

Board Briefs

December 2011

Next Meetings:

The next regular meeting is 8 p.m., Monday, January 23, in the South High School Library, 11 Grosse Pointe Boulevard. There will be a work session at 6:30 p.m., 1/23. Board meetings will stay at South through June 2012, then move to North for July through December.

Board meeting 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.

You can now watch the school board meetings via 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:

- North's incoming student orientation is 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, 1/10/12 in the PAC
- North End Band-O-Rama, 7:30 p.m., 1/11, North Main Gym
- String Extravaganza, 7 p.m., 1/12, South Main Gym
- South End Band-O-Rama, 7 p.m., 1/13, South Main Gym

Grosse Pointe Public
School System
389 St. Clair Avenue
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
phone: 313/432-3000
fax: 313/432-3002
www.gpschools.org

There was much to celebrate this month

The accomplishments of students, staff and volunteers were applauded at the December Board meeting. Outgoing Board members John Steininger and Fred Minturn were acknowledged, as were the 16 Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars, 11 AP Scholars with Honors, and nine Scholars with Distinction from North. South's AP scholars were recognized in November. South Tower students were recognized for Journalism Education Association Awards, and South's Thespian Festival Winners were also saluted. North's physics teacher Gary Abud was recognized for being named a 2012 Teacher of Promise by the Michigan Science Teachers Association. Bill Scott of Scott Advertising and 12 local photographers were thanked for volunteering their time and talents on the Day in the Life of GPPSS book revealed that evening. The photographers include: Christine Crossley, Gary Duncan, John Greilick, Mary Ann Ismail, Dana Kaiser, Renee Landuyt, John F. Martin, Cat Ruffner, Sheila Springsteen, Lisa Vreede, Kathy Widdis and Brian Widdis. The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education is underwriting printing costs. For more details or to reserve your copy, visit www.gpfpe.org.

GPFPE presents over \$16,000 in grants and a directed gift of \$30,000

President Robert Bury presented six grants totaling \$16,170 for board approval which were gratefully accepted 5-0. These will help fund a Middle School CyberBullying prevention program, the North-South Gearheads Robotics Team, Smart Response XE Clickers, a FAST Spelling Pilot, *One School-One Book* reading program at Poupard, and Full Circle Upscale Resale job skills program for our special education students. Then Jon Gandelot presented a \$30,000 directed gift from the Dryer Foundation through the GPFPE to continue funding F.A.S.T. Reading in the district.

Most November action items approved unanimously

Five bylaw and policy updates passed 5-0 ensuring the district remains current with state and federal legislation. These covered a bylaw on voting, and policies on non-reemployment of the Superintendent, school administrator evaluation, field and other district-sponsored trips to Canada, and vending machines. The new course "Strategies for Reading and Writing" was also approved 5-0. The goal of that addition is to help students entering freshman year with a two-year deficit in reading and writing competence. Also approved 5-0 was a retirement resolution honoring Dr. Suzanne Klein for her years of service and naming a leadership award in her honor as part of the annual distinguished employees award program.

District Goals do not pass

In a 3-2 vote, the Board decided not to approve the proposed strategic planning goals, so work on that continuous improvement process will press on in the new year.

January Action items focus on organizational items

Annual organizational items include the oath of office of new trustees Dan Roeske and Lois Valente, the 2012 Board calendar, election of Board officers, designation of signatories on accounts, and representatives for MAISL for insurance purposes. Also on the January agenda is budget amendment G.A.A.A.#2, and approval of an updated Secondary Art Curriculum. Representatives from the middle and high schools shared how the new art curriculum emphasizes connectivity between curriculum, instruction and the new State content standards, while continuing to utilize the four components of a Discipline Based Art Education: art production, aesthetics, criticism and history. They also highlighted the addition of six new art courses, including four Advanced Placement options and a middle school graphic design class since the last art department review in the late 1990's.