

Board Briefs

March 2010

Next Meetings:

Board budget work session at 8 p.m., Monday, April 12, in the North High School library, 707 Vernier.

Board regular meeting at 8 p.m., Monday, April 26, 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.

To access background documents for upcoming agendas, please visit the board calendar. Past agendas and background documents are also archived online under the School Board dropdown. Note that minutes are not posted until approved at the next monthly board meeting.

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MEAP scores and life savers celebrated in Superintendent's report

The State's MEAP score embargo was lifted so Dr. Allan was able to share our students' wonderful accomplishments. For reading, every grade level was above 90% and grades 3, 5, 6, and 8 show increases from already high levels. Science and social studies scores remain high, all but one grade scoring above 90% and all at least 10% above state averages. Math scores for every grade level but one are also above 90% and all are above the State average, with an extraordinarily high percentage of students passing at the Advanced level. All scores are posted at www.gpschools.org under Our District for you to enjoy. Dan Dou was also recognized for earning a perfect ACT score. Two students from Defer were recognized for receiving National AAA Lifesaving Awards for Safety Patrol Service.

GPFPE presents four more grants totaling \$7,919

The board of education accepted four more donations from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education. Two programs were continued with this funding: Struggling Learners Transition Camp for those entering high school (\$1,300), and elementary Music in Math will receive additional materials (\$2,100). A \$2,400 grant for training Elementary Grade Level Leaders was approved, as was \$2,119 for Cross Curricular Art Connections. GPFPE has given over \$600,000 back to the district, impacting every subject and grade level.

Grade Four Social Studies curriculum revision approved

The fourth grade social studies curriculum, as presented at the January 14 public forum and the January Educational Programs Leadership Council (EPLC) meeting was formally approved. The K-2 and 5-12 social studies curricula were approved in 2008, and the grade 3 component in March 2009. Further study for fourth grade was needed as the State split Michigan Studies between third and fourth grade and publishers had not yet created materials that were developmentally appropriate. As elementary social studies is not tested until sixth grade, the students were at no disadvantage from the additional study time.

Bids and calendar dates approved

Bids were approved for the following projects: Grosse Pointe South Ceiling and Lighting as developed with the South Preservation Committee (ACME \$201,752), System-wide Ceilings (Precision Acoustic, \$42,360 as needed), System-wide wiring (Schumacher and JBK, \$15,340 as needed), System-wide doors and hardware (FBH Security, Rayhaven and Gamalski, as needed). All come from the sinking fund. A summary of bids is online.

Second draft of budget shared and negotiations update

The second draft of the budget was shared. It restores 3 Elementary Reading Specialists (a reduction of 1 from 09-10), 4.5 Middle School teachers (reduces proposed class size to 26), 12.8 Hall Monitors (Middle and High School) as employees, 7 Special Education Resource Room teachers (down 2), 1.4 Speech Pathologists (down 2.6), 2.2 Social Workers (down 0.8). Restorations were offset by Draft #1's unallocated funds, moderate revenue increases, and health plan and other efficiencies. The PowerPoint is available online. Mr. Harwood shared that negotiations continue with all groups and mediation with the teacher's union. GPEA President Ranae Beyerlein also addressed those present.

Preview of April business

The K-12 Language Arts curriculum revision and Algebra II Support Class curricula were reviewed as were five bids. A half-day kindergarten option at Barnes School was discussed in addition to the district standard of All Day Kindergarten in every elementary building.