



**GROSSE POINTE  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

# Partners in Learning

Excellence in Education: Learning and Leading for Today and Tomorrow

Fall 2007

## Our mission embraces every child, every day

### Inside This Issue:

- Board Bulletin Newsletter ..... p. 2
- Quick look at annual report info ..... p. 3
- Protocol followed as district handled  
MRSA staff infection ..... p. 4
- Race for the Cure honor ..... p. 4
- New director of Student Services ..... p. 4

### AI Diver named MASSP High School Principal of the Year

D. Allan Diver was recognized by the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) as High School Principal of the Year. According to MASSP Executive Director Jim Ballard, “A judging panel was greatly impressed with AI’s commitment to the students, teachers, and parents of Grosse Pointe South High School and the Grosse Pointe Public School System.” Mr. Diver will represent Michigan at the MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals program in February.

### Gold Card Calendar available

Gold Cards offer the district’s senior citizens the opportunity to attend, without cost, various school sponsored events throughout the year. Free admission to athletic functions and dramatic and musical productions is our way of thanking local senior citizens for the support they have provided the Grosse Pointe Public School System. To obtain a calendar or Gold Card, please call 313/432-3007.

**Grosse Pointe Public School System**  
389 St. Clair Avenue  
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230  
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www.gpschools.org



The district is proud to recognize our 13 National Merit semi-finalists, and 14 commended students.

- photo courtesy of Amy Salvagno, Grosse Pointe Times

As the air turns crisp, there is a comforting rhythm to school schedules which now feel familiar. Students dig deeper into their studies and academic progress is made and measured in our classrooms.

Students connect to others and express their unique gifts not only in the classroom, but also in clubs and activities. Sporting

seasons are changing over and the dozens of opportunities unfold for winter and spring. Soon class scheduling options for the next year will become a topic of conversation in the homes of middle and high school students, and the schools will host tours and information nights for parents interested in exploring the many options our district provides.

These options are diverse. GPPSS offers a rigorous and well-rounded core curriculum aligned with the standards set by the state, and a comprehensive special education program. Our classes are designed to help our students learn to learn, and to make them competitive for further education and in the

workplace. GPPSS also offers fine and performing art options, and special classes ranging from commercial foods to robotics so students can explore interests and discover talents, often supported by mentors and program volunteers who are leaders in their prospective fields. Our district also

**Every child deserves the highest quality education.**

offers foreign language instruction in elementary, middle and high school. It offers support classes

to help students meet or exceed state and district benchmarks. More than 20 advanced placement classes provide extra challenge for students, and over half of our seniors take an AP class.

The same tenor of high standards that are set for students are maintained within the district programs. Staff are constantly evaluating curriculum, reviewing potential programs such as International Baccalaureate and Chinese instruction, and asking, “What do we need to do to meet the needs of each and every student, each and every day?” To us, each and every child deserves the highest quality education so all are well prepared for the opportunities after they graduate.

# BOARD BULLETIN

A new school year is underway in Grosse Pointe! Can it possibly be 365 days since last we saw those words? At least that much time must have passed in order to have accomplished the events of the last twelve months.

During that time:

- Community investment in the district infrastructure continued. The high schools had state of the art science labs installed, with construction on the middle school science labs not far behind. Construction on a pool complex to meet current MHSAA

competitive standards at South High School broke ground. Rearrangement of office space and parking at North High School to provide more visible access for visitors began. District wide improvements to doors, floors and ceilings continued, all increasing our energy efficiency.

- Budget concerns were a major force as the state of Michigan continued to struggle through a recession, but a balanced school budget was completed by the end of June without having to dip into fund equity. Fund equity is critical for maintaining our district's excellent credit rating and ability to borrow.

- Awards, graduations, athletic wins, performing and fine arts coups, and continuing academic excellence passed in a dizzying blur. Grosse Pointe maintained its ability to produce some of the best prepared graduates in the country.

