week on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Klein said that the district had been awarded a Homeland Security Grant which would educate key decision makers for the preparation, management, and response to complex security challenges for current and future events. Tom Quisenberry of Patriot Services Corporation has been contracted to lead these sessions for district staff.

Dr. Klein commented that district residency has been a topic of discussion in the local newspaper. She assured the community that under the direction of Assistant Superintendent, Chris Fenton, there are strict residency policies and procedures. Mr. Fenton said that to verify new enrollees to the district, multiple pieces of verification must be presented. The school system also has hired investigators to check the residency by visiting the home, often multiple times, to verify that students new to the district actually live at the home stated on the enrollment form.

Dr. Klein noted that Ferry Elementary School recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a 1950's 'Sock Hop'.

Dr. Klein highlighted the Presidential election website generated by central office curriculum specialists for teachers to use in their classrooms.

### **III. Tentative Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of October 4, 2004**

Dr. Klein said that the meeting would begin with the PA 25 Report highlighting the progress students have made across the district. Principals have shared the PA 25 information at a building level with parents that have attended those building presentations. For those unable to attend a school meeting, the information has also been posted on the district web page.

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

Dr. Klein noted the appointments of four instructional staff and one classroom assistant, as well as one resignation. She highlighted the appointment of Judith Olkowski, the new Administrative Intern at South High School in the Community School program.

#### **B. Business Items: Accounts Payable**

The business items were presented for Board 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 Regular Meeting Minutes of September 7 and 13, 2004, Closed Session Minutes of September 7, 2004, and Work Session Minutes of September 13, 2004**

A correction to the minutes of September 13, 2004 (page 7) was made. Any questions regarding the minutes may be directed to the Superintendent's Office or Mr. Brennan, Board Secretary.

#### **D. Approval of G.A.A.A. #1**

According to Pubic 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 June 24, 2004 have been presented as part of the General Appropriations Act Amendment #1. The Board is asked to approve the General Appropriations Act Amendment #1 which includes the restoration of State Aid monies for \$640,000 and a local tax levy adjustment of \$140,000 due to the increase in taxable values on homes and businesses.

#### **E. Approval of Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on the Regular Election**

Due to changes in the election law, the school system must decide by December 31, 2004 as to the date of the regular election for Board of Education members. In accordance with Section 642(8) the school district shall hold its regular election for the offices of members of the Board biennially at odd-year November general elections unless the Board adopts a resolution to hold its regular election on an alternate date. The Board has discussed the desirability to have the regular election in May. In order to implement this change, the Board of Education must hold a public hearing on this issue. The resolution provided, as drafted by Amanda Van Dusen, of Miller Canfield (election attorneys), calls for the public hearing in November. The notice will appear in the Grosse Pointe News at least 10 days prior to the hearing.

The Board is asked to adopt the Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on the Regular Election.

#### **F. Approval of Reinstatement Decision for a North High School Student**

In September, 22004, the Board of Education appointed a standing Reinstatement Panel for the 2004-2005 school year. Composition of the panel follows guidelines in Board Policy JCD Student Code of Conduct and consists of two Board members, one administrator, one teacher, and one parent. The purpose of a Reinstatement Panel is to review a petition for reinstatement of a student following expulsion.

On September 23, 2004, the appointed Reinstatement Panel composed of Rosalie Bryk (teacher), Pat Burke (parent), Joan Dindoffer (Board Member), Ahmed Ismail (Board Member), and Allan King (Administrator), met to review a petition, filed by the mother, to reinstate a former North High School student. Joining the Panel as advisors were Mark McInerney (Clark

Hill), his therapist, Mr. Jim Steeby, (Principal of North High School), and Mr. Tom Teetaert (Assistant Principal at North).

The Reinstatement Panel carefully analyzed the information presented to it about the petition and determined that reinstatement in the school system is not appropriate.

The Board is asked to approve the panel's recommendation against reinstatement for the North High School student.

## **G. Bids**

### **1. Tractor**

This tractor will replace the smaller maintenance department tractor that is 11 years old. The new tractor has 4-wheel drive and includes a snow basket. It will be used for snow plowing and removal of snow piles when necessary. The life expectancy of the new tractor is 20 years. It will also be used for general landscaping, such as spreading dirt and woodchips. The purchase of this tractor will eliminate the need for contracting out some of these services, saving the district \$6,000-\$8,000 per year. The tractor will be funded from the General Fund.

The Board is asked to accept the low bid of \$50,249 for the purchase of a JCB Model 212SL Utility Loader Tractor from AIS Construction Equipment Corporation.

### **2. Monteith Elevator**

Five companies placed bids for the Monteith elevator and restroom remodeling project. This project provides additional classroom space, an ADA compliant elevator, an improved entrance, and renovation to the first and second floor restrooms. The estimated funding for this project is \$840,546. The funds will be taken in part from the Bond Issue, the Sinking Fund, and the Durant Fund.

