

**MINUTES OF MEETING
WAYNE COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2019 – 2:00 P.M.
COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL BUILDING - ROOM 705
2 WOODWARD AVENUE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

Members present: Honorable Freddie G. Burton, Jr., Chief Judge, Probate Court
Honorable Cathy M. Garrett, Secretary – Wayne County Clerk

Members absent: Honorable Eric Sabree, Member – Wayne County Treasurer

Also present: Kevin Kavanagh, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Gregory P. Mahar, Director, Wayne County Elections
Jennifer Redmond, Assistant Director
Delphine G. Oden, Elections Consultant
En’Joli Conley, Administrative Assistant
Sara Scott Erica Foondle
Rosy Stefanatos-Knapp Julie Baumer
Scott Hughes Thomas Bruetsch
Judy Gafa Wilson Moin
Kathleen Abke Deborah Karcher
Jeanette Evans G. McMullen
Leslie Genest Nicol Brumme
Nan Sabella Doris Krier
Pamela Paris Jedonna Dinges
India Dinges Genanne LaPratt
Michael Koester Dada Moir
Brooke Bertolini Chris Profeta
Beth Walsh-Sahutske M. Jon Dean
Kress Brooks Amanda Cunningham
Michele Coffin Mary Stroud
Mary Anne Brush Maria Simon
Katherine Samper

Agenda item: **Consideration of Agenda approval.**

Board action on agenda item: Chair Burton requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Garrett, duly supported by Chair Burton, moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was adopted unanimously by a voice vote.

Agenda item: Approval of Minutes of June 13, 2019

Board action on agenda item: Chair Burton requested a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 13, 2019. Chair Burton, duly supported by Member Garrett, moved to approve the minutes of June 13, 2019. The motion was adopted unanimously by a voice vote.

Agenda item: Determination of Clarity – Kathleen Abke, Office of Board Member, Grosse Pointe Public School System

Chair Burton asked Assistant Corporation Counsel Kevin Kavanagh to remind the commission of its role in making a determination of clarity. Assistant Corporation Counsel Kavanagh reminded the commission of its role and duties for a determination of clarity. Mr. Kavanagh summarized the section of Michigan Election law regarding the role of the Election Commission and the basis for a determination of clarity.

Chair Burton asked the attorney representing the petitioner if he would like to speak regarding the petition. Mr. Scott Hughes read the section of the constitution regarding the commission's role for a determination of clarity. He also stated that under state law the role of the Commission in the hearing is to determine whether each reason for the recall stated in the petitions is factual and of sufficient clarity.

****Treasurer Sabree arrives and joins the meeting at 2:07 p.m.****

Chair Burton asked Thomas Bruetsch, counsel representing the three board members if he had any remarks. Mr. Bruetsch stated that the petitions were filed on June 4, 2019, and that it references a meeting of June 10, 2019 that had not even occurred at the time of filing. Mr. Bruetsch stated that the petition language is not clear, factual and is based in part on a hypothetical and not based on the actions of the members subject to recall.

Board action on agenda item: Chair Burton requested a motion for determination of clarity on items 5A-1.

Reason for recall as printed on the Recall Petition 5A-1 for Kathleen Abke:

"Kathleen Abke is the Secretary of the Grosse Pointe Public School System ("GPPSS") School Board (the "Board")." On June 11, 2018, the Board unanimously passed a resolution directing GPPSS

officials to propose a plan to address declining student population and reconfigure schools. A Board meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2019, at which time the Board will consider approving a plan proposed by GPPSS officials to close schools. According to an April 11, 2019 article by the Detroit News, the Board President stated the Board is only considering plans that close schools.

Board action on agenda item: Member Garrett, duly supported by Member Sabree, moved to reject item 5A-1, due to lack of clarity.

Ayes: Garrett, Sabree

Nays: Burton

Agenda item: **Determination of Clarity – Judy Gafa, Office of Board Member, Grosse Pointe Public School System**

Reason for recall as printed on the Recall Petition 5A-2 for Judy Gafa:

“Judy Gafa is the Treasurer of the Grosse Pointe Public School System (“GPPSS”) School Board (the “Board”).” On June 11, 2018, the Board unanimously passed a resolution directing GPPSS officials to propose a plan to address declining student population and reconfigure schools. A Board meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2019, at which time the Board will consider approving a plan proposed by GPPSS officials to close schools. According to an April 11, 2019 article by the Detroit News, the Board President stated the Board is only considering plans that close schools.”

Board action on agenda item: Member Garrett, duly supported by Member Sabree, moved to reject item 5A-2, due to lack of clarity.

Ayes: Garrett, Sabree

Nays: Burton

Agenda item: **Determination of Clarity – Christopher Profeta, Office of Board Member, Grosse Pointe Public School System**

Reason for recall as printed on the Recall Petition 5A-3 for Christopher Profeta:

“Christopher Profeta is a Trustee of the Grosse Pointe Public School System (“GPPSS”) School Board (the “Board”).” On June 11, 2018, the Board unanimously passed a resolution directing GPPSS officials to propose a plan to address declining student population and reconfigure schools. A Board meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2019, at which time the Board will consider approving a plan proposed by GPPSS officials to close schools. According to

an April 11, 2019 article by the Detroit News, the Board President stated the Board is only considering plans that close schools.”

Board action on agenda item: Member Sabree, duly supported by Member Garrett, moved to reject item 5A-3, due to lack of clarity.

Ayes: Garrett, Sabree

Nays: Burton

Agenda item: **New Business.** None

Agenda item: **Public Comment.** Chair Burton asked if there were any public comments, Mike Ester, Jeanette Evans, and Jedonna Dinges made comments regarding the petitioner and the supporters of the recall.

Agenda item: **Adjournment.** Chair Burton requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Sabree, duly supported by Member Garrett, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.