



Next Meetings:

There will be a Board Policy Committee meeting Thursday, October 3 at 6 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 389 St. Clair. There will be regular meetings of the Board at 7 p.m., October 21 and 28, both 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:

- 9/27 Full Circle Raise the Roof at Brownell, 7 p.m.
- 9/27 South Homecoming football game 7 p.m.
- 10/4 North Homecoming football game 7 p.m.
- 10/11 North-South Football game at 7 p.m., GPFPE and Chamber Tailgate 5-7 p.m. at South
- 11/10 - GPPSS Open House 2-4 p.m.

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

September 2013

Superintendent reports on legislative update and good news

Dr. Harwood started the evening with several good news items, including Richard's successful Crazy Hat Day which contributed to the district's elementary effort to raise Kid2Kid funds for Operation Warm with Grosse Pointe Rotary. For every \$17 collected, a new winter coat is purchased for a local child. Contact your local elementary or the Superintendent's office if you wish to donate. Dr. Harwood also noted Ferry's *Pinwheels for Peace* project on International Peace Day. He then provided a legislative update, and later in the evening welcomed a sneak peek of the Full Circle *Raise the Roof* event with a beautiful bell choir performance.

Business items welcome new staff

With unanimous approval of the human resources report, we welcomed six teachers, three office clerks, seven classroom assistants and three custodians to the GPPSS family. The minutes and federal program funding also passed unanimously. Federal program funds are for Title I intervention programs for at-risk students at Poupard, Defer and Mason (\$443,472), Title II for professional development (\$149,465), Title III Language Acquisition Program (\$5,329), IDEA Flowthrough (\$1,860,935), and Federal Preschool (\$105,435) for evaluation of children birth to age six and assistive technology software.

Board approves superintendent evaluation process and goals for 2013-14

After the August 19 meeting where two instruments were explored, the board approved 7-0 the Michigan School Administrator's Association School ADvance Administrator Evaluation Instrument to evaluate the superintendent. As found in Board Policy 1230 there are 14 responsibilities outlined, to which were added goals under these areas: Board Governance and Policy Development, Student Assessment and Student Demographic Data Analysis, District Continuous Improvement Plan Development and Implementation, Marketing Initiatives, Instructional Technology Initiatives, Financial Planning and Management. More goal detail is online.

Seven board policies updated to meet new state and federal law

The board approved seven policies in a 7-0 vote. Four deal with technology (board and staff personal communication devices, and personal internet account privacy for staff and students). The other three covered criminal justice information security, religious/patriotic ceremonies and observances, and a controlled substance and alcohol policy for commercial motor vehicles.

No truth in taxation hearing needed as taxes decreased again

Mr. Fenton provided an update on the homestead-general and commercial personal property, non-homestead, commercial personal property, sinking fund, and debt fund taxes. While there may be variances for individuals based on taxable values, overall the tax rate goes down 0.2%. These rates were approved 7-0 and will appear on the December 2013 tax bill.

Information and Discussion covers PA-25 annual report and demographics

Per Public Act 25, Dr. Harwood published and presented the district annual report. These reports for every school and the GPPSS are posted on our website under About Us - click Annual Report. Archives from past years are also available online and printed copies may be obtained upon request in the school and district offices. Dr. Harwood also walked through a 78-page PowerPoint on district demographics. Mr. Fenton shared enrollment has passed projection by eight students and currently stands at 8,333. The technology RFQs for an architectural technology design study are in and being reviewed by the administration. While the RFQs focus on the infrastructure, teachers and support staff will play an integral role in the selection of instructional devices utilizing the infrastructure. A formal bond proposal will be brought to the board by November. If ballot language is approved by 12/17/13, there will be an election 2/25/14.

On the August agenda and on your radar

In addition to the usual business items, in October the board will vote on approval of three titles for the high school *Strategies for Reading and Writing* course: The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian, The Hunger Games, and Slam!.