- The district website and television played an increasingly important role in providing information and assistance to the community. Interested citizens found meeting dates, agendas and accompanying

agenda materials on the website as well as pod casts of Board meetings. Meetings and special school television

bargaining groups are still working with district officials to reach contract agreements and we are hopeful this will happen soon.

**BOE members Alice Kosinski and Joan Dindoffer toured district construction sites this summer. They are shown here with Dr. Klein and Dr. Dib in one of Brownell's new science rooms, set to open ahead of schedule this fall.**



Many Grosse Pointe employees are award winning in their work and devote personal time to students and district projects. The Board recognizes that dedication to a job well done is an intangible quality that blesses this district in all job capacities and we are most grateful for our employees. With teamwork, academic excellence is an achievable goal!

productions were broadcast on Comcast channel 20.

While many things happened, some things never seem to change; the commitment of the community and staff to our district remains passionate. This is what makes Grosse Pointe a unique and excellent district.

Deserving special attention is the remarkable collaboration demonstrated by GPPSS employees over the last twelve months. As Michigan continues to struggle to balance its budget, schools across the state have had difficulty balancing their own budgets. Promised state aid threatens to disappear, while retirement and health care premiums continue to skyrocket.

Central office administrators, custodial and maintenance workers, teachers, and secretaries, all maintained realistic expectations of what the district is able to provide in the way of compensation and benefits. The majority of our talented and dedicated workers have signed contracts and begun a new year of excellence in Grosse Pointe. A few

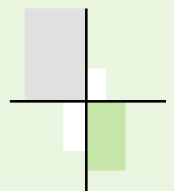
## 2006-07 Board of Education

**Brendan Walsh, President**  
**Alice Kosinski, Vice-President**  
**Ahmed Ismail, Secretary**  
**Fred Minturn, Treasurer**  
**Joan Dindoffer, Trustee**  
**Angela Kennedy, Trustee**  
**Charles Sabino, Trustee**

**Board meetings are typically the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 8 p.m. July through December they are held in South High School's Wicking Library, 11 Grosse Pointe Boulevard. January through June they are in North High School's Library, 707 Vernier.**

**Agendas and meeting times are posted in the Administration Building at 389 St. Clair Avenue, and on the district website [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org)**

**The Board of Education welcomes input through their email [schoolboard@gpschools.org](mailto:schoolboard@gpschools.org)**



2006-07 Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) Results						
	Reading	Writing	ELA*	Math	Science	Social St.
Grade 3	95%	74%	92%	95%	-	-
2005-06	94	75	91	94	-	-
Grade 4	95	61	92	93	-	-
2005-06	95	79	93	94	-	-
Grade 5	95	79	93	92	95	-
2005-06	92	85	91	88	90	-
Grade 6	95	86	91	81	-	90
2005-06	92	82	90	85	-	91
Grade 7	94	85	93	84	-	-
2005-06	89	86	88	80	-	-
Grade 8	91	85	90	84	89	-
2005-06	93	88	92	86	92	-

Spring 2007 Michigan Merit Exam Grade 11 (changed from MEAP HST in 06/07)				
	All	Female	Male	Percent Tested
Reading	83%	85%	81%	97%
Writing	66	73	60	96
ELA	77	81	73	96
Math	72	71	73	97
Science	79	81	78	96
Social St.	96	98	94	97

2006-07 ACT Mean Score Results for 12th Grade Students						
	% Tested	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
GPPSS	80.6%	23.6	24.1	24.6	23.5	24.1
State	71.9%	20.7	21.3	21.8	21.7	21.5
Nation	48.0%	20.7	21.0	21.5	21.0	21.2

2006-07 SAT Results for 12th Grade Students			
	% Tested	Critical Reading	Math Mean Score
GPPSS	34.7%	587.9	597.8
State	9%	568	579
Nation	55%	502	515

**Advanced Placement (AP) Update**  
 The total number of AP tests taken by district students increased to 1,416 in 2006/07, up from 1,403 in 2005-06. The district's percentage of students taking tests remains significantly higher than our like districts and the state. In 2006, 50.7% of Grosse Pointe seniors took the tests, compared to 14.5% for Michigan. The district percentage of tests passed remains a very healthy 78%, well above state and national averages.

