

Board Briefs

December 2009

Next Meetings:

Board work session at 6:15 p.m., Monday, January 11, at the Administration Building, 389 St. Clair. Board regular meeting at 8 p.m., Monday, January 25 in the North High School library, 707 Vernier.

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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School newspapers honored, Sodexo and board members thanked

Student newspaper staff and advisors for North and South were recognized for recent awards from The National Scholastic Press Association including the Pacemaker award and second place Best in Show for the *North Pointe* and third place Best in Show for South's *Tower*. Also recognized were Alice Kosinski and Karl Kratz, outgoing board of education members. Dr. Klein commented, "This is a community that values education and asks that very high standards be set for its children." She thanked both for their efforts in upholding those standards. Also in the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Klein thanked Sodexo for a recent food tasting held at North and their efforts toward our Green School Initiative which include moving back to reusable plastic trays (made by Cambro in the USA) at the elementary schools. Eliminating styrofoam trays saves 10 bags of trash per school per day.

GPFPE presents another \$25,000 for FAST Reading

Last month the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education presented \$28,532 for seven different grant projects. In December, they were back with a \$25,000 gift from the Dryer Foundation for FAST Reading that the Board of Education gladly accepted.

Consent agenda ranges from math courses to policy revisions

The board approved a diverse consent agenda 7-0. Included were high school course approvals for *Introduction to Calculus* and *Statistics* and new textbooks for Elementary Music. Ten different policies were also updated with input from Neola, the company GPPSS contracted to work with the board and administration to review all of our policies and post them online. Recently updated policies include: search and seizure, religion in the curriculum, tutoring in voice and instrumental music, community involvement in decision making, education research agencies, home schooling, eligibility of resident/non-resident students, credits from non-public schools, naming of school facilities, and student records.

Budget Parameters and negotiations update

During the work session that preceded the Board meeting, Mr. Minturn and Mr. Walsh presented information that will be used as the board establishes budget parameters in January. These were also part of the information portion of the televised meeting along with the monthly financial reports and a new monthly negotiations update. Negotiations continue with all of the bargaining units; all contracts expired August 31, 2009. Mr. Harwood thanked the GPEA teacher's union (their contract represents 64% of our budget) for working with the administration on language items related to working conditions and activities, and said they are now working on the economic proposals which cover salary, benefits, contributions, and duration of contract. He stated, "As we go into negotiations, at the forefront is what is in the best interest of our students." All contracts and updated health care cost information are available on the website under the School Finance tab.

Preview of January business, and items for info and discussion

Organizational items to be voted upon in January include the oath of office for new board members Tom Jakubiec and Cynthia Pangborn, election of officers, designation of signatories on accounts and representatives to MAISL for insurance, and the board calendar. Also to be voted on are technology bids for the Wide Area Network, cell telephones, dedicated line and local and long distance services for a savings of \$184,000 before e-Rate reimbursement. Extended Day Kindergarten rates as well as discussion regarding the possibility of moving to all day kindergarten will be on the January docket. A 5th grade supplementary unit titled *Brain from Kids Discover Magazine* is also up for approval.