



Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Regular Meeting - April 28, 2025
MINUTES
North High School - PAC
707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Meeting Minutes

Encl: 5.1.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

President Worden called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Board members present: Trustees: Worden, St. John, Cotton, Jeup, Klepp, Hull, Derringer

Absent: Trustees: None

Late Arrival: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all in attendance.

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle, Dr. Roy Bishop, Dr. Chris Stanley, CFO DeeAnn Irby

2. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA FOR APRIL 28, 2025

It was Moved by: Trustee St. John

Supported by: Trustee Cotton

THAT the Board approve the Agenda for April 28, 2025, as presented.

Ayes: Trustees: Worden, St. John, Cotton, Jeup, Klepp, Hull, Derringer

Nays: None

Motion carried 7-0 vote

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Presentation by Barnes - Tuition-Based Preschool Program - Sara Meier

Sara Meier, Jill Kloster, Elizabeth Alloush, Danielle Szafranski, and Kelly Baranek presented highlights of the Tuition-Based Preschool Programs. This was followed by multiple questions and comments from board members.

B. GPFPE Spring Grants

Cynthia Sohn, president of GPFPE, presented the Spring Grants for Grosse Pointe Public Schools.

1. First Tee School Program (Young 5s - 4th grade) All Elementary Schools (\$3,250)

This grant funds a youth development program that integrates the game of golf with a life skills curriculum. This grant will be funded by the Lois J. Warden Fund that is designated for important early and elementary programs within the school district.

Submitted by Courtney Kliman

2. Chromebooks for Classrooms (Kindergarten) Kerby (\$7,000)

These teachers are requesting new technology to replace the current dysfunctional devices in their classrooms. Chromebooks will also help these kindergarten students work with equipment that is not only dependable, but has become mandatory in the district. Submitted by Julie VanTol and Pam Cronovich

3. Technology in Young Fives (Young 5s) Kerby (\$4,143)

A request from this instructor would cover the cost of iPads, a charging dock, and cases for her students. The award would allow these young students access to functional technology within the classroom.

Submitted by Kim Chwalek

4. Chromebooks for Student Learning (Kindergarten - 4th grade) Richard (\$9,956)

This elementary principal is requesting funding to purchase Chromebooks that will be shared throughout his school to enhance online curricular resources.

Submitted by John Kernan

5. DI at Defer (1st-4th th grade) Defer (\$1,000)

Destination Imagination teams at this elementary school intend to use this grant for the 2025-2026 school year. It will cover registration of the teams, background checks for team mentors, and tournament fees.

Submitted by Courtney Dykstra

6. DI at Pierce (5th - 8th grade) Pierce (\$1,000)

Another grant award for the 2025-2026 school year, this will cover DI team registration, background checks for team mentors, and tournament fees for this middle school.

Submitted by Courtney Dykstra

7. Championing for Students with Disabilities with Story Champs (Early Childhood - 8th grade)

Barnes, All Elementary Schools and All Middle Schools (\$7,780)

This grant request will fund a narrative intervention program designed for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and mildly to moderately language impaired students to improve oral language.

Submitted by Lisa Aouad, Lisa Dougherty, and Vanessa Coverdill

8. AED Trainers (All ages) GPPSS District (\$1,550)

District nurses are requesting funds to purchase two automated external defibrillator trainers to assist with ongoing staff training for cardiac emergencies within district school buildings.

Submitted by Janelle Crutchfield, Heather Muschong, and Patti Stehlin

9. Inquiry-Based Learning with DBQ Project (5th-8th grade) All Middle Schools (\$10,140)

This request will fund consistency with common language and curriculum between English and Social Studies instruction in GPPSS middle schools. The Document-Based Questions program is formulated to allow students to supplement their curriculum, focus on authentic learning, and build skills to support evidence-based writing. The teacher training portion of this grant is funded by The Ronald Dalby Fund.

Submitted by Alexis Lecznar, Drew Dettlinger, Rebecca Churray, and Beth Rainbolt

10. Destination Imagination Global Finals (5th-8th grade) Pierce (\$1,000)

Two DI teams from Grosse Pointe have qualified for - and will attend - the 2025 DI Global Finals in Kansas City. This award will facilitate their participation.

Submitted by Courtney Dykstra

11. Aeronautical Engineering (6th grade) Parcels (\$776)

A middle school science teacher wishes to fund a group of students who will build rockets that can be used many times and can be shared with the other district middle schools. The rockets can reach an altitude of 200 feet. Students will be involved with engine placement and fin design for controlled thrust and maximum altitude.

