



Next Meetings:

There will be a regular meeting of the Board at 7 p.m., April 15, in the **Brownell Multi-Purpose Room**, 260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, and a Regular Meeting of the Board at 7 p.m., April 22, in the **North High School Library, 707 Vernier**.

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

Mark Your Calendar:

- Spring Break 3/29 through 4/5!

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Board Briefs

March 2013

Teacher contract approved

After the GPEA passed the teacher contract by a 2:1 margin (305 yes, 191 no), the board unanimously approved the teacher contract at their March 18 meeting, citing their appreciation and utmost respect for both bargaining teams as they negotiated this shared sacrifice. Dr. Dean's Powerpoint on key components is posted on the website under Board Reports.

Superintendent's report includes student and staff recognitions

Dr. Harwood and President Dindoffer honored our seven National Merit Finalists: Noah Cherry, John S. Fordon, Peter Fox, Kamala Kanneganti, Claire Morrison, Devon Pratt, and Jordan Radke. Dr. Harwood also noted South teacher Nick Provenzano being named MACUL (Michigan Association of Computer Users and Learners) Teacher of the Year, our Galileo teacher leaders, South choir's triumphant return to Show Choir competition, the phenomenal work of North and South at MSBOA (School Band and Orchestra), South's tremendous Art Show, our district's Gearhead success in robotics competition, the community's response to the Education Nation book drive and our teacher profiles and participation on the dialogue around what is right in public education, our Destination Imagination teams' success with six going on to Nationals, the athletic teams in regional and state finals, and recent plays and musicals that delighted the community.

World Language revisions and Head Start Program both receive 7-0 approval

Revisions to the World Language program and a continuation of the HeadStart program at Poupard both passed unanimously. A video about our GPPSS HeadStart program was taped by Dr. Harwood and edited by South TV Production and is posted online.

Four board policies on placement, layoff and evaluation pass

Four policies (3130-Placement of Teachers; 3131-Layoff/Recall of Teachers and Administrators; 3139-Discipline, Demotion, Dismissal; and 3220-Teacher/Administrator Performance Evaluation) passed 7-0 after their second reading, bringing GPPSS into compliance with new State law. An email with specifics on how these policies impact teachers was sent to all teachers and administrators 3/28.

Business items all pass unanimously

The Human Resources report contained several notable retirements which will be honored later this year. The March 18 minutes passed. Restroom bids at Mason, Richard and South were all approved and will be completed over the summer through the sinking fund. Under Information and Discussion, the monthly financial and health care reports were discussed. With twice the normal amount of high cost claims this year, our health care costs are over budget, but with continued cost controls we anticipate coming in only 2% over budget overall. General Appropriations Act Amendments are anticipated in May in June for this as well as property tax adjustments. As we head further into 2013-14 budget development, encouraging enrollment for next year is a critical step. Membership on board committees was also discussed. These include: Policy, Technology, Technology External Consultant and Visitation, Student Reinstatement, Distinguished Volunteers, Distinguished Staff, Staff Discipline, and Liaison to the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education.

On the April agenda

On April 22, our 29th annual Distinguished Volunteers ceremony will be held. We invite you to join us in North's library to recognize these individuals: Kathleen Abke, Michelle Agosta, Lynn Galbenski, Susan Glover, Tom and Micki Jenny, Cherylynn Pellegrino, Cat Ruffner, Chris Scapini, Manijeh Salari, and Kathleen Terry. Also on the 22nd, the board will vote on the proposed High School Textbook for Advanced Math that aligns with the Common Core and provides a fourth year math option beyond Algebra II.