



Grosse Pointe Public School System

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July 7, 2026

Dear Grosse Pointe Woods City Council care of City Administrator Como,

It's an exciting time in education — and an even better time to be part of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Every day we look for opportunities to lead with curiosity, innovation, and purpose — as we continue to Move Forward Together. Our focus remains on doing what's best for our students.

With that in mind, we'd like to share a potential project with you that would enhance safety and security for our students receiving special education services, and positively impact the environment.

Twice a day, four buses arrive at North carrying our students who receive special education services. Those buses load and unload behind the building, closest to their classrooms. This provides a more protected environment for students on the spectrum who benefit from a more calm environment than arrival and dismissal at the front of the building. Their arrival and departure times are also slightly staggered from the usual Monday 8:42 a.m. and Tuesday through Friday 8 a.m. arrival, and 3:05 dismissal.

Currently the buses must execute a blind back-up and difficult turn in order to exit off Morningside. There has been damage to the building and buses as they attempt this turn-around. We are proposing to open the passage behind North High School so buses could enter off Morningside, and exit through Wedgewood. To minimize disruption, we would have our employees utilize an **electronic gate** with remote control on school days at times offset from normal entry and dismissal **for four buses only** (no other car, bike or pedestrian traffic). The only other exception for use would be for emergency vehicles or snow plows with access through the existing knox box. There would be no keypad. **The gate would remain closed and locked at all other times.** GPPSS will comply with all signage requests from the city and samples have been provided, as have finalized renderings of the 6 foot ornamental gate as requested.

Benefits include:

- Safety for students as buses won't be making a blind backup
- Less damage to property
- Less exhaust and less noise by eliminating the pivot turn and reducing the time buses spend idling waiting for the bus ahead to navigate the difficult turn
- Less damage to the parking lot from the pivot turn (which means a reduction in expensive repairs/replacement of the paved lot)

Based on discussions last year, we included this as an alternate proposal in our fall bids for summer of 2026 projects. If passed by the city council, construction would start immediately. We look forward to answering your questions at the public hearing on July 13th. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions in advance so we can be prepared.

Thank you for allowing us to explain our reasoning behind this proposal,

Dr. Roy Bishop, Jr.
Acting Superintendent

Ben Matteson
Executive Director of Buildings and Grounds