Submitted by Walter Charuba

12. Greenfield Village (5th grade) Parcels (\$1,000)

This middle school social studies instructor hopes to take all 5th-grade students to Greenfield Village after completing a Colonial Life unit.

Submitted by Kelly Sexton-Bolen

13. Pierce Botmasterz All-Girls Robotics Team (5th-8th grade) Pierce (\$600)

This grant will help fund the start-up and annual costs for the 2025-2026 school year for this robotics team.

Submitted by Jane Plieth

14. After-School Support Programs (5th-8th grade) Parcels (\$6,000)

These funds will permit extra after-school programs already in place to provide testing, homework assistance, and tutoring to middle school students needing extra academic help.

Submitted by Parcels Administration

15. Botmasterz All-Girls, District Wide, 14+ Robotics Team (7th-12th grade) All Middle Schools and High Schools (\$1,000)

A district sponsor and an involved parent have applied for a grant to fund registration, competition fees, parts, and tools needed to build a robot for this extracurricular team. This grant award will also be used for outreach to GPPSS elementary and middle school buildings.

Submitted by Jane Plieth and Sherry Betcher

16. Grosse Pointe North Quiz Bowl: National Tournament (11th - 12th grade) North (\$1,000)

After qualifying for the National Quiz Bowl Tournament in Atlanta, this grant will help these talented and hardworking students toward their goal of attending this important competition.

Submitted by Jessica Turner

17. Coaster Creation (9th - 12th grade) North (\$300)

A North High School special education teacher has applied for a grant award to purchase materials that her students will use to make and decorate coasters. She hopes that these coasters can then be sold by her students at craft fairs in the area, creating a small classroom business model.

Submitted by Jill Martin

18. Assistive Technology for Reading Support (9th - 12th grade) North (\$1,175)

This LRC teacher at North High School will use this grant award to purchase a Scan Marker Pro, C-Pens, and Guided Reading Strips to support student learning for students with reading disabilities. It will allow students independence to complete their assigned work.

Submitted by Heather Bowersox

19. Improved Access to Microscope Technology (9th - 12th grade) North (\$5,933)

Science teachers have applied for this grant to ensure that their students receive a high-quality science education that meets academic and industry standards. These funds will add to existing microscopes, replace malfunctioning ones, and purchase slide sets of cell types and human tissues.

Submitted by Christopher Skowronski and Liz Michaels

20. Layout and Workflow Optimization Grant (9th-12th grade) South (\$2,256)

This art teacher is completing the layout and flow of his new classroom at South. He plans to use this grant award to create areas to safely store and efficiently move student projects and materials.

Submitted by Tom Szmrecsanyi

21. Skull and Bone Replicas for Forensics (9th - 12th grade) South (\$4,300)

Forensics instruction includes a unit on forensic anthropology. This teacher is hoping to give his students a greater collection to show the variety and differences of human skulls and bones.

Submitted by Jeffery Swietlik

SEED (Social, Emotional, Encouragement and Development) Grants

1. Community Somewhat Virtual Book Club (9th-12th grade) South (\$953)

A South High School librarian wishes to conduct a monthly high school book club with students across the country who will read and discuss the same books virtually, and connect with the authors of the books. Book titles change each year.

Submitted by Courtney Johnson

2. Wellness Workshop, Friendship Corner, Mindful Movement and Mindful Moment Materials (1st grade) Richard (\$384)

This teacher wants to use mindfulness techniques to help her first graders with brain development, better focus, and enhanced classroom management.

Submitted by Yvette Vctor

3. Bea*TWEEN the Books Therapy Dog Program (5th-8th grade) Pierce (\$465)

This is a grant award that would fund therapy dog, Bea's, yearly membership and insurance. as well as purchase books on social and emotional learning for Pierce's student population.

Submitted by Christina Michaud

4. Peer to Peer (9th - 12th grade) North (\$2,000)

This important student high school support group continues to promote mental health awareness and wellness at North. The grant award will facilitate student leadership and knowledge to cultivate a culture of caring and understanding at the school. Submitted by Christine Kuhl and Jessica Turner

5. Therapy Dog Liability Insurance (Kindergarten - 8th grade) Monteith and Pierce (\$290)

Scarlett would become the only small therapy dog in GPPSS. This grant funds her insurance costs.

Submitted by Danielle Doolittle

6. GPPSS Therapy Dog Program (5th-8th grade) Pierce (\$290)

Pierce's School Psychologist is requesting insurance and fees for Birdie, a certified therapy dog. Along with her certified handler, Birdie will be present during interactions with Pierce students and will visit classrooms during student breaks.

