



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2014
Multipurpose Room, Brownell Middle School
260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Dindoffer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske and Summerfield

Absent: Trustees Jakubiec and Valente

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Pangborn.

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton

II. APPROVAL OF THE REVISED BOARD AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 15, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Summerfield

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the revised Board Agenda be approved as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske and Summerfield

Absent: Trustees Jakubiec and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Legislative News

Superintendent Harwood shared information from Lansing on Legislative Affairs including the Lam Duck session. Wayne County RESA forwarded a list of possible bills that may move, but nothing is certain. The Governor is anxious to complete a transportation package during Lam Duck that was passed by the Senate. The House has time to agree or disagree with the Senate’s version. Dr. Harwood also included legislative updates on School Bond Loan Fund: SB 1077 that increases the Treasury’s control over the fund and caps the fund at \$1.8 billion. This fund is designed for those districts that cannot pass a bond because of the value of their mill and would require voters to agree to higher levies. We encourage Senators to vote “No” on this fund proposal.

Superintendent Harwood also explained the School Districts in Financial Distress Early Warning package of bills passed out of the Senate Appropriations committee last week as well as the Third Grade Reading retention proposal, the Letter Grading of districts, and the possible deal on the Critical Staff Shortage bill.

B. Good News Items

Superintendent Harwood congratulated Melissa Millenbach on her “Best in Show” design for the North American International Auto Show poster contest. He also recognized Poupard’s MY Access Instructional Writing student performance which has increased higher than the national average in writing scores. He commended the teachers at Poupard and their success in using this program.

1. North High School Freshman Assist Program

Dr. Harwood congratulated North Principal Kate Murray, teachers Geoffrey Young and Bridget Cooley, and North Counselor Barbara Skelly (as well as Jonathan Byrne, Devin Cox and Wendy Spreder who were not in attendance) on their success of the North High School Freshman Assist Program which has named Grosse Pointe Schools a

District of Distinction by *District Administration* magazine. The program engages new families and different learners and “serves as a model for school leaders across the country” said JD Solomon, editorial director.

Freshman Assist, started in 2009, and provides basic instruction and emphasizes fundamental reading, writing and study skills to help students learn more effectively in core academic classes. Course placement is determined by test results requiring teacher and counselor approval.

Freshman Assist includes a program called Mentor Leadership Studies in which junior and senior mentors are trained to work with struggling ninth graders. A teacher-counselor team arranges an academic schedule designed for each student’s academic level, while engaging students and their families in the school, community, and institutions of higher education.

Over the last four years, the high school has seen a consistent decrease in failing grades and disciplinary actions for Freshman Assist students. At the end of the 2013-14 school year, grades and tests revealed that a significant number of Freshman Assist students were out-performing peers who had done better on the tests in the beginning of the year.

“Through Freshman Assist, we’re helping students take ownership of their educational experience, and wrapping support around them to ensure success,” said Principal Kate Murray. “It unifies our student body in its ability to build meaningful relationship across diverse sets of learners.”

C. Board Recognition

Superintendent Harwood then recognized Mr. Jakubiec and Mrs. Dindoffer. He thanked both for their service on the Board highlighting Mrs. Dindoffer’s 17 ½ years as a Board members and the legacy she has provided to the school district. He thanked her for her continued support of the school system throughout those years as a Board member.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

No one came forward to speak at this time.

V. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR DECEMBER 15, 2014

A. Approval of Human Resources Report for December 15, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the Human Resources Report for December 15, 2014 as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske and Summerfield

Absent: Trustees Jakubiec and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

B. Approval of Revised Regular Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2014 and Closed Session Minutes of December 4, 2014

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the Revised Regular Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2014 that removed the Approval of the High School Program of Studies which does not require Board approval.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske and Summerfield

Absent: Trustees Jakubiec and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Summerfield

THAT the Board approve the Closed Session Minutes of December 4, 2014 as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske and Summerfield

Absent: Trustees Jakubiec and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

C. Approval of Board Policies (second reading)

1. Policy 8390, Animals on District Property

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve Policy 8390, Animals on District Property as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske and Summerfield

Absent: Trustees Jakubiec and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

2. Policy 8405, Environmental Health and Safety Issues

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve Policy 8405, Environmental Health and Safety Issues as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske and Summerfield

Absent: Trustees Jakubiec and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

3. Policy 9160, Public Attendance at School Events

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve Policy 9160, Attendance at School Events as presented

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske and Summerfield

Absent: Trustees Jakubiec and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

4. Bylaw 0144.3, Conflict of Interest

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve Bylaw 0144.3, Conflict of Interest as presented with three changes that were provided to the Board.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske and Summerfield

Absent: Trustees Jakubiec and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

D. Approval of Homeless Liaison Officer

It was Moved by: Trustee Summerfield

Supported by: Trustee Pangborn

THAT the Board approve the Homeless Liaison Officer as part of the McKinney-Vento Act.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Pangborn, Roeske and Summerfield

Absent: Trustees Jakubiec and Valente

Nays: None

Motion carried by a 5 – 0 vote.