Percentages shown above are students achieving a satisfactory score. ELA stands for English Language Arts. -/- designates grade levels where students were not tested in that content area

**2005-06 Quick Facts**

- **91% of Parents Participated in Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- **Average Daily Attendance of 95%**
- **Completion/Graduation Rate of 97.03%:** High school students who graduate in four (4) years
- **Dropout Rate of 0.74%:** students who do not complete the GPPSS high school program
- **Retention Rate of 99.26%:** District average high school enrollment minus high school dropout rate
- **Seven (7) students earned credit by Successful Course Test-Out**
- **Six (6) students Dual Enrolled** concurrently in high school and post-secondary classes

**School Improvement Update**

Grosse Pointe Public School System has had a district Strategic Planning process in place since 1987. Goals of the most recent Strategic Plan include:

- 1) As a result of challenging educational programs, high student achievement and outstanding opportunities available for all its students, the Grosse Pointe Public School System is considered the state's premier school district.
- 2) A highly competent staff, committed to the highest standard of excellence, creates a positive learning environment for all students.
- 3) Technology is effectively integrated to support the work of students and staff so that learning results improve and productivity is enhanced.
- 4) The district's communication initiatives keep residents well informed, enhance community partnerships and attract new families to the district.
- 5) The district acts as a wise steward of its financial assets by following guiding principles to determine funding, controlling costs and maximizing the benefits received from its assets to support and enhance the instructional program, and successfully cultivating new sources of revenue.

Find the complete annual report and Strategic Plan at [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org).

## Denise Sweat welcomed to Student Services

With 24 years experience in education, six of that in administration, Denise Sweat (pronounced “sweet”) came to GPPSS October 1 from the Lake Orion Community Schools where she most recently served as Director of Special Education. Her leadership skills in the areas of special education law, parent engagement, monitoring/compliance, assessment and program development made her stand out among a list of highly qualified candidates interviewed for the position.

A repeated theme in her short time here is her demonstrated commitment to children with special needs and their families, as well as her ability to align the needs of the child and family with the vision of the district.

After visiting every classroom, conducting her first meeting of all special education staff, and starting personal interviews with all building principals and several parents and parent advo-

cates, Sweat has developed a preliminary action plan for the year. Places where she will focus her energy this year include:

- The State’s Continuous Improvement Monitoring System (CIMS) three-year cycle
- Federal monitoring, specifically addressing the disproportionality of African American students in the Cognitively Impaired program
- Focusing on programs for at-risk learners not identified as special education students
- Making the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) system more student focused, with consistent forms and processes
- Continuing to listen to families and staff to more closely align programs, services and case loads

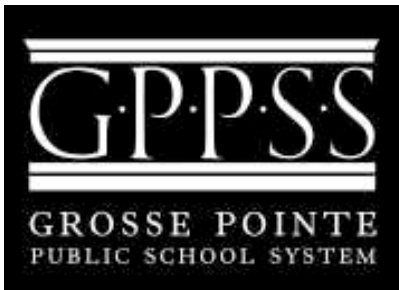
Denise will be formally welcomed to the district at a reception to be held in early December.

### MRSA protocol followed

When two confirmed and one suspected case of MRSA staph infections were reported in September at South, protocol was followed. The students have recovered, been cleared and resumed activities. The health department and local hospitals were notified, as were families with students in the football program. A pamphlet from the MHSA website was distributed and students were reminded that personal hygiene is the best defense. All surfaces of the locker rooms, lockers, and even the artificial turf at North and South were cleaned and disinfected. No other cases have been reported. Thank you to the custodial staff for their quick work.

### Race for the Cure honors GPPSS

Sandy Shellnut and Joanna Porvin of Brownell Middle School represented GPPSS at a dinner in September that recognized the most successful teams for Race for the Cure 2007. In addition to having the largest team in GPPSS history, the district increased our donations to over \$5,000.



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