Submitted by Marc Weaver

7. 5th Grade Camp (5th grade) All Middle Schools (\$20,000)

This grant request is aimed at 5th-grade students who are not financially able to attend this yearly important camp experience. Meeting middle school classmates from other feeder schools and having a day of interesting and stimulating outdoor activities is a valuable part of a 5th grader's entrance into middle school, which GPFPE is happy to support. Submitted by Chris Stanley

Total Spring GPFPE Grant Awards: \$95,501

C. GPEA Teachers of the Year

Taryn Loughlin, co-president of the GPEA, presented this year's Teachers of the Year:

Barnes-Lisa Thomas

Brownell-Susan Jordan

Defer-Katie Griesbaum

Ferry-Beth Schrade

Kerby-Angelina Kuczewski

Maire-Sarah Neely

Mason-Karen Cole

Monteith-Michelle Denison

North-Michael Viviani

Parcells-Nan Sabella

Pierce-Bill Thompson

Richard-Jacqueline Rabaut

South-Todd Hecker

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL 28, 2025

Lisa Papas, GPC, talked about Item 5.6. Revision of Policy 8.09.

5. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL 28, 2025

5.1. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 28, 2025

It was Moved by: Trustee St. John **Supported by:** Trustee Klepp

THAT the Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for April 14, 2025.

Ayes: Trustees: Worden, St. John, Cotton, Jeup, Klepp, Hull, Derringer

Nays: None

Motion carried 7-0 vote

5.2. APPROVAL OF GPFPE SPRING GRANTS

It was Moved by: Trustee Worden **Supported by:** Trustee Jeup

THAT the Board approve the GPFPE Spring Grants

Ayes: Trustees: Worden, St. John, Cotton, Jeup, Klepp, Hull, Derringer

Nays: None

Motion carried 7-0 vote

5.3. APPROVAL OF HR REPORT FOR APRIL 28, 2025

Several questions were raised by board members.

It was Moved by: Trustee St. John **Supported by:** Trustee Jeup

THAT the Board approve the HR Report for April 28, 2025

Ayes: Trustees: Worden, St. John, Cotton, Jeup, Klepp, Hull, Derringer

Nays: None

Motion carried 7-0 vote

5.4. APPROVAL OF EHRESMAN ARCHITECTURAL CONTRACT FOR TROMBLY WINDOW REPLACEMENT

It was Moved by: Trustee Derringer **Supported by:** Trustee Jeup

THAT the Board approve the Ehresman Architectural Contract for Trombly Window Replacement

Ayes: Trustees: Worden, St. John, Cotton, Jeup, Klepp, Hull, Derringer

Nays: None

Motion carried 7-0 vote

**5.5. APPROVAL OF EHRESMAN ARCHITECTURAL CONTRACT FOR GROSSE
POINTE N AND S CHILLER REPLACEMENT**

Trustee Derringer gave a brief explanation of why this contract is necessary.

It was Moved by: Trustee Derringer

Supported by: Trustee St. John

THAT the Board approve the Ehresman Architectural Contract for Grosse Pointe N and S Chiller Replacement

Ayes: Trustees: Worden, St. John, Cotton, Jeup, Klepp, Hull, Derringer

Nays: Trustee: None

Motion carried 7-0 vote

**5.6. APPROVAL OF REVISION OF POLICY 8.09 - ADVERTISING; DISTRIBUTION
OR POSTING OF INFORMATION**

Trustee St. John provided a brief overview of the policy, after which several board members offered comments and raised questions.

It was Moved by: Trustee St. John

Supported by: Trustee Hull

THAT the Board approve the Revision of Policy 8.09 - Advertising; Distribution or Posting of Information

Ayes: Trustees: Worden, St. John, Klepp, Hull, Derringer

Nays: Trustees: Jeup, Cotton

Motion carried 5-2 vote

**5.7. APPROVAL OF HIRING OF MRS. REBECCA FANNON AS COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR**

It was Moved by: Trustee St. John

Supported by: Trustee Worden

THAT the Board approve the hiring of Mrs. Rebecca Fannon as Communications Director

Ayes: Trustees: Worden, St. John, Cotton, Jeup, Klepp, Hull, Derringer

Nays: None

Motion carried 7-0 vote

6. AGENDA ACTION ITEMS FOR MAY 13, 2025

- 6.1.** Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2025
- 6.2.** Approval of MAISA Social Studies Unit and Committee Work

Dr. Delgado and Mrs. Randazzo provided a concise overview of the MAISA Unit, after which several board members posed a series of questions.

