



Board Briefs – February 2023

Greenville Public Schools BHAG – Big Hairy Audacious Goal:

Greenville Public Schools will be known as an educationally progressive leader by ensuring rigorous individualized academic achievement for all students, through community partnerships, and globally diverse cultural and career opportunities in a safe and caring environment.

Core Values:

Integrity ♦ Collaboration ♦ Compassion ♦ Responsibility

Thank you for taking the time to read the Board Briefs. If you have questions, please contact Kara Tiesworth at (616) 754-3686 or email kara.tiesworth@gpsjackets.org. Of course, you are always welcome to attend our meetings.

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, February 13, 2023.

Members Present: J. Anderson, B. Gardner, M. Huff, R. Lentz, C. Mahar, K. Wierda, and M. Wolverton

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: W. Roedel, M. McCullough, L. Steed, M. Andres, M. Blaszczyński, J. Mahar, A. Ewing, D. Kuk, and M. Walsh

Celebrations/Communications

- Two staff members have completed MSBO certifications; Ashley Ray has earned a Pupil Accounting Specialist certification, and Dan Kuk has earned a Child Nutrition Director certification.
- Several district-wide celebrations were highlighted in the ***Inspiring Excellence*** document (below).

Citizen Comments

- The Board took comments from the public.

Consent Agenda - The following items under the Consent Agenda were approved:

- Minutes of February 13, 2023 Special Meeting**
- Ratification of Bills and Payroll Vouchers – January 2023: \$5,648,738.13**
- Donation – Kevin McGraw, Founder of School Emergency Response Coalition (SERC): AED & Supplies valued over \$2,000**

Budget Amendments

Matt Andres provided the Board a 2022-2023 General Fund Budget Amendment and a 2022-2023 Food Service Budget Amendment. ***These will be an action item during the regular March Board of Education meeting.***

Information Items - Generally, these items are for discussion only; no action is requested at the meeting.

- Student Representative Report** – Student Representative Sophie Gardner presented a brief update from the student body. Highlights throughout the District included the Frozen Jackets taking the plunge into Turk Lake for Special Olympics on February 4 and raising over \$7,000. The GPS OMers did a fantastic job at the regional completion on Saturday, and two teams are advancing to the state finals. Baldwin Heights held a successful talent show in January, Zero the Hero visited, Mr. Aittama

(GHS teacher) built snowball targets for students, and Walmart donated \$300 to their PTO. Cedar Crest students and staff celebrated the 100th day of school, and students across the school have begun working on clay projects in art classes. Walnut Hills held the Chinese New Year Celebration on February 3, and 2nd-5th graders in the Immersion program performed; the school is also preparing for their PTO fundraiser, which will be a Dance-a-thon on Friday. GMS has several active clubs, including a Dungeons & Dragons Club, a new singing club for 6th graders, and a Girls Who Code club will be starting soon. At Satterlee, students are following a February Kindness calendar. At GHS, the Boys' Varsity Basketball team beat Lowell, Varsity Wrestling won districts, and nine individual wrestlers qualified to compete at regionals. Snowcoming was last week and SAT preparation is underway.

