

Board Briefs

October 2011

Next Meetings:

There will be a board work session at 6:30 p.m. and regular meeting at 8 p.m., [Monday, November 28](#), in the **South** High School Library, 11 Grosse Pointe Boulevard.

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.gppsstv.phanfare.com on Comcast channel 20/902 and AT&T channel 99, or listen to the podcast on the district website.

Mark Your Calendar:

- South football play-offs, 7 p.m., Friday, October 28 at South
- South Pops & Pastries, 7:30 p.m., South Main Gym, November 28
- North Pops & Pastries, 7:30 p.m., Saturday November 5, in the North Gym.
- Board of Education election, November 8
- SERVE Spirit of Giving volunteer fair, 7 p.m., November 16, South Main Gym.

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Superintendent's report celebrates scholars, staff and state champs

The board recognized 10 National Merit Commended students and four Semi Finalists. They congratulated Assistant Superintendent Thomas Harwood for earning his doctorate, and recognized the South Girls Golf Team for winning their first state championship. Nominations for this year's Distinguished Employees' awards are due October 31, and the recipients will be recognized at the Board's November meeting.

HR report includes approval of the new Parcels Principal

In a 7-0 vote, the Board approved the human resources report which included the appointment of a new principal of Parcels Middle School. Dr. Cathryn Armstrong, currently an assistant principal in Farmington, will join the staff January 4, allowing time for transition before Principal Mark Mulholland retires at the end of the first semester.

School Improvement Plans approved, but district goals tabled

In a 6-1 vote, the Board approved the school improvement plans. Work on the Strategic Plan continues, so the annual district goals, which are drawn from that plan, were tabled for a month.

Sixth grade novel approved

The Board approved the novel Peak by Roland Smith for 6th grade and 6th grade Honors in a 7-0 vote. Three sets per middle school will be purchased at a total cost of \$4,194. The book meets the requirements for the adventure genre and also teaches these elements of plot: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution.

Items up for Discussion

Current enrollment is at 8,410, an increase of four students from last spring's count and 60 students above the projection. In the health care report, actual costs continue to be below projections, another bit of good news for the budget. A list of overnight academic field trips for 2011-12 was shared with the board. That list, linked from the board agenda, does not include sports trips. Groups travelling include band, choir, DECA, eighth grade, English classes, orchestra, *Pointe Players*, robotics, special education, student council, TV production, and *Tower* students with locations ranging from LA to Italy. Also posted online and discussed by the Board is the 2011-12 testing schedule.

Action items for November

The Board discussed options for the Human Resources Administrator to replace Dr. Harwood. Assistant Superintendent Fenton also shared an update on the district's financial audit. The audit will be presented for acceptance, and the first budget amendment (GAAA#1) will be presented for approval in November.