



Next Meetings:

A policy meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, February 7 in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 389 St. Clair. There will be a regular meeting of the Board at 7 p.m., February 11, and at 7 p.m., February 25, in the **Brownell Multi-Purpose Room**, 260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms.

You can watch board meetings at www.gppss.tv.phanfare.com, on Comcast channel 20/902 or AT&T channel 99, or listen to the podcast on the district site.

Mark Your Calendar:

- SERVE Spirit of Giving, 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, February 5 in the North High School gym
- Parcels Battle for the Mic 7:30, 2/28 in the Parcels Auditorium
- 3/1 Michigan Green School applications due

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

Board Briefs

January 2013

January meeting includes numerous organizational items

After Dr. Harwood administered the Oath of Office to Trustees Gafa and Pangborn, our Board elected new officers: President Joan Dindoffer; Vice-President Daniel Roeske; Secretary Lois Valente; and Treasurer Brendan Walsh. Then board members declared their compensation preference. Gafa, Jakubiec and Valente elected to receive their stipend to donate to causes (PTOs, Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education, Family Center). Trustee Walsh directed his to the South Latin Club. Trustee Roeske requested his be split between the North and South Boys' Track teams. Trustee Pangborn chose to take her compensation. Trustee Dindoffer again declined her compensation.

The board then approved the following 7-0: an annual resolution of continuance of funds and designation of signatories on accounts; appointment of Christian Fenton, Isha Smith and Carolyn Kurtz as Representatives to MAISL for Property/Liability Insurance Underwriter; and the board calendar. Please note changes in April and May from the proposed calendar: 1/14 and 28, 2/11 and 25, 3/18 and 25, 4/15 and 29, 5/13 and 20, 6/17 and 24, 7/22 and 29, 8/19 and 26, 9/16 and 23, 10/21 and 28, 11/18 and 25, and 12/16.

Superintendent's report includes recognitions

Dr. Harwood began by thanking board members for their service. He then provided a legislative update, noting that in the last 10 days of the lame duck session 268 bills were introduced (all but four signed into law). He encouraged the community to sign up for our Legislative Action Network. He then encouraged the community to watch for the governor's budget to be shared 2/7 and to educate themselves on the Public Education Finance Act (Oxford Foundation). Under Good News, Dr. Harwood drew attention to Kate Murray, North Assistant Principal, being named Administrator of the Year by the Michigan Reading Association, and to efforts like Parcels' Robert McIntyre taking 8th grade Honors Physics students to Kettering University on MLK Day.

21st Century High School Review Team shares update

To learn more about the work of this committee and recommendations, please see their report at www.gpschools.org under School Board, Reports. Four students, 20 teachers, six administrators, and seven parents participated. The five focus areas were: blended learning, dual enrollment, graduation requirements, credit recovery, and high school schedule.

Two curricular agenda items pass 7-0

Updated videos for the high school Health curriculum received unanimous board approval. Also passing 7-0 was a proposal to revive a course entitled Digital Seminars. That course will examine new and emerging technologies in social and digital media. Students will use digital tools to think critically, collaborate, create and communicate.

All action items pass unanimously

The Human Resources report, December meeting minutes, and the Budget Parameters Resolution all passed 7-0. The board then reviewed bids for the Parcels Life Skills room remodeling, and technology bids for cell phones and WAN. A broader technology discussion will be part of the February 11 meeting, expanding upon what was shared in the Wireless Update under the Information and Discussion portion of this month's board meeting.

Middle School Program of Studies and monthly reports shared

Very few changes were made to the Middle School Program of Studies. However, what did draw attention was November being the most expensive month for health care in the history of the district. In the residency update, it was shared that 1000 randomly selected families will receive an affidavit to return notarized to the district by February 27.