VI. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY 26, 2015

A. Organizational Items

- 1. Election of Officers**
- 2. Approval of Resolution of Continuance of Funds and Designation of Signatories on Accounts**
- 3. Approval of Appointment of Christian Fenton, Isha Smith and Helen Johnson as Representatives to MAISL for Property/liability Insurance Underwriter**
- 4. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Calendar for 2015**
- 5. Declaration of Board Member Compensation**

B. Approval of Human Resources Report for January 26, 2015

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2014

D. Approval of General Appropriations Amendment Act #1 (G.A.A.A. #1)

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Declaration of Candidacy for 2015 Board Officers

Trustees Pangborn, Summerfield, Gafa and Roeske all declared that they would be willing to serve on the Board at the will of fellow Board members.

President Dindoffer asked incoming Board member, Margaret Weertz, who was in the audience, if she had a preference and she concurred with other Board members that she is willing to serve at the will of fellow Board members.

B. Monthly Financial Report/Health Care Report

Dr. Dean noted average activity in health care costs with about \$80,000 to the good.

Mr. Fenton reported that nothing was unusual with the Monthly Financial Report for this time of the year.

C. Update on Superintendent Search Process

President Dindoffer shared that Dr. Harwood recently announced at an earlier December Board meeting that he would not be seeking to renew his contract beyond June 30, 2015. With this in mind, the search for his replacement for the Superintendent's position would need to begin.

Mr. Fenton said that he just completed a draft of the Request for Proposal (RFP) that will be mailed to approximately ten firms for consideration for the Superintendent search process by the end of the week. These proposals included a timeline similar to the one based on the requests that were sent out three years ago. The question arose as to whether this would be a national search process. Mr. Fenton replied that it would be national.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, January 12, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room
- B. Board Policy Committee Meeting, January 14, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Administration Building
- C. Regular Meeting of the Board, Monday, January 26, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brownell Multipurpose Room

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, thanked Superintendent Harwood for his gift of time in giving the district six months to do a Superintendent search while he continues to lead the district towards excellence in education. He also thanked Mrs. Dindoffer for her service on the Board.

Laura Mikesell, GPEA President, thanked Mrs. Dindoffer for her 17 years of service on the Board. She wished everyone the warmest of holiday greetings.

X. OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

Trustee Pangborn thanked Mr. Jakubiec and Mrs. Dindoffer for their service on the Board. She noted Mrs. Dindoffer's work with the needs and rights of special needs learners as well as the highest learners. She said that her expertise in curriculum will be greatly missed.

Trustee Summerfield thanked Mr. Jakubiec for his five years of service. He also thanked and said he appreciated Mrs. Dindoffer's taking the time to help him as a parent and to mentor him as a new Board member.

Trustee Gafa enjoyed the meeting this evening. She said it was an uplifting and positive meeting. She congratulated Melissa Millenbach on her art project as well as the staff involved with the North Freshman Assist Program on their success with the students in the program. She thanked Mrs. Dindoffer for her years of service on the Board. Mrs. Gafa wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday.

Trustee Roeske congratulated the Poupard Writing Program on its success. He also extended kudos to the Freshman Assist staff at North who made the program a success for those students who participated. He thanked Mrs. Dindoffer for the guidance she provided him on the Board's Policy Committee and thanked her for her time on the Board. Mr. Roeske wished the community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Superintendent Harwood said that in 2009 the Board adopted the Freshman Assist Program at North and it is wonderful to see the success of the program due largely to the staff that participated and the decision of the Board to adopt the program. He again wished Mrs. Dindoffer well recognizing her service and accomplishments as a Board member. Dr. Harwood also recognized Mr. Dindoffer for his patience in supporting his wife as she served the Board for many years. He added that the support of the family is important to the success and time each Board member spends doing the work of the district.

Mr. Fenton thanked Joan Dindoffer for her service to the Board, students and staff in the district. He said that it has been a pleasure working with her.

Dr. Dean thanked Mrs. Dindoffer for her support of the school district.

President Dindoffer congratulated North's Freshman Assist staff on their success with the program. She also congratulated the Poupard Writing Program and Melissa Millenbach for her artistic talent.

Trustee Dindoffer thanked Mr. Jakubiec for his five years of service on the Board. She added that since this is her last Board meeting after seventeen years, she is overwhelmed at the kind words spoken to and about her. She

thanked her family for the sacrifices they have made over the years affording her the opportunity to be a part of the Board of Education for so many years. She thanked everyone for their support over the years.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Dindoffer adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Judy Gafa, Board Secretary