



### **Next Meetings:**

There will be a closed session at 7 p.m., October 15, followed by an open special meeting, and a regular meeting at 7 p.m., October 29, in the **Brownell Multi-Purpose Room**, 260 Chalfonte, GPF.

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

### **Mark Your Calendar:**

- Vote November 6
- District-wide Open House, Sunday, 11-11 from 1-3 p.m. in every school

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# Board Briefs

## September 2012

### **Superintendent shares annual report information**

Every school and the district must publish and present an annual report each fall that includes specific data points. These are all posted on the website [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org) under Our District - Annual Reports. Dr. Harwood walked the audience through the district's annual report, just as our principals will share their annual reports at building level meetings.

### **Tax levy approved and no truth in taxation hearing needed as taxes declined**

Background information and more detail regarding the hold harmless, sinking fund, debt millage, homestead and non-homestead rates are all provided at [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org) under the School Board dropdown, by clicking School Finance, and were shared publicly at the televised board meeting by Deputy Superintendent Christian Fenton. We encourage all constituents to read these materials and ask any questions they may have. The motion carried 7-0, with Mr. Fenton noting no truth in taxation hearing was needed as taxes declined.

### **Superintendent's Report provides legislative update and good news**

Dr. Harwood shared an update on the MPSERS retirement reform. MPSERS is the retirement rate districts are required to pay per employee. The Senate capped the MPSERS rate at 24.46%, and this has gone back to the House for review. Our employees need to notify the State of their final retirement plan decision by October 26. Dr. Harwood also encouraged the community to educate themselves on The Oxford Foundation and its proposals for how schools should be funded, as well as Senate Bill 620. He then shared updates on Focus and Reward schools, and on our Residency Process. He noted that those enrolling for kindergarten for the 2013-14 school year must be five years old on or before November 1, as opposed to prior years when December 1 was the cut off. The Superintendent's Report also included these good news items:

- Neil Jupe, Grosse Pointe South senior, participated in *Boys Nation 2012*, one of two young men from Michigan, and was elected from the top 100 boys across the nation to serve as President Pro-Tem of the group in Washington D.C.
- We are partnering with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce and North High School to continue our community leaders luncheon program 9/25/12 at North
- GPPSS is partnering with The Family Center and Beaumont Health Coalition to offer anti-bullying seminars and programming this fall to students and parents

### **Business and informational items**

Approved 6-1 were the updated Superintendent Goals. In addition to those identified per Board policy 1240, Dr. Harwood added nine items ranging from student assessment to marketing to financial management. Also this month, Deputy Superintendents Jon Dean and Christian Fenton walked the audience through monthly financial and health care reports as well as an update on enrollment (down 40 students from actual enrollment last year) and class sizes. Dr. Dean also shared a marketing update highlighting the district-wide Open House 11-11, from 1-3 p.m. The October Board meeting will cover the usual human resources report and minutes, as well as GAAA #1 (budget amendment), a lease agreement with the GPEA for office space at Barnes, and a Naviance contract proposal to track college applications and process transcripts as well as other data for GPPSS students. GPEA President Cheri Trefney presented *Connection with Direction* showcasing teachers in their daily activities with students. This PowerPoint is posted online.

### **Three candidates on the ballot for School Board**

Two seats will be open on the November ballot and three candidates have filed: William Broman, Judy Gafa and Cindy Pangborn. The date for the League of Women Voters forum is October 9 at 7:15 p.m. in South's Wicking Library and it will be televised on Channel 20.