



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2009
Library, Grosse Pointe North High School
707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

MEETING MINUTES CALL TO ORDER	President Kosinski called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. following the Board's work session. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Senator Martha Scott. Board members present: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kratz, Kosinski, Steininger and Walsh Absent: Trustee Minturn Also Present: Superintendent Klein, Assistant Superintendents Allan, Fenton and Harwood; Executive Director Warras
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT	A. Senator Martha Scott, School Funding Senator Martha Scott addressed Dr. Klein and the Board of Education speaking about state school aid and per pupil spending. She said that Grosse Pointe Schools could lose a grand total of \$4.1 million due to cuts in per pupil spending and elimination of the 20j "hold harmless" funding. Senator Scott said that these cuts are unconscionable and she will continue to make her argument to her legislative colleagues and to Governor Granholm that the government must find a better way to take care of per pupil funding and support the schools. Trustee Walsh commented that he spent the day in Lansing and had an opportunity to speak with State Superintendent Mike Flanagan and Senate Majority Leader, Mike Bishop. They explained that the State Board of Education met with other leaders with the purpose of coming up with a resolution to submit to Governor Granholm seeking long-term school funding reform and structural change. B. National Merit Scholars and Commended Students Dr. Klein invited Board President Alice Kosinski, Senator Scott and High School Principals Diver and Bearden to join her in recognizing tonight's National Merit Commended Students and Semi-finalists. 2010 National Merit Commended students: Kevin Cooper, Timothy Lupo and Emily Simon from North, and Colin Belanger, Shannon Burke, Paul DiGiovanni, Michael Gilbert, Patrick Kaiser, Ethan Madison, Robert Montgomery, Holly Roseborough, Krista Solem, Chloe Srebernak and Katherine Steen from South. 2010 National Merit Semi-finalists: Emily Biegas, Lydia Fuller, Joanna Harr and Matthew Vengalil from North, and Claire Eckert, Gautam Edhayan, Catherine Gilbert, John Maniaci, II, Bradley Menchl and Michael Shook from South. National Achievement Semi-Finalist: Adam Lorenzo.

	C. November 3, 2009 Election 1. Board of Education Candidates The following candidates have submitted applications for the two four-year seats on the Grosse Pointe Board of Education: Anthony Ambrogio, Joan Dindoffer, Tom Jakubiec, George McMullen Jr. and Michelle Peabody. Karl Kratz and Cynthia Pangborn are running for the three-year seat left open by Mr. Ismail's resignation. 2. Millage Both of the millage proposals on the November 3 ballot are for five years and together represent 25% of the annual district budget. Information about the two proposals has been sent to every household in the district and appears on the district website. 3. H1N1 Information is also available on the district website regarding the H1N1 influenza and walk-in clinics sponsored by the Wayne County Health Department. Dr. Klein noted that the district had hoped to offer sites for immunizations within the Grosse Pointe community but the Health Department is unable to do so.
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS	There were no public comments at this time.
ACTION ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 26, 2009	A. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2009, Closed Session, Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2009 The minutes of the special meeting, closed session, work session and regular meeting of September 28, 2009 are presented for approval. It was Moved by: Trustee Dindoffer Supported by: Trustee Kratz THAT the Board approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 3, 2009, and the Closed Session, Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2009 as presented. Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Steininger and Walsh Nays: None Absent: Trustee Minturn Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote. B. Approval of Annual District Goals Board Policy 1110 indicates that the Board of Education shall provide time to assess the progress of the district and set goals for the current school year. The district's Annual Report, required by Public Act 25 and provided on September 28, 2009, included data on various measures of student achievement during the past school year

and set the stage for the development of district and school level improvement goals for 2009-10. The district has established goals through the Strategic Plan, the school improvement and the accreditation processes, the initiatives of the Education Programs Leadership Council (EPLC), and partnerships with parents and community members. District goals for 2009-10 are drawn from the current Strategic Plan and other ongoing initiatives on which the district is concentrating efforts and resources to support student success during the current school year:

Since the last meeting of the Board, President Kosinski noted that Trustee Walsh had requested an additional goal that included a community survey. Information on that topic has been received and the Board needs to decide if they would like to add the community survey as a goal.

