

## **Grosse Pointe Public School System**

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Sean Cotton, President Ahmed Ismail, Vice President Terence Collins, Treasurer Lisa Papas, Secretary Ginny Jeup, Trustee Valarie St. John, Trustee Colleen Worden, Trustee

Dear Grosse Pointe Public School System families,

Many would agree that public schools play a critical role in the social, economic, and cultural vitality of a community, making them an integral part of its fabric. As such, it is important for school leaders to inform the community about ways to sustain and enhance these valuable assets. In Michigan, the responsibility for addressing capital needs often falls to local taxpayers through school district millages.

We are reaching out to inform you about our upcoming Operating Millage proposal, which is necessary for continuing our mission. Maintaining traditions and operating stately facilities can be quite costly. The upkeep of these historic sites often involves significant financial investment due to the need for regular maintenance, updates to comply with modern standards, and the inherent inefficiencies compared to newer, more advanced facilities. These facilities and traditions are what set Grosse Pointe apart, highlighting its unique charm and historical significance. On August 6, 2024, the community will be asked to vote on the renewal of the district's Operating Millage.

This proposal is a restoration, not a new tax, and would restore and maintain the authority of the Grosse Pointe Public School District to levy mills for general school district operating purposes. The millage generates approximately \$22.4 million annually, which is a substantial portion of our operating budget and is an integral part of sustaining the educational quality and programming that our community values. The ballot includes a proposal to restore and extend the non-homestead millage, which is levied at 18 mills for a period of five years.

Our district's ability to levy this millage is necessary for securing the full per-pupil funding allocated by the state. This supports our efforts to continue providing a comprehensive and competitive educational experience to all our students.

Please mark your calendars for the vote on August 6, 2024, and remember, your participation in this process is vital. Please visit our website at <a href="https://www.gpschools.org/millage">https://www.gpschools.org/millage</a> for more information.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Tuttle Superintendent Mr. Sean Cotton

School Board President