

## GPPSS Blue Ribbon Reconfiguration Committee Update

March 13, 2019

At Monday's Board of Education meeting and in emails to the Board, the district has been asked to send out a separate communication regarding the reconfiguration work. Here are a few key facts:

- GPPSS was designed to educate 9,000-12,000 students per year. We now have 7,600.
- With the current school funding model, where taxes go to the State and come back on a per pupil basis, every student lost equals approximately \$10,000. For ten years we have been averaging a 100 student drop in enrollment, or \$1,000,000 compounding.
- This year we have 426 kindergarten students, and 702 high school seniors. While we attract students each year, especially in transition years like 6th and 9th grades, we do not close that delta.
- We love our schools, and we can use this opportunity to reconfigure our educational model to best serve our students. Preserving the quality of public education protects our community.

In response to community questions, a FAQ document has been developed, and will continue to be updated. [Please read the Frequently Asked Questions document](#). While there is a great deal of information on social media, not all of it is correct. Take time to review the data and help us combat incorrect rumors. We are an educated and intelligent community, and we all want to come to a solution that is best for our community and its children.

PLEASE NOTE: the location of the next **Blue Ribbon Committee meeting was moved to Brownell Multi-Purpose Room, 6-9 p.m., this Thursday 3/14. Names of buildings will not be shared that evening.** The process is being slowed down to ensure there is adequate time to review all components. After the March 14th meeting, the next meeting will be Thursday, March 28th, from 6-8 p.m. and it is currently scheduled for South. Please watch for location updates, as we may need to change location to accommodate observers.

How can you participate before a decision is made by the elected Board of Education in June?

- **Email** ideas and questions to [schoolboard@gpschools.org](mailto:schoolboard@gpschools.org)
- **Observe** at the open Blue Ribbon Committee meetings
- **Make a public comment** at the regular board meetings
- **Send a letter** to the Board at 389 St. Clair, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
- **Watch** prior board meetings on our [Livestream account](#)
- **Attend** a Town Hall in April or May (dates and locations coming soon)

All Blue Ribbon Committee documents are posted on the [district website under Blue Ribbon](#). Watch Board President share [The Why behind this process](#). Read about [enrollment history](#), [enrollment projections](#), [savings if a building is closed](#), and more. If you want a quick overview of the relationship between the bond, school finances, enrollment and reconfiguration, then read the [presentation with the League of Women Voters 2/26](#). Remember, by law bond dollars can only be spent on capital improvements as specified in the ballot language. Bond money cannot be spent on operating expenses such as teacher salaries. A Bond Oversight Committee of community members is adding to the checks and balances. And the bond is being issued in two series to help ensure that money is not spent on buildings that might close (read more in the FAQ). Every data point available to the Blue Ribbon Committee is transparently provided on the district website for the public.

This is not an easy process, but we are a strong community. The quality of our public schools is a pivotal indicator for the health of our broader community. Together, we are seeking solutions to ensure the tradition of excellence is maintained in our public school system.