

# Board Briefs

## August 2011

### **Next Meetings:**

There will be a board work session at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 8 p.m., [Monday, September 26](#), in the South High School Library, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd. Board meeting dates and agendas are listed at [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org) and posted in the Central Administration Building at 389 St. Clair Ave., Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

You can now watch the school board meetings via [www.gppstv.phanfare.com](http://www.gppstv.phanfare.com) on Comcast channel 20/902 and AT&T channel 99, or listen to the podcast on the district website.

### **Mark Your Calendar:**

- The first day of school is Tuesday, 9/6.
- Friday, 9/23 we will celebrate "A Day in the Life of GPPSS" with photographers capturing moments from walking to school through the North-South football game and Chamber and GPFPE Tailgate party at South that evening. Join us at the tailgate and stay for the game!

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### **Board approves teacher recalls**

A large portion of the board meeting was spent discussing staffing adjustments for the upcoming school year. As part of that discussion, 16 teachers were recalled or partially recalled from layoff and several enrollment hot spots were addressed, particularly at the elementary level.

### **Gifts from Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education total \$18,000+**

The Board accepted four gifts presented by the GPFPE: \$10,200 for all three middle school library media programs to purchase computers, clickers, headphones and Camtasia Studio software; \$5,000 for "Working Together Wirelessly" a netbook pilot project at Trombly Elementary; \$2,700 for North TV Production to purchase a high definition camera; and \$500 to partner with The Family Center and other local organizations to bring a screening of the film "Race to Nowhere" to South Auditorium September 27.

### **Board passes resolution on Local Control**

In a 7-0 vote, the Board of Education passed a resolution in support of local control and opposing any proposed legislation mandating every district to participate in School of Choice. The resolution is linked to the School Board agenda from their online calendar.

### **Superintendent contract and evaluation process approved**

In a 5-2 vote, the Board approved the Superintendent contract with Thomas Harwood, beginning January 1, 2012. Judy Gafa cited her disapproval with the process and Fred Minturn cited his disapproval of the contract in their dissenting votes. Brendan Walsh encouraged the board and community to do everything they could to support our new superintendent advance our district mission together. The Superintendent evaluation process passed 7-0. Included are 14 responsibilities established under Policy 1230, and seven superintendent objectives for 2011-12.

### **Other business items**

The Board approved the district's Federal Program Funding which is largely from the Title I, II and III grants with preliminary allocations totaling \$606,990. The Board also approved using \$84,010 of our ARRA funds to purchase 50 licenses of Success Maker software and support from Pearson Software. Success Maker is designed to address the needs of our students with special needs and students who are "at risk" in reading and mathematics. The program collects and tracks data so student growth can be systematically monitored and instructional modifications be made quickly based on individual student needs. In a 5-2 vote, with Gafa and Walsh opposed, the board approved a contract with EduStaff instead of PESG for substitutes and coaches. Approval of the Strategic Plan was tabled for discussion at a subsequent meeting.

### **Action items for September**

The Board previewed the following for approval in September: the Tax Levy for 2011-12, a resolution for Best Practice for Funding, and legal counsel for Special Education matters. The Board and Administration continue to watch enrollment closely.

### **Three Board candidates filed for the November ballot**

Three candidates have filed for the two open Board seats on the November ballot: Diane Karabetsos, Daniel Roeske, and Lois Valente.