- 6.3.** Approval of Wayne RESA BOE
- 6.4.** Approval of Resolution Declaring First Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day

Trustee St. John delivered an in-depth summary of the background pertaining to the resolution, followed by a series of comments and inquiries from multiple board members.

6.5. Approval of Proposed Board Norms Resolution

Trustee Worden provided an overview of the resolution's formation, followed by comments and questions from several board members. Dr. Tuttle then proceeded to read each item line by line, allowing board members the opportunity to voice a "nay" if they disagreed.

6.6. Approval of Trombly Re-Purpose Resolution

Trustee Worden presented a summary of the resolution, after which board members offered multiple comments and raised questions.

7. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

7.1. Monthly Financials/Check Register/Health Care Report

Trustees Klepp and Derringer raised several issues with CFO Irby and invited her to address any additional concerns she might have. CFO Irby then highlighted several matters that she is currently working to resolve.

8. FUTURE MEETINGS

- 8.1.** Facilities Meeting, Monday, May 5, 2025, 5:30 pm, North Library is canceled.
- 8.2.** Policies Meeting, Monday, May 5, 2025, 6:30 pm, Central Office Board Room
- 8.3.** BOE Regular Meeting, Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 7:00 pm, Brownell MPR
- 8.4.** Bond Advisory Council Meeting, Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 6:00 pm, North Library
- 8.5.** BOE Regular Meeting, Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 7:00 pm, Brownell MPR

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Rosy Knapp, GPF, discussed the resolution for National Gun Violence Awareness Day.
Terry Collins, GPP, talked about multiple issues including Trombly.
Abby Jacobs, GPW, discussed the Magnet Program.
Christine Jacobs, GPF, discussed her thoughts on Trombly's repurposing.
Amanda York, GPW, discussed the students at Mason and Parcels.
Ghassan Elian, GPW, talked about the large class sizes in the district.
Mary Fraser, GPP, read a student's statement regarding Gun Violence Awareness Day.
Kevin Nugent, GPF, provided multiple comments pertaining to Gun Violence Awareness Day.
Michelle White, GPP, discussed several comments regarding Gun Violence Awareness Day.
Matt Kahl, GPP, discussed the analysis and data regarding Trombly and the district.
Lisa Papas, GPC, discussed promoting political actions and Gun Violence Awareness Day.
Michelle Hodges, Mayor of GPP, talked about Trombly and the resolution passed by GPP.
Wendy Soebel, GPF, talked about the analysis and data regarding Trombly.
Nick Symonette, GPW, talked about the instability at Parcels.
Lisa Symonette, GPW, talked about true leadership and inequities in the district.
Richard Schroeder, GPP, talked about his actions at a previous meeting and gun safety.

10. BOARD MEMBER / SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Trustee Cotton talked about a South graduate, Will Johnson, who won the 2nd round NFL draft.

Trustee Derringer reflected on the importance of raising our children and the idea that it truly takes a village—a goal well worth striving for. He also shared his anticipation for Mother's Day in the coming weeks and expressed appreciation for all that the mothers in our community do.

Trustee St. John congratulated the Pierce DI Team and North's Quiz Bowl team on making it to nationals. She also highlighted the *Little Mermaid* production, saying it was wonderful to see the students supporting one another. She shared how impressive South's Art Fest was and how it truly showcased the talents of our student artists. Lastly, she talked about attending the Suicide Prevention Walk, describing it as very inspiring, and thanked everyone who came out to support the cause.

Trustee Jeup thanked everyone for being here.

Trustee Klepp thanked the GPFPE for all that they do and congratulated the Teachers of the Year

Trustee Hull thanked the GPFPE for all that they do and congratulated the Teachers of the Year because they are the heart of our schools and our district.

Dr. Bishop spoke about the Teachers of the Year, emphasizing how meaningful it is to honor their hard work and to have their families present for the celebration. He also noted the importance of continuing conversations around equity and equality within our community.

Dr. Tuttle gave a shout-out to Mr. Geresy and his students for the awards that they received.

President Worden acknowledged the powerful remarks from the mother who spoke about gun violence. She also took a moment to recognize our dedicated teachers and the work of the GPFPE, expressing gratitude to the community members who helped raise funds for the grants. She gave a shoutout to both Quiz Bowl teams for their efforts and success. Finally, she noted the respectful tone of the board during the meeting and shared her deep appreciation for that spirit of civility.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Worden adjourned the meeting at 10:42 pm.

Valarie St. John, Secretary