Trustee Walsh commented that the community survey is already a policy and thus there does not have to be another goal. He added that it is important that the district proceed with the survey.

Mr. Walsh added that the district should have separate surveys for current students, possibly past students, teachers, parents and other community members who are not otherwise parents. The survey should be viewed as a means to help inform policy, programming and financial decisions. Whatever form the survey takes, it should be scientifically reliable above all else, and should be consistent from year to year. Trustee Walsh also noted that the survey project should be bid out as a formal RFP with particular parameters.

President Kosinski said that in order for this survey to be a relevant tool for the district it must have statistical significance.

Trustee Dindoffer added that such a survey must be reliable and be balanced with its cost effectiveness.

It was Moved by: Trustee Walsh

Supported by: Trustee Kratz

THAT the Board approve the Annual District Goals as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Steininger and Walsh

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Minturn

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

C. Approval of School Improvement Plans

Dr. Allan addressed the Board regarding the school improvement plans for the district schools. The Annual District Goals reflect the district's school improvement plan as well as the plans of every school building as outlined in the notebooks of information distributed to the Board. These plans are tailored to the learning challenges and goals

at each school as principals and staff work to assure success for each student in their building. As provided in Board Policy 2120, School Improvement, each elementary, middle and high school has developed an updated school improvement plan which reflects student achievement data, sets goals for 2009-10 and provides a structure to improve the quality of education for students in that school.

Taken together, the administration believes that the district and school improvement goals will enable students to achieve a higher level of proficiency in all academic areas, explore other areas of interest and talent as well as prepare for the challenges they will find as they move beyond their enrollment in the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Building principals from each school were available for questions.

President Kosinski noted that the plans presented were all data driven.

It was Moved by: Trustee Walsh

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Board approve the School Improvement Plans for the 2009-2010 school year.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Steininger and Walsh

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Minturn

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

D. Approval of Bid for North Performing Arts Improvements

Bids were opened for the Performing Arts Center improvements project at North High School on September 22, 2009. The scope of the work includes electrical improvements, replacement of dimmers and safety improvements to the cat walks. The time line for completion is from December 7, 2009 to February 1, 2010. The project is being funded from the bond fund. The administration is asking the Board to award the bid to Great Lakes Power for \$547,000.

It was Moved by: Trustee Kratz

Supported by: Trustee Walsh

THAT the Board award the bid to Great Lakes Power for \$547,000 for the improvements to the North Performing Arts Center as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Steininger and Walsh

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Minturn

	Motion carried by a 6– 0 vote.
ACTION ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 23, 2009	A. Approval of Gift from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education Information on the gift from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education will be presented at the meeting on November 23, 2009 and available for review prior to that meeting. B. Approval of Human Resources Report for October, 2009 The Human Resources Report contained the appointments, recalls, resignations and retirements of employees from various employee groups. Dr. Klein noted the retirement of Mr. Sam Soltan, Industrial Arts teacher from South High School, who retired after 16 years of service in the district. C. Approval of Closed, Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2009 The minutes of October 26, 2009 will be available before the next meeting of the Board. D. Approval of Distinguished District Employee Awards During the 2008-09 school year, the Grosse Pointe Board of Education established the Distinguished District Employee Awards Program to recognize distinguished service by employees in various programs and activities sponsored by the public schools. Board-level recognition is intended to recognize those employees who have initiated a new program, service, or activity and/or who have served the district above and beyond their daily employee responsibilities. E. Approval of Bid for Parcels and Pierce Locker Room Lockers On October 15, 2009, bids were opened for the locker room lockers replacement project at Parcels and Pierce Middle Schools. The project is being funded from bond monies. The administration is asking the Board to award the bid for the Parcels locker room to Rayhaven Group for \$34,320 and to Usztan for the Pierce Middle School locker room for \$53,396. F. Approval of G.A.A.A. #2 Mr. Fenton explained that the General Appropriations Amendment Act #2 involves three major areas: recognition of the tax revenue that the Board approved last month; the recognition of the ending fund equities in various funds for general fund, school fund, school service, debt fund and sinking fund; and it also recognizes the recent two cuts that the district received from the State of Michigan, the 20J cut of \$1.6 million and also the \$165 per pupil cut Senator Scott referred to earlier for a total of almost \$1.4 million. The fund balance will be going down from \$20.1 million down to \$17.4 million with these changes. Since the state established these cuts after the district established its budget, there is little recourse for the district but to use fund equity

because of the emergency nature of the reductions and given the late notice by the state. Mr. Fenton also noted that this G.A.A.A. #2 reflects a reduction in taxes for the general funds as taxes for residents are being reduced approximately \$362,000.

