

Board Briefs

March 2009

Next Meetings:

Board work session at 6 p.m., Monday, April 27, at North High School, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, followed by the 8 p.m. regular Board meeting.

Please Note: January through June, regular 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.

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.

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Curriculum presentations steal the show

In addition to the Grade 5 Delta Science Kit textbook adoption and the K-7 Science Curriculum revisions that sailed through on the consent agenda, five separate curricular revisions were presented at the March Board meeting:

- Grade 3 Social Studies addressed the first phase of revisions to split the Michigan curriculum between third and fourth grade
- Grade K-5 Physical Education was part of the regular review cycle and included great video clips to show what really happens in PE now -- particularly the emphasis on brainbased learning and development of lifelong healthy skills and attitudes
- K-12 Music showed how the district meets or exceeds Michigan Merit Curriculum, national standards, and content guidelines for visual, performing and applied arts and moves beyond excellent skills preparation to greater emphasis on the creative process
- Grade 4 and 5 Library Media revisions adjusted to the reduced number of library sessions (from 44 to 22) with the addition of foreign language at those grade levels, and provided more cross-curricular planning
- Pre-Calculus curriculum for both regular and honors classes was also presented.

District accepts \$56,930 gift from the Defer PTO, prepped for South gift

Finishing phase three of their air conditioning project, the board voted 7-0 to accept this gift from the Defer PTO. Next month, a gift from the South golf supporters is anticipated.

Section 99 grant proposals for technology received

All three middle schools and the South High School staff worked with the Technology Department and Lee Warras to bring forth their proposal for technology integration using the Section 99 Lighthouse Grant monies secured by former Representative Gaffney. Proposals from the elementary schools are expected next month. The grant totals \$1.3 million and is to be used for projects in math, science and technology. The technology proposals are designed to provide equitable minimum standards for classroom technology that will be specific to grade levels and departments.

State budget update from Bledsoe, Klein and Walsh

Representative Bledsoe addressed the Board of Education and shared his insights on the developing State budget. Bledsoe said it appeared the proposed \$59 per pupil cut will not happen so as to not jeopardize federal stimulus funds, but he said 20J funding was not safe. Dr. Klein and Trustee Walsh also shared input from the March 19 presentation by the Director of the Senate Fiscal Agency Gary S. Olson. It appears there will be short-term funding for Title I, Special Education and State Fiscal Stabilization, but amounts have not been released. The district is anticipating the need to cut \$5.4 million from next year's budget.

Bits and bids

Bids for North Asbestos (Michigan Mechanical Abatement for \$320,000) and North B Building First Floor Interior Improvements (Oyk Construction for \$387,997) were both accepted. Next month watch for bids on transportation, Ferry fire alarm and wiring.