

# Board Briefs

June 2009

## **Next Meetings:**

Board work session at 6 p.m., Monday, July 27, at South High School, followed by the 8 p.m. regular Board meeting.

Please Note: To realize energy savings the board meetings are moving to South's Wicking Library for the summer. They will move back to North for the fall and winter.

Board meetings 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.

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)

## **Budget approved and two public hearings held**

The annual budget hearing was held with information shared by Assistant Superintendent Fenton and Trustee Walsh. Key points of the budget discussion are that revenue declines when enrollment declines and human resources costs (85% of the 09-10 budget) continue to go up with increases in the state mandated retirement rate, health care and longevity/advanced coursework pay increases which are not being offset by retirements. The district reduced 37.5 teacher FTEs (54.1 FTE total staff decrease) to return to the 18.6:1 teacher to student ratio. GPPSS is in the middle of the pack of similar districts when it comes to our tax rates, and our local hold harmless millage accounts for almost 22% of our revenue. The majority of our funding (65% for GPPSS) comes from the State since Proposal A. With the \$5.4 million in cuts made, the district will maintain a balanced budget. Negotiations with all bargaining groups have begun and will be critical to the district's long-term financial health. Both Powerpoints and the budget workbook are posted on the website. The budget passed 6-0 later in the meeting with several board members noting the pain this budget represents. Regarding the Breakfast hearing, that program will only be offered at Poupard.

## **Superintendent's report includes congratulations to staff and students**

The Superintendent's Report contained a number of recognitions and announcements. The district's energy team was recognized by Michigan School Business Officials for their marketing of the Ready, S.E.T., Go! initiative. Jessica Dawson's German award was noted. Pierce's Special Education Team was recognized. Stellar progress as measured by NWEA tests was reported by Dr. Allan. A Powerpoint of the Year in Review was shared and a new preschool program at Barnes for children ages 2 1/2-5 was announced.

## **Building projects range from golf practice facility to roofs and floors**

In a 6-0 vote, the Board accepted \$15,000 from the Friends of Grosse Pointe South Golf for a practice driving and putting range, which will be matched by \$6,000 in district funds for lights, doors and storage. Bids for Parcels' addition were rejected as requested; that project will go out for bid again this summer. Bids for Defer gym floor replacement (\$56,520) and Brownell's roof (\$137,550) were approved 6-0 out of the sinking fund.

## **Various contracts were approved**

The board approved contracts with Temporary School Services to retain two administrative staff, Assistant Superintendent Susan Allan and Executive Director Lee Warras, at savings to the district. A contract with Professional Educational Services Group (PESG) for employment of our coaches that are noninstructional staff was also approved. PESG will act as the fiscal agent, saving the district costs for retirement and FICA. The contract for Food Services was tabled until that document returns with State approval.

## **Other business**

A layoff list for classroom assistant, clerical and noninstructional supervisor personnel was approved. In a 6-0 vote, the board approved a new policy 2624 "Return of Student Work" replacing the policy previously known as Meaningful Feedback. Trustees also approved General Appropriations Act Amendment (GAAA) #3 which accounts for a decrease in taxes, federal ARRA stabilization funds, reclassification of fringe benefits, and a decrease in fund balances. The board approved combining Parcels and Brownell's wrestling teams; Pierce's team remains separate. July's agenda includes the recall of 17 laid off staff, approval of high school math and astronomy textbooks, and annual organizational items.