

Board Briefs

September 2010

Special highlight:

Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education presented \$188,850 to the Board for acceptance. This brings the total to date for the Boll Technology Challenge to \$480,000 of their \$750,000 goal. They thanked donors to this unique matching campaign and encouraged those who have not yet given or want to learn more about GPFPE to visit www.gpfpe.org.

Next Meetings:

Board regular meeting at 8 p.m., Monday, October 25, in the South High School Library, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd.

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. To access background documents for upcoming agendas, please visit the board calendar. Past agendas and background documents are also archived online under the School Board dropdown. Note that minutes are not posted until approved at the next monthly board meeting.

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State Superintendent Flanagan to visit GPPSS

Dr. Klein shared that State Superintendent Michael Flanagan will be visiting Grosse Pointe October 13. His tour will include stops at Poupard, North, South and Brownell. At 6:30 that same evening, South High School will host the annual College Night. Parents of high school students are encouraged to come and learn about college programs across the country.

Annual report and school improvement plans presented

Public Act 25 requires each school and district publish and present an annual report by October 15. The district report was presented by Assistant Superintendent Beels at the September board meeting; most schools are presenting their reports at PTO meetings. All are online at www.gpschools.org and can be accessed through *Quick Links* or the *District* dropdown. Highlights include: all our schools made adequate yearly progress, all schools earned an "A" on the Michigan report card, 91% of our parents attend conferences, 100% of our staff are highly qualified to teach their grade/subject area, our retention rate is 98%, daily attendance is 96%, 78% of the 1627 Advanced Placement tests taken by our students earned scores high enough to qualify for college credit, our ACT average (22.3) is 3.6 points above the state average, our SAT results are 100 points above the national average. Ms. Beels then shared the school improvement highlights by level and school. These are also online. Dr. Klein provided an overview of overarching annual district goals.

Tax levy to decrease by over a half million dollars

Assistant Superintendent Christian Fenton shared that as taxes are going down again this year (by \$553,084) a truth in taxation hearing was not required. He walked through the various taxes (homestead, nonhomestead, commercial, sinking fund and debt). Board treasurer Brendan Walsh then presented a PowerPoint on the tax levy as the latest installment in the Financial Transparency series (online). They will present the first budget amendment (GAAA #1) in either October or November corresponding with changes already shown in the Budget Modeling Utility (BMU).

Results of staff, student and parent surveys shared

A summary of GPPSS staff, student and parent surveys was shared by Banach, Banach and Cassidy, the firm that developed our survey instruments as well as those for North Central Accreditation. Written questionnaires were returned by 1609 elementary students (grades 3-5), 4184 secondary students, and 658 staff members. An online parent survey was also completed by 497 respondents -- not a large enough sample to establish confidence limits, but useful for identifying trends. Overall, our community is pleased with our schools. When asked what grade they would give GPPSS, 84% of community respondents, 88% of parents, 91% of staff, and 84% of students gave the district an A or B -- well above the national average. Questions focused on the learning environment, student discipline/behavior, and communication. The data will be used for curriculum development, communication efforts, school climate improvement and strategic planning.

Contracts passed with four more employee groups

Contracts for Non-Instructional Supervisors, Technology Group, Executive Administration and Paraprofessionals all passed, following similar patterns already passed for the GPEA (teachers) and GPAEOP (office personnel).

Textbooks approved for 11th grade and discussed for 7th grade

Outliers and Into the Wild were approved for the 11th grade Power of Language course. Hoot and Warriors Don't Cry were discussed for the 7th grade mystery and memoirs genres. Approval for either or both of the 7th grade texts will occur in October.