



Next Meetings:

There will be a Board Policy Committee meeting Wednesday, December 4 at 6 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 389 St. Clair. There will be one regular meeting of the Board in December at 7 p.m., December 16 in the **Brownell Multi-Purpose Room**, 260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms.

You can watch regular board meetings livestreamed or archived at <http://new.livestream.com/ac-counts/3685210> on Comcast channel 20/902 or AT&T channel 99.

Mark Your Calendar:

- Thanksgiving Break - all schools Wednesday-Friday 11/27-29 (Board office open Wednesday)
- 11/29 Grosse Pointe Santa Parade 10 a.m.
- 12/4 Annual Holiday Tea 1 p.m. in the PAC
- 12/5 Family Center Holly Fest
- 12/7 Parcels Holiday Bazaar
- 12/8 South Holiday Walk
- 12/12&13 North Holiday Concert at First English Lutheran

Grosse Pointe Public School System
389 St. Clair Avenue
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
phone: 313/432-3000
fax: 313/432-3002
www.gpschools.org

Board Briefs

November 2013

Technology bond ballot language passes 5-1

After months of development utilizing input from staff, students, community members and outside consultants through an RFQ process, the final ballot language was approved 5-1 for a \$50.2 million technology bond. The election will be February 25, 2014. Trustee Jakubiec was not able to attend. Trustee Pangborn voted no. Ballot language, an FAQ document, and the list of infrastructure upgrades and student computing devices are all posted on the front page of the district website www.gpschools.org under *Technology Bond*.

6th Annual Distinguished Employees ceremony honors 14 staff

This year's recipients of the Distinguished Employees award are: Suzanne Bantien, Susan Dempsey, Tamara Duffield, Constance Karpinski, Garrett Kelley, Christine Kuhl, Carolyn Kurtz, Patricia Kwiatkowski, Karen LaBarge, Glenda Lassiter, Holli McNally, Jeffrey Nardone, Douglas Roby, Susan Speirs. Mr. Nardone's twin sons accepted his honor on his behalf. Please help us congratulate our friends and colleagues!

GPFPE presents almost \$86,000 in grants

Christie Scoggin, chair of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education grant committee, presented an astounding \$85,716 in grants which were gratefully accepted by the board. Several were pilots to provide data for future district purchases. They include: Multi-Sensory Environment-Brownell/Pierce; Developmental Learning Backpacks-Barnes; Increasing Independence within LRE-secondary; "C3" Community, Cooking & Crafts-Community Campus; Teacher iPads for Instructional Support-Kerby; Facilitating FAST Phonics and Fluency-elementary; iPads in 3rd Grade-Richard; The Leader in Me-Trombly; Integrating 21st Century Skills-Trombly; Math Workshop with Project Based Learning-Trombly; Classroom Technology for 21st Learners-Ferry; Elementary School Homework Club-Defer/Ferry/Poupard/Trombly/Mason; SPARK Technology in Science-Brownell; "WEB" Where Everyone Belongs-Parcell; Digital Photography Equipment for Middle School Art; Solar Car Team-South; Night Sky Enhancement Project-North; Rundown Creator and iPads for Producers and Talent-North; iPad & Apple TV Pilot-South/Brownell/Parcells; and Gearheads Team 1189-North/South.

District earns another clean and unqualified audit

Representatives of Plante Moran presented another clean and unqualified audit, verifying that accounting is done accurately by the district. They noted the following future challenges: financial stability of the State School Aid Fund, impact on the School Aid Fund from legislative decisions (trade in tax, etc.), future changes in the state-mandated retirement rate, state financial support of retirement system (MPERS), impact of Affordable Care Act on expenditures, possible elimination of personal property tax millage, ability to restore fund balance to 10% of expenditures, and ability to maintain high credit rating from rating agencies. However, they also noted the significant contributions of all GPPSS staff toward the final two challenges through the salary formula, and were echoed in that sentiment by the Board members.

Board policies and administrative guidelines updated

The Board voted 6-0 to rescind policy 2430 which was made obsolete through revised policy 5840. Both relate to student groups and activities. They also did a first reading of three policies: 5330 Medications, 9300 Volunteers, and 5830 Student Fundraising. Administrative guidelines for four policies were also reviewed: 5840 Recognized Student Groups, 5850 Social Events, 8800 Religious Activities, and 9700A Distribution of Materials. All policies are posted on the district website under the School Board dropdown, with a handy keyword search option.

On the December agenda and on your radar

The board will vote upon two proposed secondary courses in December: *Honors Accounting* which will follow the same curriculum as AP Accounting but at a slower pace, and *Reading and Writing through Athletics*. The first General Appropriations Act Amendment (G.A.A.A. #1) is anticipated next month as well. Board members were also asked to express their interest in officer positions at the December 16th meeting.