- B. Superintendent Report – Wayne Roedel announced the Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten registration would begin March 1st, and a postcard was sent out to district residents regarding the steps to register! Superintendent Roedel also stated that a Board Policy Meeting would be taking place in the near future to discuss the pros and cons of livestreaming/recording board meetings. If the Board decides to go forward, we will develop an implementation plan collaboratively. We want to ensure that we have the necessary equipment to do this quickly and efficiently, making it a positive experience for viewers.
- C. Assistant Superintendent Report – Matt McCullough invited the District's Director of Technology, Alex Ewing, to provide an update on the district-wide PA system and the new features that will be available in each school building with the new system. Assistant Superintendent Matt McCullough invited the Walnut Hills Elementary Principal, Jennifer Mahar, to present an upcoming EFG OUR3 funded Chicago Trip with their Chinese Immersion students.
- D. Assistant Superintendent of HR & Operations Report – Lisa Steed provided a full staffing update for the District and brief department updates.
- E. Kitchen Expansion Proposal for Elementary Buildings - Food & Nutrition Director Dan Kuk presented a kitchen expansion proposal for all four (4) GPS Elementary buildings, and Food Service funds would fund these expansions. ***This will be an action item during the regular March Board of Education meeting.***
- F. 2023-2024 District Calendar – Assistant Superintendent Matt McCullough presented the draft 2023-2024 District Calendar. ***This will be an action item during the regular March Board of Education meeting.***
- G. Education Foundation of Greenville (EFG) Update – Board President Kire Wierda announced that the second Dancing with the Local Stars would be held on Saturday, April 15, the cast has been released, and tickets are now on sale. The Yellow Jacket Challenge (5K Run / 1 Mile Walk) will be held on Sunday, April 23, and registration is open. Both of these events are fundraisers for EFG; please help spread the word as all funds generated continue to support GPS staff and students.
- H. Legislative Update – Board Treasurer Jim Anderson provided a brief legislative update.

Action Items – Generally, these items were discussed at a previous meeting as information items.

- A. The Board approved the purchase of a van for the Food & Nutrition Department from Trevor Merren Auto in Greenville, Michigan, for the amount of \$50,310.00.
- B. The Board approved the pre-selected and vetted specific topics from Navigate 360 (Michigan Cares) for grades 6-12 as recommended by the social-emotional committee and champion teams.

Upcoming Dates

- A. Curriculum Committee Meeting Monday, February 27, CSF, 3:00pm

- B. Finance Committee Meeting
- C. Next Regular Board Meeting
- D. MCSBA Spring Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, CSF, 5:30pm

Monday, March 13, CSF, 7:00pm

Monday, April 24, Lakeview High School

6pm – Tour, 6:30pm – Dinner, & 7pm – Meeting

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” – Benjamin Franklin

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

February 2023



Scholastic Art Awards 2023 - GHS Awardees

The Scholastic Art Awards represents the most comprehensive national annual assessment of the creative spirit among American teens. Students in seventh through twelfth grade submit digital images of their work, which is juried by more than 50 jurors solicited from the local arts and education community. A process of "blind adjudication" is used, whereby judging is determined on a merit basis with only the art object under review, without any knowledge as to student identity (gender, race, background, etc.). Jurors are instructed to select artwork that excels in: Originality, Technical Skill and Emergence of a personal vision or voice.

Honorable Mention: Award recognizes students with artistic potential. Approximately 10-15% of all regional submissions receive Honorable Mention Awards. **Silver Key:** Approximately 7-10% of all regional submissions are recognized with Silver Key Awards.

- ⇒ Isis Hodges (Junior) - "Helmet" Ceramic Honorable Mention
- ⇒ Layla McKenzie (Junior) - "Hard Head" Ceramic Honorable Mention
- ⇒ Sophie Marinos (Junior) - "Terracotta Cookie Jar" Ceramic Honorable Mention
- ⇒ Rayna Hunter (Senior) - "Playful Panda" Ceramic Honorable Mention
- ⇒ Myra Sprague (Senior) - "Lucy 2" Graphite on Paper Honorable Mention
- ⇒ Kendra Paul (Junior) - "Timeleon" Color Pencil and Graphite Honorable Mention, "She Shed" Alcohol Markers on Paper Honorable Mention & "Awkward Angel" Graphite on Paper Silver Key



"Awkward Angel" by Kendra Paul

2023 State of the State Art Contest

The art contest challenged K-12 students across Michigan to come up with a creative design for the 2023 State of the State program cover following the theme "What makes Michigan strong?" Students were encouraged to be as creative as possible and were welcome to use crayon, marker, paint, or any other material. Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II selected the winner from five student finalists out of hundreds of students who submitted their artwork from around the state. Myra Sprague, 12th grader at GHS submitted a piece, which was one of four runners-up for the **2023 STATE OF THE STATE ART CONTEST**. Congratulations Myra!



