

# Board Briefs

August 2010

## **Next Meetings:**

Board regular meeting at 8 p.m., Monday, September 27, in the North High School Library, 707 Vernier, GPW. In October, Board meetings will move to South High School's Library, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., GPF.

Board meetings 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 at the next monthly board meeting.

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)

## **Students will return September 7 to updated buildings and grounds**

The Superintendent's report included notice of the first duty day for teachers (9/1) as well as a reminder the first day of school for students is Tuesday, 9/7. Dr. Klein and Assistant Superintendent Christian Fenton also shared photos and a summary of recent building projects.

## **Defer principal named and contract with Executive Director approved**

The district is pleased to announce that Karen Sullivan is the new Principal of Defer Elementary School. She previously taught at Ferry Elementary and has been active in curriculum revision and the Galileo leadership project. The Human Resources report also included a number of new hires replacing some of the 81 staff who took the State's retirement incentive. Approved separately was renewal of the contract with Temporary School Services to retain Leo Warras as Executive Director of Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction and Technology.

## **Large consent agenda covers a dozen policy updates**

Twelve bylaw and policy updates that were previewed at the August 13 board meeting were included on the consent agenda. All policies are posted online at [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org) under the School Board dropdown, with a keyword search built into the site. Also included on the consent agenda were the Superintendent Goals and Evaluation process, and five fifth grade novels. The novels are: The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles, Pedro's Journey, The City of Ember, Chasing Vermeer, and The Web Files.

## **Additional policies approved and code of conduct discussed**

In addition to the 12 policies on the consent agenda, one bylaw and four revised policies were approved. Administrative guidelines for the student and athletic codes of conduct were also discussed.

## **Financial and enrollment reports are positive**

The monthly financial report showed the \$11 per pupil increase approved by the state for last year and this year, totalling \$177,000. Not shown is the anticipated return of half of our district's 20J funds. Next month a General Appropriations Act Amendment (GAAA) will show these and any additional changes through contract negotiations. The enrollment update shared that our numbers continue to climb and if the pattern holds, we will beat the projection. Most new students are at the elementary level, particularly kindergarten.

## **Two candidates filed for the one board position on November ballot**

Diane Karabetsos of Grosse Pointe Woods and incumbent Brendan Walsh of Grosse Pointe Park both filed by the deadline to be on the November ballot for the one open school board seat. The chosen candidate will serve a four-year term from January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2014.

## **Preview of September business - meeting to be held in North library**

In September the board will vote on the tax levy for 2010-11. Details are still developing as this is based partially on enrollment and that continues to climb. Two textbooks for the 11th grade English course *The Power of Language* will be voted upon. ELA co-chair Geoffrey Young shared how Outliers fits into Unit 2 *Informed Decision Making*, and Into the Wild fits into Unit 5 *DNA of Survival*, with the added benefit of appealing to high school boys.