

# Board Briefs

## September 2011

### **Next Meetings:**

There will be a board work session at 6:30 p.m. and regular meeting at 8 p.m., [Monday, October 24](#), in the South High School Library, 11 Grosse Pointe Boulevard.

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.gppsstv.phanfare.com](http://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:**

- Count Day, Wednesday, October 5.
- Board Candidate Forum, 10/6 in South's Wicking Library.

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### **Board approves clerical recalls**

The board approved an amended resolution to restore office staffing to last year's levels of 51.7 FTE. The original resolution proposed by Trustee Gafa would have restored staffing at the three Title I elementary schools and the three middle schools but would have led to staff changes midyear due to bumping, so Trustee Gafa amended her resolution to include all reduced clerical staffing in that category.

### **Annual report presented in compliance with Public Act 25**

Assistant Superintendent Monique Beels reviewed the district's annual report noting that every school again made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and earned an A on their Michigan report card. The annual report for every school and the district are available online at [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org) - under Our District, click Annual Report. They also include data on parent participation, student testing and the qualification of staff as well as a description of our core curriculum and school improvement goals. School Improvement Plans will be discussed at the October Board meeting.

### **Board passes resolution for Best Practices in Funding**

This year \$100 of the State per pupil allocation can only be received if the local district approves a resolution stating the district meets at least 4 of 5 best practices. GPPSS will meet all five of these which include employee contributions for health care and coordination of services with other districts or municipalities. The Board passed the resolution 7-0.

### **Tax levy approved**

In a 7-0 roll call vote, the Board approved the tax levy for 2011-12. Because taxes again decreased, this time by \$75,922, no truth in taxation hearing was required. Trustee Walsh made a presentation on the tax levy and school funding which is also available at [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org) under School Board - click Reports.

### **Options increased for Special Education legal counsel**

The Board approved adding Lusk & Albertson to the list of firms the district may utilize for Special Education legal counsel. The district currently uses Clark Hill for general counsel, Miller Canfield for debt and tax counsel, and LaPointe and Butler for Special Education.

### **Action items for October**

The Board previewed the following for approval in October: School Improvement Plans, Annual District Goals, GAAA#1, and two novels for middle school. Peak is being proposed for 6th grade and 6th grade honors. Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Patillo Beals is proposed for 7th grade honors.

### **League of Women Voters to host Board candidate forum October 6**

Three candidates have filed for the two open Board seats on the November ballot: Diane Karabetsos, Daniel Roeske, and Lois Valente. All three will be present at the League of Women Voters candidate forum, 7 p.m., Thursday, October 6 in South's Wicking Library.