



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 18, 2013
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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Valente.

Board members present: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske and Valente

Absent: Trustee Walsh

Also Present: Superintendent Harwood; Deputy Superintendents Dean and Fenton; Directors Bur and Johnson

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR MARCH 18, 2013

It was Moved by: Trustee Roeske

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Board approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting of March 18, 2013 as presented.

Ayes: Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Jakubiec, Pangborn, Roeske and Valente

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Walsh

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

No one came forward to speak at this time.

IV. AGENDA ACTION ITEM FOR MARCH 18, 2013

A. Approval of the Regular and Closed Session Minutes of February 25, 2013 and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2013

Board members were asked to approve the minutes of the Closed Session and Regular Meeting of February 25, 2013 and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2013.

It was Moved by: Trustee Pangborn

Supported by: Trustee Gafa

THAT the Board approve the Closed, Regular and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of February, 2013 as presented.

Trustee Jakubiec requested that more comments be included in the minutes on important issues and that dialog requests be recorded.

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

Nays: Trustee Jakubiec

Absent: Trustee Walsh

Motion carried by a 5 – 1 vote.

B. Approval of Grosse Pointe Education Association (GPEA) Contract

GPEA President Sheri Burley shared the process of the agreement with the district administration and the Grosse Pointe Education Association membership. She noted that the agreement was ratified earlier in the day by a 61% of members in favor of the agreement. Mrs. Burley thanked the GPEA team of negotiators as well as the district's administrative team, Dr. Dean and Mr. Fenton for their time and understanding in negotiating a difficult contract.

Dr. Dean highlighted key components of the teacher agreement including changes in shared financial responsibility, health insurance costs and altered leave of absence language, and changes in outcomes for students involving teacher time in the classroom. He noted that the duration of the contract is for 4 years - March 25, 2013 to August 15, 2017.

Board members had an opportunity to express concerns and ask questions. Superintendent Harwood and Board members expressed their appreciation to both the administrative and GPEA negotiating teams as they worked together with respect, integrity and patience in negotiating the contract. All Board members also thanked the teachers for their work every day in the classroom and all that they accomplish for students in the district.

Trustee Jakubiec directed his concerns to assumptions on fund equity and its impact on the 3rd and 4th years of the new teacher agreement based on Budget Model Utility Reports that were provided to Board members.

Trustee Gafa encouraged the community to stay alert to issues facing the district from Lansing and address those concerns with elected officials.

Trustee Pangborn added that the Grosse Pointe community is like a family that needs to stay aware of what is going on with legislative changes affecting school districts.

It was Moved by: Trustee Valente

Supported by: Trustee Roeske

THAT the Board approve the agreement with the Grosse Pointe Education Association for a four-year contract effective March 25, 2013.

In a roll call vote,

Trustee Dindoffer, Yes

Trustee Gafa, Yes

Trustee Jakubiec, Yes

Trustee Pangborn, Yes

Trustee Roeske, Yes

Trustee Valente, Yes

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Walsh

Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

V. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Review of Revised Board Policies

Superintendent Harwood highlighted Board policies discussed at the last Policy Committee Meeting. Those policies were reviewed in relation to changes in PERA, the Public Employee Relations Act. A first reading of each policy was summarized by Dr. Harwood.

1. **Policy 3130 – Placement of Teachers (first reading)**
2. **Policy 3131 – Layoff and Recall of Teachers and Administrators (first reading)**
3. **Policy 3139 – Discipline, Demotion, or Dismissal (first reading)**
4. **Policy 3220 – Teacher and Administrator Performance Evaluation (first reading)**

These policies will be presented to the Board for approval at the Board's regular meeting on March 25, 2013.

B. Head Start Program

Superintendent noted that in March of 2012 the Board of Education approved the authority of the Superintendent to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wayne Community Action Agency to use Poupard Elementary School for a Head Start Program. That program began in September, 2013 and has successfully served 20 students and their families this year. For the upcoming 2013-14 school year, Ms. Stocks and Dr. Harwood have requested continuing and renewing a similar Memorandum of Understanding with the Wayne Community Action Agency for the Head Start Program at Poupard to continue. They provided a summary of the program and the status and the students and families that have been served this school year. This will be presented to the Board at their regular meeting on March 25, 2013 for approval.

Trustee Pangborn expressed concern with recent federally funded program cuts and how the district would handle this program if that occurs. Dr. Harwood noted that in speaking with the Head Start Director, the successful Head Start Program at Poupard would not be cut but could possibly see changes in reducing the head count (by 2 students) or by reducing the time (days of the week, or length of day). The organization would prefer not to reduce slots for students.

Trustee Jakubiec asked for confirmation that this program would remain cost neutral as Federal funded programs risk financial cuts for next year. He asked if the district could have an alternative to the agreement if there proved to be funding cuts proposed and requested that the district look into alternative programs before making a commitment to this program. Superintendent Harwood replied that more funds are being funneled into preschool programs in the future and he is cautiously confident that this program would not be affected financially.

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS

President Dindoffer announced that there will be a Regular Meeting of the Board on Monday, March 25, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the Brownell Multipurpose Room. There will also be a Policy Committee Meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 6 p.m. in the Board Room at 389 St. Clair.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

George McMullen, Grosse Pointe Woods, spoke in support of Dr. Harwood's performance as Superintendent over the past year and his ability to bring positive change and forward-thinking movement for the Grosse Pointe Public Schools.

Board comments:

Trustee Jakubiec had no comment.

Trustee Gafa shared her experiences at school events including North's Cardboard Regatta. She thanked both bargaining teams for their work on the new teacher contract.

Trustee Pangborn discussed Monteith's Valentine sale which netted funds for books to be purchased for every classroom.

Trustee Roeske thanked both bargaining teams also for their hard work on negotiating a contract. He mentioned Brownell's production of "Once Upon a Mattress" this Thursday and Saturday, March 21st and 23rd. Mr. Roeske also congratulated the South Girls basketball team for their hard work and excellent job in the playoffs. He thanked Penny Stocks for her leadership and commitment to Poupard's Head Start Program.

Trustee Valente also thanked the administrative and teacher bargaining teams for their tenacity in working out a contract agreeable to both sides. She asked parent drivers to be respectful of students walking into school as they drop off their children in the morning reminding them to put 'safety first'.

Superintendent Harwood expressed his appreciation to both bargaining teams for their professionalism and hard work as tough decisions were made that ultimately will benefit the students and teachers for years to come.

President Dindoffer echoed the comments of others regarding the negotiating teams and their hard work during negotiations. She encouraged the Board to work together on a budget that will reflect the district's revenue sources and the budgeting process begins. Trustee Dindoffer also noted North's cardboard Regatta event as well as their production of Brigadoon recently. She, too, congratulated the South Girls basketball team on their commitment to excellence as they played in the playoffs.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

President Dindoffer adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Lois Valente, Board Secretary