

# Board Briefs

December 2010

## Next Meetings:

Board work session at 7 p.m. and regular meeting at 8 p.m., Monday, January 24, in the **South** High School Library, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd.

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.

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.

You can now watch the school board meetings via [www.gppsstv.phanfare.com](http://www.gppsstv.phanfare.com)

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)

## GPFPE brings gift for FAST and demonstrates Kilimanjaro blog

The Board approved a \$7,954 gift from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE) for additional FAST Reading materials and teacher training. Then GPFPE representatives demonstrated their blog for the Climbing for Technology (C4T) campaign at [www.gpfpe.org](http://www.gpfpe.org) (click the C4T logo in the lower right corner). A local doctor is climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro this week trying to raise \$1 for each of the 19,341 feet to the summit.

## Two new board policies approved

The board approved two new policies (5111.02 Educational Opportunity for Military Children, and 6850 Public Disclosure and Reporting) and modification of administrative guideline 5500A for the Student Code of Conduct. The military policy reinforces our district's existing practice to provide a smooth transition for military families moving into GPPSS and is in compliance with the Interstate Compact and Memorandum of Agreement developed by the armed forces. The Code of Conduct guideline also formalizes the current operating procedure by clarifying steps taken when a student is recommended for expulsion. Public Act 121 of 2010 requires specific financial disclosure and reporting by school districts in a form and manner prescribed by the Department of Education; Policy 6850 addresses that.

## Budget development parameters discussed

Board Treasurer Brendan Walsh shared a PowerPoint on the budget development parameters, available online. The parameters identify specific financial goals and objectives, identify particular strategies to pursue/avoid, and are designed to be specific yet flexible as the budget develops. Public feedback on budget parameters was requested by January 10, so a draft document can be posted by January 17 for review prior to the January 24 board meeting. Ideas may be submitted: in writing to the Superintendent's Office, 389 St. Clair, Grosse Pointe 48230; to [budget@gpschools.org](mailto:budget@gpschools.org); or by calling 313-432-3010.

## Two new secondary courses reviewed

Assistant Superintendent Monique Beels provided an overview of two new proposed courses. *Middle School Graphic Design* will update the curriculum to reflect changes in technology and design-based art education, better preparing students for high school art classes and application in the world of work. *Living On Your Own* is currently a one-semester high school course, but is being proposed to extend to two distinct semesters. Students could take either or both semesters. Both will focus on financial literacy and making smart consumer choices, and meet the fourth year math requirement. *Middle School Graphic Design* and *Living On Your Own* have passed EPLC and will be voted upon by the Board in January.

## Action items for January

Approval of a rental agreement for the Community Classroom, approval of specific secondary technology purchases from the \$180,000 GPFPE gift, and a resolution on Energy Bond refinancing will be voted upon in January. Several annual organizational items will also be acted upon then, including administering the oath of office to Brendan Walsh (reelected for a four year term), election of board officers, a resolution on the continuance of funds and designation of signatories on accounts, approval of representatives for MAISL for property/liability insurance underwriter, and the 2011 board calendar. Proposed meeting dates are: 1/24, 2/28, 3/28, Tuesday 4/26, 5/23, 6/27, 7/25, 8/22, 9/26, 10/24, 11/28, and 12/19.