

# Board Briefs

March 2011

## **Next Meetings:**

Board work session at 6:30 p.m. and regular meeting at 8 p.m., **Tuesday, April 26**, (off schedule due to spring break) 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.

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, typically at the next monthly board meeting.

You can now watch the school board meetings via [www.gppsstv.phanfare.com](http://www.gppsstv.phanfare.com) on Comcast channel 20/902 and AT&T channel 99.

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

## **Budget development discussed in work session**

The Board asked the budget council to bring forth \$5.7 million in budget cuts in \$1 million increments to begin the work session discussion. These were laid out from the “least worst” option and included: 1) increase secondary class sizes by one (\$996,000), 2) reinstate last year’s staffing cuts, 1 FTE elementary music, 1 FTE multi-age, textbook freeze, commensurate reduction in athletics, removal of printers/copiers (\$1,058,000) 3) reduce curriculum specialists, increase class size by 1/2, 4 classroom asst. (\$1,174,000) 4) increase class size by 1/2, reduce 2 ERC, reduce department chairs (\$1,144,000) 5) restructure high school day (\$1,088,000 though unlikely before 2012/13 at earliest) Board treasurer Walsh stated the biggest decision at hand is how much fund equity to consume. Public feedback continues to be sought as this process moves forward. Ideas may be shared through various means: writing the Superintendent’s Office, 389 St. Clair, Grosse Pointe 48230; emailing [budget@gpschools.org](mailto:budget@gpschools.org); or calling 432-3010.

## **GPFPE exceeds Technology Challenge and makes 3 more grants**

The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education announced it has exceeded the Boll Technology Challenge and presented a check for \$350,000 for Board acceptance. Later in the evening, the district’s plan for allocating that funding was approved 7-0. The GPFPE also presented three grants the Board accepted 7-0 as well: \$1500 for a middle school program “No Bullying Allowed,” \$1150 for a problem-solving program that enhances team-building skills through a cardboard boat regatta, and \$756 for an age-appropriate handwriting program for preschool students that incorporates music and multi-sensory activities.

## **Building projects approved at Brownell and South and bids discussed**

The Brownell univent project (Detroit Contracting \$240,000) and South Lighting phase two (ACME Lighting \$319,265) passed 7-0. Discussed for an April vote were bids for the South gym mechanical systems (bids to be opened 4/7), resurfacing the South high school track (Goddard Coating \$73,000), overhaul of the North parking lot and resurfacing of Montieth’s lot (checking references), and restrooms at Defer, Trombly and South (bids opened 4/7).

## **Student, staff and volunteer recognitions focus on “the main thing”**

While budget talks continue, the Board’s agenda started with a reminder of all the positive things happening in the district. The state champion South Girls Varsity Hockey Team was congratulated as were three Presidential Scholar candidates: Dan Dou, Stephen Morrison, and Natalie Sohn. Myles-Amir Harlan was recognized for performing at the White House for President Obama. And North teacher Susan Speirs was recognized for being one of 14 teams selected across the country for the 2011 Frontier in Physiology Fellowship with her research partner at Wayne State. Later in the evening, the Board passed the resolution recognizing our Distinguished Volunteers who will be honored at the April board meeting.

## **District will assume operation of Full Circle work program**

With a 5-2 vote, the Board approved assuming operation of the Full Circle Upscale Resale Shop from The ARC. This program provides job skill training for our special education students here in Grosse Pointe. The administration will provide updates in June and at the 6-month mark regarding program success, financial operations and the month-to-month lease.

## **Action items for April**

The Board will discuss bids for the district audit (due 4/7) and address teacher layoffs per the contract notification requirements. World War II and Korean veterans who wish to obtain a high school diploma per Public Act 181 should contact the Superintendent’s office.