



# Board Briefs

## March 2012

### **Next Meetings:**

There will be a work session at 7 p.m., April 16, in the North High School Library, 707 Vernier. The next regular meeting is 7 p.m., Monday, April 23, in the North High School Library. Board meetings will stay at North through June 2012, then move to Brownell for July and August.

A Policy meeting will be held at 7 p.m., April 19 in the Board Room of the Administration Building.

You can now watch the school board meetings via [www.gppstv.phanfare.com](http://www.gppstv.phanfare.com) on Comcast channel 20/902 and AT&T channel 99, or listen to the podcast on the district website.

### **Mark Your Calendar:**

- Brownell presents *Beauty & the Beast*, 3/29-30, 7 p.m., MPR
- South Art Fest, 3/28-31
- Lights Out! 3/30
- North Student Council hosts Party Planning Expo, 3/31, 12-3 p.m. in North's cafeteria
- North Band & Orchestra students play Orchestra Hall, 4/1, 7 p.m.

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### **Student recognitions start the evening on a high note**

There were so many athletic teams and individual honors to celebrate that the recognitions began a half hour before the board meeting opened. Teams and individuals from basketball, cheerleading, hockey, swimming and diving, and wrestling were honored. All were taped - please see the left column for viewing options. Recognitions continued under the Superintendent's report. Ms. Trefney's 1st grade class from Monteith sang a piece from their *Leader in Me* play on character education. Mary Fodell was recognized for being named by Commissioner Killeen as Wayne County Woman of the Year. South Spanish Club was recognized for raising \$1200 for scholarships for Nicaraguan students. Our middle schools were recognized for their 7th grade MEAP writing scores. Dr. Dib and Dr. Armstrong noted the contribution of the three English departments in this accomplishment and in setting the tone for professional development in their buildings. Brownell earned the second highest score in the state, behind a school with selective entrance requirements - and all 3 middle schools were in the top 13% in the state.

Representative Bledsoe provided a legislative update addressing: retirement changes in House Bill 1040, cyberschool discussions, the K-12 budget with "best practice" incentives (noting his aversion to including School of Choice in that category), Senate Bill 315 which proposes changing the start date for Kindergarten birthdays (the amended bill proposes moving from December 1 to November 1 for next year's incoming class), and his efforts to name April as Heart Awareness Month stressing the importance of AED machines.

Plante Moran then presented their GPPSS Information Technology Assessment, sharing data from surveys, focus groups and like-district comparisons as well as next steps (online).

### **Board authorizes Superintendent Harwood to establish Head Start at Poupard**

In a 6-0 vote, the board unanimously approved authorizing Superintendent Harwood to establish a Head Start program in partnership with Wayne Metro Community Action Agency at Poupard Elementary School, servicing income-eligible children throughout the district. President Gafa was out ill, so Vice President Lois Valente ran the meeting. Trustee Jakubiec's vote was conditional upon receiving bi-monthly reports on: the number of GPPSS children enrolled, the number of late pick-ups, and all funds transferred to GPPSS as the program was presented as being no cost to the district.

### **Agenda action item pass, including our district goals**

The board approved the SMART district goals proposed by Superintendent Harwood for the remainder of this school year and into 2013. Those goals are posted online as part of a continuous improvement plan. Now the focus shifts to developing building level goals that will drive measurable change. Four policy revisions also passed on computer technology and networks, acceptable use and safety for students and staff, and cell phones and electronic devices. While the recommended bids for 200 MPS dedicated service and cell phones also passed 6-0, no trustee made a motion to approve the recommended web hosting bid.

### **April action items include layoffs, policy revisions, Distinguished Volunteers**

In April, the Board will address teacher layoffs per the contract notification requirements. They will also vote on a bid for the South ceramics room dust collection system. Three policies will also be voted upon: adding items to the board agenda, rare instances where students are on the sex offender registry, and bullying. Also in April, the annual Distinguished Volunteer awards will be presented.