

Board Briefs

January 2009

Next Meetings:

Board work session
at 6 p.m., Monday,
February 23, at North High
School, 707 Vernier, Grosse
Pointe Woods, followed by
the 8 p.m. regular Board
meeting.

Please Note: January
through June, regular
Board meetings will be held
in the North library. July
through December, regular
Board meetings will be held
in South's Wicking Library.
Work session locations
vary.

Board meetings 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.

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

Annual organizational items cover officers and compensation

Ahmed Ismail and Judy Gafa were sworn into their positions as board members. Board officers were elected and include: President Alice Kosinski, Vice President Brendan Walsh, Secretary Joan Dindoffer, Treasurer Fred Minturn, and Trustees Judy Gafa, Ahmed Ismail, and John Steininger. Each board member then declared what they would do with their compensation of \$30/meeting for up to 52 meetings per year. Joan Dindoffer and Fred Minturn declined compensation. Ahmed Ismail and John Steininger chose to receive their compensation and donate it to a charity of their choosing. Judy Gafa donated hers to The Family Center. Brendan Walsh donated his to the Latin Club and Alice Kosinski directed hers toward Special Education resource room programs.

District accepts two more gifts from the Foundation

GPFPE President Lorna Utley presented two more grants to the district -- \$825 for a Chinese Artist Visitation program at both high schools that is part of a larger relocation and cultural exchange program, and \$2000 in start-up funds for Full Circle Upscale Resale so special education students across the district have an additional place to practice life skills including marketing, pricing, and selling gently used clothing. The next grant deadline is 2/1/09. Forms are on the website under the Community dropdown.

Bids at North and South get the green light

From the bond issue, the Board approved two projects. Thirteen subtrades were individually approved for the South multi-purpose room, student commons, and boys and girls gyms project for a total contract award of \$1,728,306. The North window project was also approved. The \$314,475 requested covered the base window proposal plus an alternate plan #1 that includes removal and replacement of third floor metal siding with brick. Additional window projects will be necessary at North in the future.

Board passes resolution to commence budget preparation

In fulfillment of Board policy 6220 the Board of Education adopted a resolution to commence budget preparation. General development provisions included maintaining that the primary function of the district is to ensure the educational development of each and every child, stressing the importance of maintaining responsible fund equity, and effectively using the financial reports/best practices further refined over the past three years. Specific focus areas this year include: taking the staffing to enrollment level ratio back to those of the 2006-07 budget year, scrutinizing the special education services sources and uses for a recommendation with both cost containment and revenue enhancement pieces, identifying general operational cost efficiencies and revenue opportunities, and seeking long-term financial solutions for at least five years out.

February agenda highlights

In February the board will vote on the first technology purchase under the Section 99 Grant Representative Gaffney helped us obtain to serve as a "lighthouse district" in science, math and technology. North's proposal is \$168,840 of the \$1,050,000 grant and is in alignment with the district's technology plan. A proposal to open enrollment to children of staff who live outside the district will also be voted upon. The school board welcomes comments on these or any topics at their email schoolboard@gpschools.org.