



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education
Facilities & Finance Committee (5:30 p.m.)
MINUTES
December 12, 2024
Central Office Board Room
20601 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236**

MEETING MINUTES

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

Chair Cotton called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Committee members present: Chair Sean Cotton, Treasurer Terence Collins, Trustee Colleen Worden, Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle, CFO Brandy Pavlik, Executive Director Dr. Christopher Stanley, Director Ben Matteson, Melissa Fradenburg, Heath Roberts, Mike Vethacke

Absent: Matthew Agnone, Ryan Case, Joseph Parke

Late Arrival: None

Also Present: Gary Kent of Plante Moran, Sean Wahl of PFM Financial Advisors.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all in attendance.

Chair Cotton stated that Trustees Jeup and Papas could attend the meeting without violating the OMA so long as they did not make any statements. He cited AG Opinion NO. 6636, *Nicholas v Meridian Twp Bd*, 239 Mich App 525, 531-532, and *Ryant v Cleveland Twp*, 239 Mich App 430, 434-435; 608 NW2d 101 (2000).

2. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

The meeting was handed over to Superintendent Tuttle.

2.1. Parking Lot RFP

Director Matteson led the discussion on the RFP on parking lot work and recommended a bidder. Gary Kent of Plante Moran assisted in the discussion.

2.2. Fiber RFP

Executive Director Stanley led the discussion on Fiber Optics and the need to reconfigure for redundancy at buildings.

2.3. Sinking Fund Update

Superintendent Tuttle led the discussion on Sinking Fund prioritization for the next three years.

2.4. Bond Extension

Superintendent Tuttle led the discussion on a recommendation of a Bond Extension. Sean Wahl of PFM Financial Advisors assisted in the discussion.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Mokray, GPW, expressed concerns regarding the specificity of projects covered by the bond proposal. He emphasized the importance of validating the district's overall needs before bond issuance, particularly considering potential population declines. Mr. Mokray noted that if Grosse Pointe North High School were to close due to declining enrollment, it could create challenges related to bond funding. He also urged the board to consider the impact of potential district reconfiguration, including school closures and increased bussing requirements.

James Creighton, GPP, voiced agreement with Ken Mokray's concerns, highlighting statewide and local student population declines. He stressed the importance of the Plante Moran Needs Assessment Report in providing guidance to right-size the district. Mr. Creighton emphasized the need to determine which buildings warrant investment and stated that he represents others.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Collins, thanked the District for his appointment to the F&F Committee and thanked Superintendent Tuttle for her diligent work in getting the Operating Millage and Sinking Fund passed.

Trustee Worden, thanked Treasurer Collins for his service and asked that Director Matteson and the staff that know our buildings the best provide their prioritization of the needs for the District.

Chair Cotton, agreed with Trustee Worden that prioritization of projects should come from our staff, stated that he disagreed with the statements of Ken Mokray and James Creighton as the District has shown that it can run and maintain all buildings in the District and further stated that he did not believe this bond would pass unless there was an agreement that all schools would remain open and operational.

Mellisa Fradenburg, agreed with Chair Cotton and stated that if the District is contemplating the closure of buildings then funding from the Bond should not be tied to specific schools.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cotton adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm

Lisa Papas, Secretary