

Board Briefs

May 2009

Next Meetings:

Budget work session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, June 8, at **South High School**, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

Board work session at 6 p.m., Monday, June 22, at South High School, followed by the 8 p.m. regular Board meeting. The 8 p.m. meeting will include two public hearings for the budget and the school breakfast program.

Please Note: To realize energy savings the board meetings are moving to **South's Wicking Library** starting with the **June 8 work session**. They will move back to North for the fall and winter.

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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Budget work session clarifies board parameters

The Board of Education made several decisions at the May 18 work session, moving the budget closer to final approval on June 22. These include:

- placing the \$120,000 ice time expense in athletic budget (was in general budget)
- not raising any athletic fees for next year for middle or high school
- retaining 2.0 FTE for accompanists for the high school vocal music programs
- not having grade 4/5 splits next year in the elementary schools
- asking the administration to bring forth a plan to retain Trombly's multi-age program
- continuing with the current shared Special Education Co-Director arrangement instead of filling the posted Special Education director (save \$100,000-120,000) until more clear direction on Act 18 funding is received
- cutting \$58,000 contracted services out of central office accounts
- savings from moving meetings (suggested by Chief Engineer Jay Jeffrey as HVAC differences between North and South are estimated at \$4,000).

Note, starting with the June 8 work session, meetings will be at South to start realizing those savings.

Bids approved for Brownell Multi-Purpose Room and more

Fifteen separate bids were approved 6-1 for the Brownell Multi-Purpose Room project to begin. Also approved were a South Storm Repair project to bring the district into compliance with Grosse Pointe Farms water separation policies, South staff parking lot repaving between the main building and the natatorium, and a Defer waterproofing bid which includes foundation maintenance and masonry work for the 85-year-old building.

Principal Mulholland presented the middle school study report

For the past year, a dedicated team of staff and parents has been researching best practices in middle school instruction and gathering input through surveys of parents, staff and other schools. Their findings and recommendations were presented and have been posted on the district website. With the economic climate, their recommendation is to stay with the 6-period day currently in place.

Celebrations range from State teaching awards to DI to Green Schools

There were a number of reasons to celebrate at the May Board of Education meeting including the announcement that all of the elementary and middle schools had made Adequate Yearly Progress with a grade of A. The North Quiz Bowl Team, two Destination Imagination teams going to the global competition, Latin Teacher of the Year David Smith, National Scholastic Writing Awards, Music Program Festival Awards, Michigan Social Studies Olympiad Winners, two graduates choosing to serve the country in the military, and a perfect ACT score by a North junior were also cheered.

Other business

In a 4-3 vote, the board chose not to require annual re-registration for all students. The board approved 7-0 a resolution to honor district retirees; four retirements have been announced to date. Following past practice, the board voted 7-0 to acknowledge receipt of the Wayne RESA budget. Board president Alice Kosinski noted the addition of the annual report and increased communication from RESA. The textbook for Pictorial Literature and the Elementary technology purchases also passed 7-0. More detail was requested regarding the gift from South High School Golf Supporters.