Michigan Music Conference Performer - Hannah Fox

Hannah Fox (12th grader at GHS) performed with the SSAA State Honors Choir in January at DeVos Hall as part of the Michigan Music Conference. Hannah was one of nearly 200 of the best choral singers in the entire state. She did a wonderful job and was an amazing representative of GHS! She worked hard all on her own for over five months as she learned and memorized eight different pieces in addition to what she was already doing in her normal choir classes. Congratulations Hannah!



Honors Orchestra

Thijs Behrends (8th grader at GMS) participated in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Middle School All-State Orchestra as a part of the Michigan Music Conference January 19-21, 2023. Thijs auditioned in October and was accepted out of hundreds of auditions. He participated in hours of rehearsals with their guest conductor, and the weekend culminated in a performance on the stage of DeVos Hall on Saturday, January 21. Congratulations Thijs!



Frozen Jackets - <https://youtu.be/TjKqI48KLZs>

The Frozen Jackets PLUNGED into Turk Lake for Special Olympics on Saturday February 4th. The team took first place for Community Schools for the 13th year in a row and **raised total of \$7497 this year**. The Frozen Jackets consisted of Carter Ferguson (Special Education Teacher at GHS), Sarah Pratt (Paraprofessional at Lincoln Heights), Cari Scholtens (Math Teacher at GHS) and Mike Walsh (Principal at Baldwin Heights). Sarah was the top fundraiser for the team for the second year in a row! Congratulations Frozen Jackets and thank you for supporting Special Olympics!

Camping Trip

David Heth (4th Grade Teacher at Baldwin Heights) recently wrote and received a grant for \$600 from the Michigan Tree Farm System, specifically the Wheels to Woods grant. Wheels to Woods provides funding to PreK-12 schools and other youth groups to pay for transportation costs for an educational field trip to a nearby forest or forest products company. This year our 4th grade students are going on an overnight camping and science trip to Pioneer Park in Muskegon in May. Securing this extra financial support is huge given all the uncertainties with inflation and what food costs will look like. This transportation grant will keep the trip cost low for our families!

Odyssey of the Mind Regional Competition Results

GPS OMers did exceptionally well at the Regional competition on Saturday. Two teams will advance to State Finals on Saturday, March 18. These teams include: GMS/Baldwin Heights Problem 1 "Pirates and the Treasure" coached by Mindy Furtaw & Ryan Ellison and GMS Problem 5 "The Most Dramatic Problem Ever" coached by Joni Christiansen & Brian Gardner. We cannot thank our coaches enough for their dedication and commitment to our program. A huge thanks goes out to Lee Lindquist, Liz Kenney, Brian Gardner, Joni Christiansen, Jennifer Campbell, Alison Schmidt, Kelsey DeDonado, Joshua Stump, Mindy Furtaw, & Ryan Ellison.



Walnut Hills Media Center

Did you know that only 8% of Michigan public schools have a certified librarian on staff? Walnut Hills can now be counted in that 8%. Mrs. Suchowolec just received her level 3 Certification (Limited Professional Certificate) through the Library of Michigan!



Grand Rapids Symphony Visit

On Friday, 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade students from Baldwin Heights and Lincoln Heights had a fantastic time seeing and performing with the Grand Rapids Symphony. Thank you to all the grownups who made this trip possible, including our teachers, chaperones, secretaries, and transportation staff. Special thanks to the Our3 foundation for providing funds for busing to and from the event.



Lincoln Heights Artists

Congratulations Lincoln Heights students Anna Campbell (5th), Sawyer Jones (5th), Shealyn Douglas (4th), Noah Hartley (2nd) and Oliver Swainston (1st). These students were all accepted into the 2023 MAEA Region Nine Art Competition! Their artwork will be on display February 1st - February 22nd at Western Michigan University Art Gallery in downtown Grand Rapids. In addition, these students have free admission to the GRAM (Grand Rapids Art Museum) & "World Of Winter Festival" on the

