



Board Briefs

February 2012

Next Meetings:

There will be a work session at 7 p.m., March 19, in the North High School Library, 707 Vernier. The next regular meeting is 7 p.m., Monday, March 26, in the North High School Library. Board meetings will stay at North through June 2012, then move to Brownell for July and August.

Board meeting 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.

You can now watch the school board meetings via www.gppsstv.phanfare.com on Comcast channel 20/902 and AT&T channel 99, or listen to the podcast on the district website.

Mark Your Calendar:

- North presents *Anything Goes*, 3/8-10, PAC
- GPPSS Spring Clean electronics recycling, 3/24, behind Brownell
- Brownell presents *Beauty & the Beast*, 3/28-30, Brownell MPR

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Impressive student and staff recognitions abound

As part of the Superintendent's Report, South's Henry J. Muller was recognized as a National Merit Scholar Award Recipient. Bruce Pelto was recognized as the 2012 Michigan Outstanding Teacher of American History. Gary Bennett was applauded for earning his 500th victory for North's Girls' Basketball program. Steve Zaranek was named Michigan Track Coach of the Year, and Shawn McNamara was named MI Track Assistant Coach of the Year.

Also part of the Superintendent's report, Dr. Harwood gave an update on the Strategic Planning/Continuous Improvement Plan and shared more information on Governor Snyder's proposed "Best Practices." The district already meets five of the six practices to qualify for additional funding, without participating in School of Choice. He also shared that Lynn Jacobs is coordinating a Community Conversation at 7 p.m., March 15, at the Ewald branch of the library as an additional way for Grosse Pointe residents to share their opinions. This series of conversations across the state is being run through the non-partisan Center for Michigan.

Construction bids, NWEA contract and board election policy changes pass 7-0

Bids for phase two of the Defer (\$161,700, A&H Construction), South (\$191,100, A&H Construction) and Trombly (\$128,500 by Axiom) restroom projects passed unanimously. Also passing 7-0 were the human resources report, the January minutes, and the policy revision moving all school board elections to November in even numbered years. This will extend the terms of Trustees Dindoffer, Jakubiec, Roeske and Valente to fit the Governor's approved change. Trustee Walsh noted this will save only \$3 per student and further erodes local control. A contract with NWEA for computerized testing also passed 7-0, with the cost remaining \$12.50 per student. This tool provides immediate feedback and additional data for continuous improvement.

Budget parameters and Superintendent goals pass, but district goals tabled

In a 6-1 vote with Trustee Jakubiec dissenting, the board passed the budget parameters as amended by Trustee Dindoffer. The board approved 7-0 the Superintendent Goals as revised by Dr. Harwood, but chose to table the district goals until further detail is presented at the March 26 meeting. Trustee Valente asked for SMART goals that are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely. Trustee Dindoffer noted that in previous strategic planning cycles, that level of detail was the next step in the process.

Seventh Grade Honors memoir passes

The board approved the book *Warriors Don't Cry* as a memoir for 7th grade honors literature.

March Action items include Head Start, bids and policy revisions

In March the Board will vote on establishing a collaborative partnership with Wayne Metro Head Start to provide programming at Poupard Elementary which is open to all GPPSS students at no cost to the district. Please see the FAQ on the main page of the district website. Also in March, the board will vote on the annual Distinguished Volunteer resolution, and bids for South Lifeskills classroom remodeling phase two, and Monteith library classroom remodeling. The Monteith drop-off lane proposal was removed from the agenda. Policies 7540 Computer Technology and Networks, 7540.03 and 7540.04 Student and Staff Network and Acceptable Use, and 5136 Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices were reviewed for March approval as well. Bids for web hosting, the 200 MPS dedicated service (using E-rate funds), and cell phone bids were also discussed. Under information and discussion, Assistant Superintendent Beels shared the 2011 MEAP scores. Her Powerpoint is posted at www.gpschools.org under School Board - Reports.