Additional operating costs for this project will amount to approximately \$4,000 per year from the General Fund Support Services utilities budget.

The substantial completion date is November 30, 2004 for the restroom renovation and June 1, 2005 for the elevator.

Mr. Fenton has recommended that this project be removed from the regular agenda and be placed on the information and discussion section for next week's meeting. He feels that additional time is

needed to discuss the specifications and details of the project with Board members.

### **3. North Drive Repaving**

This repaving project is for the replacement of the west access road at North High School. The project provides for the removal and replacement of asphalt on the existing west access road on the parking lot side of the football field at North, currently in very bad condition. The project will be funded from the Sinking Fund only. The cost of the project is \$55,936. The substantial completion date is October 26, 2004.

The Board is asked to award the contract for the road replacement project at North High School to R & B Paving, Inc. for \$51,326.

### **4. District-Wide Facilities – Ceilings**

This bid was rejected and rebid as there was only one bidder when it was brought before the Board in July.

In order to satisfy the requirement of the Sinking Fund that bids be over the limit of \$17,932, the district accepted bids for ceiling projects which will be done on an as-needed basis over the next three years. The work will be primarily for acoustical ceiling and light replacement. By going for a multi-year bid, the school system is able to save money on advertising and preparation of bid documents. The amount budgeted in the Sinking Fund is \$200,000 per year, or approximately \$600,000 for three years.

The Board is asked to contract with William E. Harnish Accoustical, Inc. and Ren-Cen Interiors for ceiling replacement as needed through September 15, 2007.

### **5. District wide Facilities - Fencing**

In order to satisfy the Sinking Fund millage requirement that projects be over the limit of \$17,932, the fencing projects were bid on an as-needed basis over the next three years. The work will be primarily for chain-link and ornamental fencing and gate replacement.

This multi-year bidding will save the school system money on advertising and preparation of bid documents. The amount budgeted in the Sinking Fund is \$200,000 per year, or approximately \$600,000 for three years.

The Board is asked to contract with Future Fence Company and Michigan Fence Company for fencing replacement as needed through September 15, 2007.

## **6. Uninterrupted Power Supply**

An Uninterruptible Power Supply is a battery that is used to power equipment when the electricity goes out. It is used to power computer equipment so that it can be “gracefully” shut down and to provide power for essential service like telephones.

The initial UPS units installed eight years ago are no longer adequate for the requirements that the school district now has need of, including the new phone system provided internally in 2001.

The Board is asked to approve the purchase of UPS systems in the amount of up to \$40,000 from CDW through the NJPA purchasing cooperative.

## **7. Parcels Multi-Purpose Room**

The scope of this project includes a multi-purpose room, field restrooms, interior restrooms, and a new hallway and entrance. This project eliminates the need for a separate, stand alone restroom for the field and renovation of the gym to remove the wall. The amount of \$1,498,750 is needed to complete this project, which will be funded out of the Bond Issue and the Sinking Fund. Additional operating costs for this addition will amount to approximately \$16,000 per year. When the project is completed this will be budgeted in the General Fund Support Services utilities budget. The substantial completion date is July 2005.

Mr. Fenton has asked the Board to remove this project from the regular agenda and place it on the information and discussion portion of next week’s agenda to allow more time for discussion with the Project Review Committee and the parents and staff at Parcels.

## **H. Approval of Field Trips**

### **1. Trip to Music In the Parks Festival, Toronto, Canada**

Because the United States State Department continues to extend its “Worldwide Caution” for Americans traveling outside the U.S., the Board’s “Study Warning” (Policy IF CB) banning foreign field trips remains in place for students. However, a few exceptions to the “Study Warning” have been made on a case-by-case basis since 2001 so that Grosse Pointe students can take advantage of valuable learning experiences.

On Saturday, May 14, 2005, Parcels 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade instrumental music students, under the direction of John Donnellon, would like to make a trip to Toronto, Ontario to participate in the adjudicated

Music-In-the-Parks Festival. The group would depart on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> and travel by bus and return Sunday, May 15, 2005. Pre-September 11, 2001, this trip was an annual event for the band. Since the State Department “Worldwide Caution” will still be in place at the time of the trip, Mr. Donnellon is requesting a waiver of the Board’s “Study Warning” for this field trip.

The Board is asked to approve the waiver of the “Study Warning” on student foreign travel for the Parcels Middle School field trip to Toronto, Ontario on May 14 and 15, 2005.

## **2. Trip to Ska-No-Doh, Melbourne, Canada**

Because the United States State Department continues to extend its “Worldwide Caution” for Americans traveling outside the U.S., the Board’s “Study Warning” (Policy IFCB) banning foreign field trips remains in place for students. However, a few exceptions to the “Study Warning” have been made on a case-by-case basis since 2001, so that Grosse Pointe students can take advantage of valuable learning experiences.

