



**Office of the  
Superintendent of Schools  
Gary C. Niehaus**

389 St. Clair Street  
Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230  
Phone: (313) 432-3010  
Fax: (313) 432-3002

**Board of Education**

Brian Summerfield, President  
Margaret Weertz, Vice President  
Judy Gafa, Treasurer  
Kathy Abke, Secretary  
Christopher Lee, Trustee  
Cindy Pangborn, Trustee  
Christopher Profeta, Trustee

June 7, 2019

Dear Residents of the Grosse Pointe Public School System,

The Board of Education has worked diligently to listen to our community and be transparent throughout the process that will determine how we will best serve our students into the future. A diverse committee of community representatives acted as a filter and focus group. Their meetings and materials were open and shared broadly. Ideas and heartfelt concerns were also shared at public, televised board meetings, and in letters, emails and presentations to the board and administration, as well as on social media and in letters to the editor. All of this material has been read, reviewed and thoughtfully considered by our elected board.

As a function of their community engagement arm, The Michigan Department of Civil Rights also offered to host four listening sessions to ensure yet another opportunity was available for all voices to be heard. Unfortunately, the MDCR report will not be available by the June 10<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting. Consequently, the MDCR has requested that the Board of Education delay any action on building closures until the June 24<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Meeting. As such, the Board will vote regarding grade configuration, but not school closures, on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The school closure decision will happen at the June 24<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Both meetings will be held in the Brownell Multipurpose Room, 260 Chalfonte, and will be livestreamed.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your civil discourse. None of your elected representatives take this decision lightly, and we appreciate your patience as we use all the data available to make the best decision for the ongoing health of our school system, our community, and our children.

Sincerely,  
Brian Summerfield, President  
GPPSS Board of Education