

# Board Briefs

January 2011

## Next Meetings:

Board work session at 6:30 p.m. and regular meeting at 8 p.m., Monday, February 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.gppstv.phanfare.com](http://www.gppstv.phanfare.com) on Comcast Channel 20/902 and on AT&T.

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)

## Officers elected and calendar set as part of annual organizational items

After Brendan Walsh took the oath of office, the Board of Education elected the same slate of officers as last year-President John Steininger, Vice President Joan Dindoffer, Treasurer Brendan Walsh and Secretary Judy Gafa. Each board member then declared their preference for compensation, and the calendar for regular meetings was set. Meeting dates are: 2/28, 3/28, Tuesday 4/26, 5/23, 6/27, 7/25, 8/22, 9/26, 10/24, 11/28, and 12/19. Also part of the annual meeting, Christian Fenton and Isha Smith were appointed as representatives to MAISL for property liability insurance, and signatories on accounts were designated.

## Superintendent's report contains many recognitions

January is School Board recognition month, so the Superintendent's report started by recognizing the efforts of these elected officials. Also recognized were Sheri Adwers, certified journalism educator for her work with North *Valhalla*; South Girls Varsity Cross Country Regional Champions; South Boys Varsity Tennis Regional Champions; and All State player Nicole Strickland of the North Girls Field Hockey Team. Then Dr. Klein recognized Dr. Russ Chavey and the audience watched a short clip of his Climbing for Technology trek up Mt. Kilimanjaro that raised over \$19,341 (his goal of \$1/foot climbed). A presentation on the district's Positive Behavior Support programs was also shared.

## Budget development parameters discussed

Discussion of the budget development parameters began last month but was tabled to be further discussed at an upcoming work session as numerous questions and comments were raised. The 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. 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.

## Resolution on energy bond refinancing passes

The Board of Education discussed two positive alternatives to save the district money related to the energy bond. The Board could pay off the entire bond from fund equity, take the more conservative approach and refinance, or do nothing. They voted 4-3 to refinance as recommended by the administration and legal/financial counsel, which will save approximately \$25,000 each year but retain cash assets in this uncertain financial time.

## Two new secondary courses and technology purchases approved

As presented last month by Assistant Superintendent Monique Beels, *Middle School Graphic Design* and the now two-semester option for *Living On Your Own* (with a focus on financial literacy and making smart consumer choices) were approved 7-0. Also approved 7-0 were the rental agreement for the Community Campus classroom and the secondary school technology purchases made possible through the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education and its John A. and Marlene L. Boll Technology Challenge.

## Action items for February

February action items include: monthly reports for human resources and finances; approval of delegates for the reinstatement panel; and approval of NWEA testing fees (\$12.50 per student which totals \$71,013 for math and language arts computerized testing. This has been the same rate for the last four years).