

# Board Briefs

February 2011

## **Next Meetings:**

Board work session at 6:30 p.m. and regular meeting at 8 p.m., Monday, March 28, 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, typically at the next monthly board meeting.

You can now watch the school board meetings via [www.gppsstv.phanfare.com](http://www.gppsstv.phanfare.com) on Comcast Channel 20/902 and on AT&T.

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## **Budget development parameters discussed**

Budget parameters identify specific financial goals and objectives, as well as particular strategies to pursue/avoid, and are designed to be specific yet flexible as the budget is developed. These were discussed at length in the public work session prior to the regular meeting. Changes to the proposed parameters include:

- not create new initiatives totalling the entire 3% of change allowed under the bargaining contracts,
  - assume the ARRA jobs will be eliminated along with their federal funding (though these may be added to the general budget),
  - not change the variable assumptions in relation to Governor Snyder's proposed cuts but continue to monitor those closely,
  - not change the timeline for budget recommendations from the various levels,
  - not direct the administration regarding contract vs. direct employment for administrators.
- Public and board feedback continue to be sought as this process moves forward. Ideas may be submitted through various means: writing the Superintendent's Office, 389 St. Clair, Grosse Pointe 48230; emailing [budget@gpschools.org](mailto:budget@gpschools.org); or calling 432-3010.

## **Scholastic Art Awards celebrated and upcoming events noted**

Students from both North and South High School were honored for their Scholastic Art Awards and Dr. Klein invited the audience to attend the upcoming art shows at both high schools later this spring (North May 16-20, South April 6-9).

## **Additional staffing and reinstatement panel approved**

One additional classroom assistant (1 FTE) for the Special Education Resource Room (ERC) at Monteith and an additional 0.2 FTE for social work at Pierce Middle School for the second semester were approved. Distribution of school social work staffing will be reviewed again for the 2011-12 school year. Also approved were the recommendations for the district's reinstatement panel, per state requirements.

## **Proposals will be sought for help with Superintendent search**

The Board of Education approved issuing a request for proposals to assist in a national search hiring a replacement for Dr. Suzanne Klein. Superintendent Klein has announced her plans to retire at the end of December 2011 after 15 years in that role. She is both the first female and the longest serving Superintendent in the district's history.

## **NWEA student license fees approved**

At the same \$12.50 per student rate (\$71,013 total), the Board approved renewing student license fees for the computerized NWEA tests. These assessments of language arts and math are used three times per year in grades 1-8 and for placement of incoming students.

## **Action items for March**

March action items will include action on two projects from the sinking fund: phase one of a univent system project at Brownell Middle School (recommended to low bidder Detroit Contracting, Inc. for \$240,000), and phase two of the South High School lighting and ceiling project (to low bidder ACME for \$319,265). Also in March, the 27th annual distinguished volunteer recognition resolution, and operation of the Full Circle Upscale Resale Shop. Currently Full Circle is run through The ARC, and four options for this work opportunity for special education students and alumni were discussed at the work session and board meeting. In April, the Board will discuss bids for the district audit.