

Board Briefs

June 2011

Next Meetings:

Board interviews of the Superintendent finalists will be held [July 11 and 12](#) in South's auditorium, preceded each evening by a community meet and greet in South's Student Commons.

There will be a board work session at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 8 p.m., [Monday, July 25](#), in the **South High School Library**, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd. 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.gpsstv.phanfare.com on Comcast channel 20/902 and AT&T channel 99, or listen to the podcast.

Mark Your Calendar:

There will be a community forum on the governor's School of Choice proposal at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, [July 13](#), in Brownell's Multi-purpose Room, hosted by Representative Bledsoe.

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Board passes budget with 2.2 million in cuts

The board passed the proposed budget which was largely a roll-over of this year's programs, with cost increases in salaries due to step and lane movement as well as a 4% increase in the state-mandated retirement rate for all public school employees. Tie barred to the budget approval were two sets of cuts. Set #1 reinstated last year's cuts of 5 Full Time Equivalency (FTE) classroom assistants (\$209,000), 4 FTE secretarial (239,000), 1 FTE technology (\$94,000), 1.5 FTE custodial (\$91,000); 1.6 curriculum specialists (not technology \$187,000), and 4 FTE non-mandated classroom assistants for Special Education (\$167,000) = \$987,000. Set #2 included: 2 Elementary Resource Center Teacher FTE's (\$160,000), rejection of the Elementary Schedule Proposal (1.5 Spanish + 0.7 Library \$176,000), eliminating elementary and middle school "hot spot" staffing (\$400,000), reducing All Day Kindergarten sections (2.0 TBD based on enrollment \$160,000), reducing sections/increasing class size in high schools (4.0 TBD based on course selection/enrollment \$320,000) for a total of 15.2 Teacher FTE's = \$1,216,000.

Without both sets of cuts, based on the recommended 2011-12 budget, the ending General Fund Equity June 30, 2012 would have been \$7,811,000. These cuts bring it almost back to the 10% mark of the operating budget. The board did conceptually approve the elementary study recommendations in a separate motion, and asked administration to propose alternate cuts at the July board meeting in order to be able to make those improvements.

Board of Education rejects Head Start program for Poupard

The Board voted against hosting a Wayne Metro Community Action Agency Head Start program at Poupard Elementary School. It was proposed by Principal Stocks as it would provide preschool and parent education programming at no cost to the district or families.

Student and staff recognitions abound

Four students were recognized for their Service Academy Awards: Ryan Ennis, U.S. Air Force; Alex Romer, U.S. Merchant Marines; Chelsea MacGriff, U.S. Naval Academy; and Nicole Strickland, U.S. Coast Guard. Aimee Miller and Susan Lucchese recognized Defer, Mason, Maire, Poupard, and Pierce for their participation in the School-Wide Positive Behavior Support Program. A pictorial year in review was also shared.

Consent agenda and miscellaneous action items for June

The 3-year Technology Plan, reading materials for elementary schools (Making Meaning \$144,000 and leveled libraries \$131,968), administration building roof repair (\$24,532), Board policy on fund equity proposed by our auditors, and Microsoft software renewal and the purchase of secondary school servers were all approved on the June consent agenda. Bids for the North and South life skills room renovations and the South main gym hot water repairs also passed as separate action items. The revised Wayne County Center Program Agreement for special education students passed and will take effect July 1. The board also accepted \$721 from the GPFPE to replace the Safety Town smoke machine.

Action items for July

The July consent agenda includes annual housekeeping items ranging from asbestos and liability indemnification to memberships in Michigan Association of School Boards and Michigan High School Athletic Association. Also on the consent agenda are the Human Sexuality Advisory Board cochairs Monique Beels and Michelle Conlan, approval of the fidelity and treasurer's bond, approval of designated agents, and the tuition rate of \$13.50/day in the three permitted circumstances. Cash flow borrowing and approval of a school breakfast program at Defer, Mason and Poupard will also be voted upon. Strategic Planning will continue with an update on specific school goals and objectives.