

# Board Briefs

March 2008

## Meeting Dates

Board meeting dates have moved to the fourth Monday of the month, with a few changes due to holiday and calendar issues. Additional work sessions are scheduled, but those will not be televised.

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.

## Next Meetings:

Board Work Session at 6 p.m., Monday, April 14 in the Board Room at 389 St. Clair Avenue.

Board Work session at 6 p.m. and televised regular meeting at 8 p.m., Monday, April 28 in North's library.

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.

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## Take the Positive Learning Environment Survey Today

Please continue to watch the "District Survey Center" button on the right side of the district website's main page. The Positive Learning Environment survey is up now through April 22. All parents, students and staff are encouraged to complete all versions that apply to them.

## GPFPE makes awards and issues a \$100,000 Challenge

The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education announced a \$100,000 Reading Challenge to raise funding for F.A.S.T. reading program training and materials costs. A matching gift of up to \$50,000 has been pledged by the John and Marlene Boll Foundation – effectively doubling every gift received. For more information, please call 432-3058 or see [www.gpschools.org/foundation](http://www.gpschools.org/foundation). The GPFPE separately offered two grants and one \$10,800 directed gift for district-wide projects that were all unanimously approved by the Board of Education. The grants were for: Music in Mathematics for all K-4 classes to help students master math skills while taking advantage of classroom transition times; and an English as a Second Language (ESL) parent lending library.

## Curriculum Revisions approved for Social Studies, Science, Mandarin Chinese and Applied Medical Research

A tremendous amount of work has been accomplished by curriculum committees representing these subjects and pilot courses. The social studies and science PowerPoints are on the district website under the Board – Presentations section, highlighting changes in course sequence, optional classes and content adjustments to meet or exceed State requirements.

## Teachers and teams recognized

Numerous updates have been made to the website's News and Info section, with detail on individuals and teams recognized in March, including: these teachers – James Adams, Mark Davids, Dr. Grace Smith; and these athletes – the North Girls Basketball Team, the South Girls Ice Hockey Team, and South diver Jordan L.

## Architect decision tabled, but separate bids approved

The board tabled until April 14 a recommendation to approve Ehresman and Associates as the architect of record for the Brownell multipurpose room, and the Grosse Pointe South multipurpose room, commons, and boys' gym projects. Two unrelated bids for lockers at Pierce and terrazzo floors in South's S building were approved to be completed this summer.

## Work session update

March 10 work session minutes are available online. Key reports included a review of class size/staff allocation by level, and presentations from board liaisons on capital projects and finance. A \$3.5 million budget was set for the Brownell multi-purpose project. The March 31 work session included discussion of Budget Council's reinvestment recommendations, and highlights of the student section of policies which will be discussed by the board in April.

## Sodexo Food Service survey results summarized

While response to the food service survey was low from parents, staff and students (304 elementary students, and 407 parents, secondary students, staff), some useful data was gleaned. Long lines, communication, and availability of healthy meal options, snacks and beverages were key issues identified. Sodexo has presented a two-page plan to address these. The summary is posted on the website, linked from the survey and agenda pages.