



Next Meetings:

There will be a work session at 7 p.m., December 10, and a regular meeting at 7 p.m., December 17, in the **Brownell Multi-Purpose Room**, 260 Chalfonte, GPF.

You can watch board meetings at www.gppsstv.phanfare.com, on Comcast channel 20/902 or AT&T channel 99, or listen to the podcast on the district site.

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Board Briefs

November 2012

Ten Distinguished Employees recognized in fifth annual ceremony

Vice-President Valente read biographies of those selected to receive the Distinguished Employee Service Recognition Award as Superintendent Harwood, President Gafa and Trustee Dindoffer congratulated and presented awards to: Patricia Curtis-Gough, Beverly Forsyth, Michelle Hartman, Dianne McPharlin, Barry Novak, Joanna Porvin, Lisa Rheame, Sheila Russo, Richard Van Gorder, and Geoffrey Young. Please help us congratulate these individuals for going above and beyond!

GPFPE presents \$99,568 in gifts that were gratefully received!

Cat Ruffner from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education presented the following grants totaling \$99,568 that were approved 7-0 by the Board: RAZ Enhancement of Instruction Reader Workshop K-3, all elementary schools, \$30,000; Netbooks for 4th and 5th graders, Poupard, \$30,000; Workshop for 4th grade, Maire, \$600; Wireless Netbooks for Magnet 4/5 classroom, Ferry, \$7,000; RAMP ASCA Model Program for Middle School Counselors, Brownell, Parcells, Pierce, \$2,000; Homework Club for Focus and Title 1 schools, Poupard/Mason/Ferry/Defer/Trombly, \$19,968; Solar Car Team, South High School, \$3,000; iLearn with iPads for Magnet 4/5 program, Defer, \$7,000.

District receives another clean and unqualified audit and approved GAAA#1

Deputy Superintendent Fenton introduced Plante Moran representatives who shared their audit findings - an unqualified or "clean" opinion, the highest form of an assurance a school district can receive. Treasurer Walsh then reported on the spending trends and financial information from the Budget Modeling Utility Program. Mr. Walsh shared differences in direct and indirect compensation, as well as employee contracts, per pupil revenue and expenses, and how they have changed from 2004 to 2011. Using the audit information, the first budget amendment GAAA#1 was approved 7-0 by the Board later in the meeting.

Superintendent's report includes legislative and Open House update

Superintendent Harwood said that state legislators have been busy in Lansing working to pass several "lame duck" bills prior to a new legislative group which takes office January 1. Given the legislative threats to public education, Dr. Harwood noted it is important that the district and community establish collective voices to express joint concerns in regard to these bills in both the House (HB 6004, HB 5923) and the Senate (SB 1358). Deputy Superintendent Jon Dean then presented an update on the well-attended district-wide Open House 11-11-12 which is already leading to student enrollments. Superintendent Harwood then noted the success of student athletes in district and regional championships.

Informational items cover Director of Special Education, High School Program of Studies, and Elementary Report Cards

In the monthly human resources report, Deputy Superintendent Dean noted the resignation of Special Education Director Deborah Jackson. Plans are underway to recruit a qualified candidate for that critical role in the district. Aaron Johnson presented the High School Program of Studies. He noted there were no major changes. Any changes resulting from the 21st Century High School Study will be made to the 2013-2014 High School Program of Studies. Maureen Bur then presented information on the new Elementary Standards-Based Report Cards, and noted a report card video online under the Parents dropdown menu.

All board members will participate in Superintendent evaluation

After clarifying verbiage to read "each member of the Board must be afforded the opportunity to participate in the process," the Board voted 7-0 to approve Policy 1240 on Superintendent Evaluation.