



BOARD BRIEFS

March 14, 2005

The Grosse Pointe Public School System www.gpschools.org

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

In the absence of Superintendent Suzanne Klein, Assistant Superintendent Chris Fenton presented her report, which included: (1) a report by Parcels Principal Mark Mulholland and Brownell Principal Mike Dib regarding the sixth-grade rotation and (2) an update by Lee Warras (Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Technology) and Sharon Halicki (Supervisor of Information Systems) regarding the Student & Parent Connect software programs, which provide access to student information by both students and parents on a read-only basis.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

The Board approved the appointment of a part-time instructional staff member for Community High School and leaves of absence for two instructional staff members. The Board also noted the resignation of one classroom assistant.

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR OUTSOURCING OF TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

The Board approved a proposal from Wright & Hunter to provide preliminary research and to develop and issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for possible outsourcing of district technical support. The fee for the preliminary research is \$1,500, and the fee for the RFP phase is \$10,000, for a total of \$11,500.

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR DISTRICT-OWNED WIDE-AREA NETWORK

Because Comcast's leasing rates for the wide-area network (WAN) are currently very competitive, the Board decided not to move forward with a feasibility study for a district-owned wide-area fiber optic network but, instead, to continue with Comcast.

MODIFICATION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL SIXTH GRADE ROTATION

The Board approved a plan to modify the traditional sixth-grade rotation in order to minimize the effects of possible budget cuts. Changes include expanding rotation classes from six-week sessions to 9- or 10-week (quarter-long) sessions, requiring all 6th grade students take a quarter-long computer class, and allowing 6th grade students to choose

three other quarter-long classes from the following list: art, lifeskills, technology education, and foreign language (Spanish/French).

These modifications will be reviewed along with other elective middle school offerings in preparation for the 2006-2007 budget process.

AMERICAN STUDIES COURSE FOR COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

The Board approved a proposal to integrate the *American Literature* and U.S. History courses into one course: *American Studies*. This will allow students to connect their learning across two subject areas and will permit two teachers to work as a team. Because all 11th grade Community High School students will be enrolled in this class, a larger class size will be scheduled.

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

The Board approved a proposal to integrate components of the *Reading Workshop*, *Expository Writing*, and *Freshman English* courses into one two-year course (*Introduction to Literature and Composition*) for 9th and 10th grade students in Community High School. This will provide students with intensive instruction that will be useful during their remainder of their four-year English sequence. It may also reduce costs by permitting consolidation of electives and a larger class size.

BIDS

The Board awarded bids for the following projects:

- Pierce gym remodeling project to Bernco, Inc., for \$294,773
- South High School science remodeling project to MICCO, LLC for \$3,106,700
- Defer locker project to Rayhaven Group for \$10,040

G.P.E.A. CONTRACT

The Board accepted and ratified the 2004-2007 successor labor agreement with the Grosse Pointe Education Association (G.P.E.A.).

APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIP

This item was brought to the Board for information and discussion. However, because the proposal was similar to previous proposals that the Board had approved and because the timeline was tight, the Board agreed to take immediate action and voted to approve a request to waive the “Study Warning” on student foreign travel to permit the North High School history field trip to Pelee Island, Ontario, Canada, from May 11 to May 15, 2005.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

- The Project Oversight Committee presented an update on construction projects.
- The Revenue Enhancement Committee reported it will bring to the April Board meeting a request for approval of a contract with the fundraising consulting firm the committee selected after interviews with several firms.
- A general update from the Board Policy Committee was provided, along with a discussion of a proposed revision of JHCA (School-Sponsored Media and Non-School

Sponsored Media). Policies to be reviewed in the future include the community service requirement for Merit Scholarships, gifts, facilities usage, and rentals.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Conference Meeting of the Board: Monday, April 4, 2005, 8 p.m., Wicking Library, South High School
- Regular Meeting of the Board: March 14, 8 p.m., Wicking Library, South High School

Suzanne Klein