



Next Meetings:

There will be a policy committee meeting on April 2, at 6 p.m., in the Administration Building **Board Room**, 389 St. Clair, Grosse Pointe. There will be a regular meeting of the Board on April 14 and April 28, both at 7 p.m., 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:

- 4/3 Tech & Budget online survey closes
- 4/5 Electronics recycling event, 9-noon, behind Brownell
- Spring Break - all schools April 18-27 (Board office open April 21-25)

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Board Briefs

March 2014

Superintendent's report covers legislative update and good news

Dr. Harwood provided a snapshot of budget proposals presented by the Governor and Senate, stating the House K-12 appropriation committee's was anticipated later in the week. The district is closely watching the Classrooms and Kids proposal as well as suggested changes to the MPSEER state retirement program which would both impact our per pupil allocation. Legislative development related to statewide assessments and correlation to the Common Core are also being watched. Good news items included the district having 10 National Merit Scholars, German awards, strong Destination Imagination teams, three seventh graders representing Parcels at the 'You be the Chemist' competition at Wayne RESA., 12 Tower students representing the district at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Conference in NYC, South's Mock Trial Team placing first at the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament and competing in the State Tournament March 29, and Pierce 7th grader Jeevan T. going to state finals for the National Geography Bee April 4th at Western Michigan University.

Superintendent's contract renewed for one year

The Board voted 5-1, with Lois Valente dissenting and Judy Gafa absent for family reasons, to renew Dr. Harwood's contract for one year at the same salary.

Business items pass 6-0

The board unanimously approved the human resources report, minutes from March 17, a settlement agreement, and the resolution to recognize 12 Distinguished Volunteers at the April meeting (names to be announced next month).

Budget amendment GAAA#2 passes 6-0

The Board voted 7-0 to approve the General Appropriations Act Amendment (GAAA)#2. As the district is required by State law to pass and maintain a balanced budget, every amendment must be approved by the board through this formal process. This amendment includes an increase in the homestead/non-homestead tax collections, a decrease in state aid, and increase in expenditures for gas and overtime both directly related to the weather this winter (plowing).

Info and Discussion

Stefanie Hayes, Lillie Loder and Susan Lucchese presented a special education update (PowerPoint linked online). Plans are on hold for the Special Education ombudsman or parent liaison proposal as the board gathers more feedback. Budget development has begun and documents are posted online. Send suggestions to budget@gpschools.org. The first budget draft is anticipated April 28.

On the April agenda and on your radar

Three policies underwent a first reading: 2240 - Controversial Issues, 2245 - School Assemblies and Resource Speakers, and 5332 - Epinephrine Auto Injectors. Also up for a vote next month will be the bid for South turf replacement. The current turf, paid through the bond, has exceeded its' useful life projections. North turf is proposed for replacement the following budget year.