



Board Briefs

July 2012

Next Meetings:

There will be a work session at 7 p.m., August 20, and a regular meeting at 7 p.m., August 27, 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.

Mark Your Calendar:

- Filing deadline for school board 8/14 at the Grosse Pointe Park municipal building
- All Staff Gathering 8/29 at 8:15 a.m. in the Brownell MPR
- First Day of School 9/4

Human resources report offers much to celebrate and principal search update

Deputy Superintendent Jon Dean welcomed Dr. Kevin Kurkowski as Supervisor of Information Services and shared that with the teacher recalls approved this month by the Board, there are six left on the teacher layoff list. Linda Bristol retired and we celebrate her 27 years of service to the district, most recently at Trombly. The human resources report passed 7-0.

Dr. Dean also provided an update on the North and Kerby principal searches. He thanked the hundreds of community members who responded to the profile surveys for each position. Then he shared that while the search team for North – which consisted of over 50 parents, students, teachers, support staff and administrators – had met numerous viable candidates, they were not convinced they had found the exact right fit for North. An interim plan will be announced within the next two weeks and the North principal position will be reposted in December, which is the optimal time for a high school search.

A similar process led to two finalists for the Kerby principal position, out of a field of 107 candidates. Final interviews are happening now with Superintendent Harwood, and his recommendation for Kerby principal, South choir, and South/Pierce Band and Orchestra will be brought to the board. Watch for a special open meeting to be posted within the week.

Consent agenda contains annual business as usual

Memberships in the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) and Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) are annually renewed each year. In a 7-0 vote the board approved those and the other items on the consent agenda. These included June minutes, annual resolutions on asbestos and liability indemnification, and approval of authorized debit/credit card users.

Board united in passing all July 23 action items 7-0

The Board approved the contract for food services with Sodexo noting that updates in federal guidelines will change the offerings provided this year. Food prices will increase 14 cents to meet those new restrictions of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act. Watch for a food services survey in January when the contract goes out to bid. The school breakfast program was approved to run at Defer, Mason and Poupard Elementary Schools, and Parcels Middle School where free/reduced lunch rates range from 24-59%. The superintendent's evaluation also passed 7-0, as did the Fidelity and Treasurer's Bonds, and the tuition rate (\$13.50/day to recoup the Hold Harmless tax) for the small number (under 10 annually) who meet the strict guidelines. The Parcels pool entrance ramp/waterproofing project was awarded to low bidder Luigi Ferdinandi & Son Cement for \$46,999 with a \$5000 reserve as it is foundation work.

Other business and informational items

The August meeting will cover the usual human resources report and minutes, as well as federal program funding, and a bid for a third party administrator for health care. Deputy Superintendent Christian Fenton walked the audience through the annual facilities audit and project report, as well as the security and video surveillance report. Remember, board packet materials are linked on the website www.gpschools.org. Click the calendar icon, the board meeting date, then each linked agenda item to read the accompanying materials. Over 20 public comments were made regarding residency policies and procedures. The administration will be meeting with Residents for Residency representatives to discuss ideas for improvement.

Deadline to file for the Board election is coming quickly

Interested candidates must file for the Board election by August 14. Contact Grosse Pointe Park municipal offices for details regarding fees or signatures. Two seats will be open.

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