

Board Briefs

February 2008

Meeting Dates

Board meeting dates have moved to the fourth Monday of the month, with a few changes due to holiday and calendar issues. Additional work sessions are scheduled, but those will not be televised.

Please Note: January through June, 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.

Next Meeting:

Board Work Session at 6 p.m., *Monday, 3/10/07* in the Board Room at 389 St. Clair Avenue.

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 School System
389 St. Clair Avenue
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
phone: 313/432-3000
fax: 313/432-3002
www.gpschools.org

Three teachers recognized by the Board

Three teachers were honored at Monday's Board meeting for their contributions to the district. Patricia Guest of Ferry Elementary School was recognized for winning the Detroit News and Free Press "Why I Love My Job" contest. JoEllen Cumpata and Susan Fell of Parcels Middle School were recognized for receiving the Michigan Speech and Hearing Association Program of the Year for "Quest," a social skills curriculum they developed. The target audience for that program is our students with autism, and the program has been successfully implemented.

Share your opinion now on district surveys

Please continue to watch the "District Survey Center" button on the right side of the district website's main page. Surveys currently up include one on the Sodexo Food Service and another to gather community preferences regarding the district calendar. Please note that the calendar is an item negotiated with the teachers' union. Coming soon will be a survey on the Code of Conduct.

Final two contracts approved unanimously

Separate contracts with the paraprofessionals and the technology staff were both approved unanimously by the board of education and will carry through June of 2009. Both called for language changes in regard to benefits, health care contributions, spousal coordination of benefits, and pay increases. The paraprofessional contract is similar to changes and contractual language in the teachers' contract, and the technology resembles the non-instructional staff contract. Sincere thanks was expressed by several board members for all those involved in negotiations this past year.

Architect decision tabled until 3/10/08 for several projects

The board tabled a recommendation to approve Ehresman and Associates as the architect of record for the Brownell multipurpose room, and the Grosse Pointe South High School multipurpose room, commons, and boys' gym projects. This topic came up due to the resignation by GMB for those projects. This topic will be further discussed and voted upon at the March 10 Board work session. That work session will be held at the Administration Building, at 389 St. Clair Avenue.

Work session update

The February 11 work session minutes are available online. Key reports included a review of a class size/staff allocation report by level, as well as presentations from board liaisons on policy, capital projects, communications, and finance. The February 25 work session included a broad overview of budget trends by all three grade levels, Special Education, and central office. The PowerPoint for this will be posted on the district website. Also discussed were the administration's suggestions for the remaining bond and sinking funds. A limit of \$3.5 million for the Brownell multipurpose room project was proposed and the decision on that will come in March.