

Board Briefs

April 2008

Meeting Dates

Board meeting dates have moved to the fourth Monday of the month, with a few changes due to holiday and calendar issues. Additional work sessions are scheduled, but those will not be televised.

Please Note: January through June, regular Board meetings will be held in the North library. July through December, regular Board meetings will be held in South's Wicking Library. Work session locations vary.

Next Meetings:

Board Work Session at 6 p.m., **Tuesday, May 13** in the Board Room at 389 St. Clair Avenue.

Board Work session at 6 p.m. and televised regular meeting at 8 p.m., **Tuesday, May 27** in North's library.

Board meetings dates and agendas are listed at www.gpschools.org and posted in the Central Administration Building at 389 St. Clair Ave., Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

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Distinguished Volunteers recognized

Fourteen Distinguished Volunteers were warmly recognized for their contributions to the district. They included: Sue Austin, Renee Borowicz, Tracy Carlson, David Conley, Debbie Fisher, Sue Koski, Debbie Man, Dr. Yue Ming, Nick Schmidt (student at South high school), Elaine Schweitzer, Cynthia Sohn, Kelly Tomhon, Dutch Mandel and Bob Weiland.

Layoff resolution includes 21 teachers

While the realities of having to do layoffs is never easy, it may help to know the five major events that led to this action, including: four teachers with seniority returning from leave, two teachers who were on layoff/reduced schedule returning with additional certification or endorsements, the break-up of five job-shares, and enrollment projections for next year. The board noted that this is never easy and that while there are no guarantees, last year 19 of the 21 on the lay-off list were called back (two accepted other positions before call back).

Bid approved and discussed

Bids for the North Fire Alarm and Brownell Classroom renovations were approved. Bids up for discussion and vote in May include: Defer air conditioning, South fire alarm, North parking lot, and Parcels parking lot.

Technology Plan presented for information and discussion

The Technology Cabinet presented the proposed district technology plan for 2008-11 as required by the state for e-rate reimbursement. The plan outlined the needs assessment and priorities established for technology initiatives for the next three years. A draft of a three-year budget to fund technology was presented that delineated maintenance items and prioritized new initiatives. No action was taken by the Board on this proposal, pending additional work on budget considerations.

Public comments by teachers on returning tests

Eight teachers spoke on behalf of others to share their opposition of the board's proposed policy, that is currently under review, regarding the return of student work. In addition to those that spoke, a written statement that was endorsed by 82 teachers and counselors at North was also shared.

Work session updates

The April 14 work session focussed on budget planning, with a question and answer session on recommendations by the Superintendent's Budget Council. Revision of the Code of Conduct was the primary topic for April 28, and a brief overview of the data received so far from the Learning Environment survey was included. That survey will remain open through close of business May 9.