G. Approval of Curriculum Courses

1. Advanced Placement Art

High School Art Teachers Robert Thies and Barbara Gruenwald reviewed information of the new art being courses proposed. An important component for admission to schools or departments of art, and for scholarship eligibility for serious art students, is the development of a portfolio. The art department provides support to students with this goal in mind by scheduling visits to both high schools by representatives of schools who provide portfolio critiques to students during their junior and senior years. The departments have been effective in helping students gain admission to the most competitive art schools and art institutes in the country, obtaining over half a million dollars in scholarships in a single year. There has not been a means of acknowledging the extensive body of advanced work performed by the students on their transcripts.

The Art Department is now proposing that the district offer four Advanced Placement classes in Studio Art: AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design Photography; AP Studio Art: 2-D Communication Design; and AP Studio Art: 3-D Design.

These courses are not intended to run as separate courses. Rather students will be enrolled in these courses as part of a “stacked” course with other students who are at a more intermediate level. The cost to the district will be minimal or non-existent with this arrangement.

Advantages to offering the courses are allowing students to have their extensive body of work appropriately reflected on their transcript and allowing them to submit their portfolios for AP credit which may enhance their college applications and exempt them from some initial courses as they continue their art studies

2. Physical Education Classes

Information on the physical education classes will be presented to the Educational Programs Leadership Committee during the month of November and available and presented at the November 23, 2009 regular meeting of the Board.

3. High School Art

Barbara Gruenwald explained the need for a basic art course in the high schools. The Art Department has received numerous requests from students, parents and counselors for a one semester art course that does not have any prerequisites.

The proposed course, Art Now, is targeted at 11th and 12th grade students of varying

	art abilities who may not have taken any previous art course. It focuses on the current art world from the perspective of both viewer and creator. There would be particular attention paid to digital imagery but the class would also provide experience in a variety of media and linkages to existing social studies and humanities courses.
INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION	A. Audit Report A draft of the financial report for the Grosse Pointe Public School System for the year ending June 30, 2009 as outlined in the General Appropriations Amendment Act presented earlier, was prepared by the audit firm of BDO Seidman and has been distributed to the Board. The auditors will be available at the November regular meeting of the Board and will confirm that the report contains a clean audit. A final copy of the audit report will be delivered to the Board at the end of October or first part of November with the Federal Funding Report (OMB Circular A-133, containing federal and state grants received by the district). At that time the Management Letter, with any recommendations from the auditors, will also be forwarded to the Board for review. Fund equity balances reflected in the Financial Statements are also reflected in the G.A.A.A. #2 presented earlier. B. Monthly Financials Mr. Fenton noted that the financials reflect the General Amendment Appropriations Act #2 that was approved this evening. The financial reports also anticipate the further cut in state revenue of \$127 per pupil, whether it happens or not. This matches the audit report, the General Appropriations Amendment Act #2 and also the Budget Model Utility. These reports will be posted on the district website. C. Class Size/Staff Allocation Report Mr. Harwood said that in the spring, the Board approved a budget with 566.2 FTE for staff. Currently the district has 579.9 FTE's allocated, which include an additional 14.3 FTE staff due to additional federal and county funding sources. The additional stimulus money that the district received is funding the 14.3 additional staff. Mr. Harwood explained that the average class size in the elementary buildings, K-5, is 21.8 students. At the high school level, the class size average is 26.3 students. Mr. Harwood also noted that "hot spots" are being watched closely both in the middle school and one in an elementary building. D. Calendar of Assessment Activities Dr. Klein reported that the district is at the end of the "NWEA window" in elementary, middle and high school and that MEAP testing will be coming to a close soon. There are a variety of assessments scheduled through the end of May as noted on the