On Tuesday, December 7, 2004, Dr. Elaine Middlekauff, Mrs. Kelly Sexton-Bolen, and Rebecca Golus would like to make a day trip to Ska-Na-Doht Native American Village, Longwoods Road Conservation Area, Melbourne, Ontario, Canada with 44 fourth graders to review and enhance Native American studies. The group would travel and return (by car) Tuesday, December 7, 2004. Pre-September 11, 2001, this trip was an annual event and a recommended social studies field trip. Since the State Department “Worldwide Caution” will still be in place at the time of the trip, Dr. Middlekauff is requesting a waiver of the Board’s “Study Warning” for this field trip.

The Board is asked to approve the waiver of the “Study Warning” on student foreign travel for the Mason Elementary School field trip to Melbourne, Ontario, Canada on December 7, 2004.

President Richardson suggested including the following items for the consent agenda for action at the September 13, 2004 Board meeting: **A)** Human Resources Report; **B)** Accounts Payable Report; **C)** Minutes; **D)** G.A.A.A.#1; **E)** Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on the Regular Election; **G)1** Tractor Bid; **G)6**, Uninterrupted Power Supply; **H)1**, Field Trip to Music In the Parks Festival; and **H)2**, Field Trip to Melbourne, Canada. Items **F)** Reinstatement for a North Student, and **G)** Bids for 3, 4, and 5, will be placed on the regular agenda for action. Items **G)2** and **G)7** will be removed and placed on the agenda for Information and Discussion at the Regular Meeting on October 11, 2004.

#### **IV. Items for Information and Discussion for the October 11, 2004**

##### **Regular Meeting will include:**

- A. Improvements to District Website**
- B. Summer Programs Update**
- C. Building and Site and Bond Project Update**
- D. Budget Committee Update**
- E. Revenue Enhancement Committee Update**

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

A Board Work Session will be held on Monday, October 11, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 198 at South High School followed by a Regular Meeting of the Board at 8:00 p.m. in the Wicking Library at South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

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

Trustee Brennan had no comment.

Trustee Ismail mentioned a wonderful article recently in *The Detroit News*, "Therapeutic Rides Help Children". Mr. Ismail also noted that another spectrum of special students in the district is the exceptionally talented musicians now performing at the DSO at Orchestra Hall. He encouraged the community that it is a wonderful place to visit and make note of the number of Grosse Pointe students performing there.

Trustee Dindoffer had no comment.

Trustee Broderick had no comment.

Trustee Kennedy said she was looking for to Maire's "Walk to School" day on Wednesday of this week.

Trustee Vreede commented that there are many daily successes in the district from athletic achievements to choir and instrumental music performances. She thanked everyone involved in the learning of every student from the staff and administration to the parent and family community. Mrs. Vreede also mentioned the disabilities workshop taking place at every elementary school for 4<sup>th</sup> graders and thanked the staff and parents for their delivery of these services to students. She said she hoped it could be expanded at some time to reach students beyond the fourth grade that have not had the opportunity to experience the workshop.

Trustee Richardson congratulated the Grosse Pointe Library Board and the librarians for coming to a conclusion that everyone seems to be happy with.

Dr. Klein said that the enthusiasm and excitement as the year has gotten underway in the schools is always encouraging. She also mentioned the disability workshop for elementary students and hopes to make this an annual event.

Dr. Klein also noted that the administration has been working with Mr. Mike Wilmot from the Michigan Leadership Institute, who will be helping the district to revise the district Strategic Plan.

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

Tina LaGrue, 889 Rivard, Grosse Pointe, shared her thoughts on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum at Richard.

Allison Baker, 1148 Devonshire, Grosse Pointe Park, shared her comments on the importance of supporting Defer teachers and hoped that their contract would soon be settled.

Mary Garlough, teacher, 1164 Nottingham, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about her expectation for the settlement of the teacher contract.

Libby VanDePutte, teacher, 1813 Kenmore, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke about the need for a fair and equitable teacher contract.

Trisha Gout, teacher, 690 St. John, Wyandotte, spoke about the need for a fair and equitable teacher contract.

Brenda Sikora, teacher, 39128 Camp, Harrison Township, spoke about the need for a fair and equitable teacher contract.

Patty Blondell, 882 Rivard, Grosse Pointe, spoke about the 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum at Richard Elementary School.

Lynn Reed, teacher, 337 McMillan, Grosse Pointe Farms, spoke about the need for a fair and equitable teacher contract.

Liz Kern, teacher, 1424 Bedford, Grosse Pointe Park, spoke about the need for a fair and equitable teacher contact.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, President Richardson adjourned the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

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Board Secretary