

Board Briefs

October 2008

Meeting Dates

Board meeting dates are the fourth Monday of the month, with a few changes due to holiday and calendar issues. Additional work sessions may be scheduled, but those will not be televised.

Please Note: July through December, regular Board meetings will be held in South's Wicking Library. January through June, regular Board meetings will be held in the North library. Work session locations vary.

Next Meetings:

Board meeting at 8 p.m., Monday, November 24, in South's Wicking Library, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

Board meetings dates and agendas are listed at www.gpschools.org and posted in the Central Administration Building at 389 St. Clair Ave., Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

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Honors go to Merit scholars, AP Scholars, Yearbook staff and Principal

The number of students honored during the October board member may have hit an all time record. Honorees included six National Merit semifinalists and eight commended students, two 2009 National Achievement Scholarship Program students, one finalist in the National Hispanic Recognition Program, 39 Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars, 10 AP Scholars with honors (3.25+ average score on all AP exams), eight AP scholars with distinction (3.5+ average on all), and one National AP Scholar (4.0+ average on exams).

Also five students who participate with North's yearbook *Valhalla* and their advisor Shari Adwers were recognized for receiving the Gold Medal Certificate from Columbia Scholastic Press Association, first class rating from National Scholastic Press Association, first place with special merit from the American Scholastic Press Association, and the Gold Medal from the Michigan Scholastic Press Association.

And, Mark R. Olson, Financial Services Representative for MetLife was present to honor South Principal Allan Diver for being the 2008 MetLife/NASSP (National Association of Secondary School Principals) Michigan High School Principal of the Year.

Annual District Goals and School Improvement Plans passed 6-0

The district's Strategic Plan continues to unfold and these annual updates for the district goals and individual school improvement plans show how that document is being actively supported. Goals and initiatives described in the school improvement plans show priorities where schools will concentrate efforts and resources. Common goal areas included:

Writing where achievement is high and stable but we want to continue to show growth; **Mathematics** where new texts have been added at the elementary level, and gender and group differences are being targeted; enhancing the **Learning Environment** through programs like Positive Behavior Support and Challenge Day; **Academic Support**; and increasing the number of students in **Academic Challenge** opportunities like AP.

\$30,000 gift from General Motors received with gratitude

The board approved a \$30,000 gift from General Motors directed to FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics 1189 Gearhead program. GM has been a generous sponsor of FIRST for years--both financially totalling \$150,000 in cash support and over \$10,000 in equipment donations, and through countless volunteer hours by GM engineers who mentor students throughout the school year.

New district website unveiled

Steve Woloszyn, Mary Kilimas and Garrett Kelly were recognized for their efforts in conjunction with the technology cabinet and the website selection team in bringing a content-managed solution to our district.

Consent agenda included new Sixth Grade Honors title and bids

The Hobbit by J.R. Tolkien was approved as a "core" reading for the 6th grade honors class to support the Fantasy genre. Bids for fire alarms at Maire, Mason, Trombly and Parcels and for air conditioning select rooms at Kerby also passed, as did the regular human resources report and minutes.