	information presented from Mr. Warras.
FUTURE MEETINGS	There will be a Work Session on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. followed by a Regular Meeting of the Board at 8:00 p.m. in the North High School Library .
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS	Brian Summerfield, Grosse Pointe Park, shared his thoughts on the multiage classroom at Trombly and the importance of expanding the program throughout the district. Cynthia Pangborn, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke about proposed budget and her ideas for future budget cuts. Tom Jakubiec, Grosse Pointe Woods, shared his thoughts on the community survey, school achievement and improvement at both high schools with concerns about the North High School improvement plan. Patti O'Hare, Grosse Pointe Public Schools' teacher and Grosse Pointe Farms resident, encouraged the community to vote "yes" on the two millages on November 3, 2009. Laura Huebner, Grosse Pointe City, spoke in support of the millage and also urged the community to vote on November 3rd. She also recommended parents email Governor Jennifer Granholm, Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop and Speaker of the House Dillon regarding the districts' 20J funds and Representative Bledsoe regarding moving the state's fiscal year to June so that school districts can budget more effectively.
OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT	Trustee Kratz encouraged voters to support the millages and to vote on November 3, 2009. He also commented that the Board is working hard as a team with the administration to develop a balanced budget at this difficult financial time. Mr. Kratz also stated that he supports residency policies as they currently exist. He applauded the teachers who discussed the advanced placement art courses this evening to be added to the high school fine arts curriculum. Trustee Gafa encouraged voters to vote for Mrs. Joan Dindoffer and Mr. Karl Kratz in the upcoming school board election. She also asked the community to vote "yes" on the millages. Trustee Walsh commented that these are difficult budget times. He added that it is very important that the community understand the reason that the district needs the millages to pass and encouraged everyone to vote "yes" for both. He thanked those people that are working hard to support and get the information out to voters about the millages and for their continued work for the good of the school district. He applauded everyone's efforts including the Board, the school administration and the community members involved especially Allison Baker, Helen Srebernak, Cathy Pomaville, Dutch and Becky Mandel, Jane Bashara and Pat Burke. Trustee Dindoffer replied to an earlier speaker and a misconception that the current Board had proposed a residency waiver for any students, noting that this is not true.

	A proposal was considered to permit students of non-resident employees to attend the Grosse Pointe Schools, but that proposal was rejected by a majority of the Board. She also concurred with Mr. Walsh that these are difficult budget times and that it is hard to make staffing adjustments mid-year when staffing is already in place. Mrs. Dindoffer then congratulated the National Merit Scholars and National Merit Semi-finalists. She commented that both of the high schools in Grosse Pointe are rated in the top 5% in the nation by <i>Newsweek</i> magazine. She then encouraged everyone to vote “yes” for the millages on November 3rd. Trustee Steininger congratulated the scholars honored this evening for their academic successes. He also congratulated both the North and South football teams on making the playoffs in their respective divisions. Mr. Steininger then encouraged everyone to vote on November 3rd, noting that he was disgusted with the legislature regarding 20J funding and the per pupil funding cut backs. Dr. Klein reminded those with questions about the millage to look at the district website for those answers or call the Superintendent’s office at 313-432-3003. She said she was very proud of the students inducted into the Brownell National Jr. Honor Society Induction as well as those students honored this evening as National Merit Commended Scholars and Semi-Finalists. Dr. Klein noted that the focus of the district is to educate outstanding young men and women so they are able and willing to step into the challenges life will present them. President Kosinski congratulated the student scholars recognized this evening. She also commented that she was upset about an editorial printed by <i>The Detroit News</i> encouraging Grosse Pointe voters to cast a “no” vote for the district’s sinking fund. She noted that the writer of the article, in spite of receiving correct facts, reported inaccuracies to support their opinion. She asked everyone to vote “yes” on the millage proposals on November 3rd and wished both Mrs. Dindoffer and Mr. Kratz good luck in the upcoming election for board seats.
ADJOURNMENT	There being no further business, President Kosinski adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Board Secretary