



news from the board

Summary of information from the January 25, 2010, MAISD Board Meeting



2009-10 MAISD Board Members

Edward Garner, President

Donna J. Fiebelkorn, Ed.D., Vice President

Dwight Vines, Secretary

Barbara L. DeBruyn, Treasurer

Bill Loxterman, Trustee

superintendent, board president to represent county

On January 31 through February 2, 2010, Mr. Garner, the MAISD Board President, and I will join school leaders from across the nation in Washington D.C. We are serving as delegates to the National School Boards Association's (NSBA) **Federal Relations Network (FRN)** Conference. There we will receive informative briefings on federal legislative initiatives and their impact on public education. Two of the primary issues on which we will focus are: 1) reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as NCLB, and 2) increased funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Title I mandated programs. Local control, early childhood, and continuing the "E-rate" designation for schools will also be examined. In addition to our attendance at the FRN Conference, Mr. Garner and I will meet with the offices of Senators Levin and Stabenow, and Representative Hoekstra. They and other members of Congress will be making critical decisions about education policy and funding in the coming year. The FRN gives our schools a voice in education decisions and promotes our ultimate goal to make public education a top priority of the federal government.

Susan W. Meston, Ph.D.
MAISD Superintendent

special ed monitoring activities support schools

Carolyn Smith-Gerdes, MAISD Assistant Director of Special Education, updated the board on the **special education monitoring** services provided by the MAISD. She explained how monitoring activities have evolved since they began in 1975. Today's focus, described in the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), is on "improving educational results and functional outcomes for all children with disabilities." To accomplish this, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has developed a comprehensive accountability system for monitoring based on State Performance Plans (SPP). The SPPs include indicators designed to help local districts and public school academies measure both compliance with the legal requirements of IDEA and improved academic and performance outcomes for children and youth with disabilities. To achieve the targets for each indicator, the MDE monitoring team and ISD staff assist schools in review and analysis of data, policies, practices and procedures. They also provide focused monitoring and technical assistance as needed.

info on family resource centers available online

The MAISD and Department of Human Services recently launched an online source of information for the 17 **Family Resource Centers** (FRC) operated by DHS within local public school buildings. The website, www.frcmuskegon.org, includes staff names and contact information for each location, a list of the kinds of services offered, community partners roster, and a referral form that can be downloaded. Background information about the purpose and goals of Family Resource Centers is also available. FRCs operate within schools to coordinate services according to the goals developed and shared by the family, community, school and other agencies involved. These centers serve as a “one-stop shop” for family services located within or near a neighborhood school and are open to the public. FRC staff help determine eligibility for assistance that may include food, clothing, shelter, utility payment, rental eviction and other housing issues, funeral expenses, employment searches, and help accessing mental, dental and physical health services.

Family Resource Centers

Beechnau (Ravenna), Bunker Middle, Campbell Elementary, Edgewood (Fruitport), Holton Elementary, Marquette Elementary, McLaughlin, McMillian (R-P), Montague High, Muskegon Heights Elementary & Middle, Muskegon High, Nims Elementary, Oakridge Early Childhood Center, Orchard View Elementary, Steele Middle, and White Lake Area Community Education

real science recognized

The Michigan Association of School Administrators recently selected the REsources for Authentic Learning (REAL) in Science program as one of nine in the state to receive the “Winners Circle” award. The award is given to recognize the leadership of an effective program or practice that achieves results and could be replicated in other districts. REAL Science is a community partnership established to purchase modern scientific instruments and provide teacher training and support to ensure a powerful, real-world science experience for all students in Muskegon, Ottawa, and Newaygo counties. The instruments, equal to those in today's workplace, are rotated through participating high schools, achieving an economy of scale not only for equipment purchases, but also for the associated professional development and curriculum support provided by the MAISD Regional Mathematics and Science Center. The program has received financial support from every sector of the community including a \$150,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation and a \$99,910 grant from the West Michigan STEM Education Innovation Fund Initiative.

new program unfolds

The board took one of the first official steps in launching the new **Early Head Start Program** by approving revisions to the Head Start Policy Council Code of Operations. The revisions reflect the addition of Early Head Start representation on the Council. In addition, newly named Early Head Start staff will begin curriculum training the first week in February. They will be joined by other early childhood professionals from the countywide Early On program and special education staff. The chosen curriculum is *Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers*, which will provide a smooth transition into the Pre-Kindergarten years, as all county schools recently adopted Creative Curriculum for Pre-K.

students to compete

The board approved the overnight travel for three Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) students to attend the **SkillsUSA Interview Competition** in Cadillac, Michigan, February 12-13, 2010. Taffney Smith, MACTC Cosmetology Instructor, will supervise and chaperone. The students are from Montague, Orchard View, and Reeths-Puffer.

technology approved

The board approved the purchase and installation of a server and storage hardware needed to support the new **Pinnacle SIS** student management system to which the MAISD will be transitioning. The equipment will be purchased from Hi-Tech, Inc. of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Pinnacle SIS software offers flexibility, efficiencies, and features not currently available on the existing MAISD student management system. The server hardware has been built with specifications to accommodate future growth of the student information system and other technology services.

The board approved the purchase of **Tyler MUNIS** annual support, maintenance, and upgrade licensing. Tyler MUNIS is the financial management system used within the MAISD and local schools.

The board approved a three-year contract with **Merit Network Inc.** for internet access service for local schools and the ISD.

data warehouse training

The second week of the four-week **IGOR** professional development series has been completed. Week one focused on looking at overall school data to identify gaps present based on data sources; i.e., MEAP, MME, ACT. Week two focused on item analysis data to identify potential causes of these gaps and the writing of SMART objectives for school improvement plans.

competition results in

Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) **student organization competitions** are now underway. Results from the DECA District competition allow seven MACTC students to advance to the state competition. Business Professionals of America (BPA) students brought home several awards from the recent BPA Regional Competition held at Davenport University. Seven students now may advance to the State Leadership Workplace Skills Competition.

sophomores tour mactc

This school year **1,010 sophomores** from ten area high schools have toured the MACTC. This gives sophomores plenty of time to consider the MACTC before determining their junior or senior schedules.

score links with mactc

Five MACTC students have been working with SCORE volunteers (small business mentoring and training) toward a competitive Young Entrepreneur Award intended to help a young person start a business. In February SCORE will be working with 120 students who indicated serious interest in entrepreneurship.

training to aid students

Career Tech Center (CTC) administrators and area special education directors have been collaborating on an action plan designed to enhance the success of students with disabilities attending the CTC. One of the strategic outcomes of the planning has been professional development (PD) for middle and high school special educators. The PD focuses on helping students make wise career choices and select training that complements their strengths, interests, and aptitudes. Teachers also learn how students develop an Educational Development Plan (EDP). In the PD, teachers experience Career Cruising, the Internet-based career exploration and planning tool students use to build their EDPs.

arts educators attend pd

In cooperation with the Muskegon Museum of Art and coordinated by Rochelle Sartorius, Arts and Select Projects Specialist, the MAISD hosted the annual day-long **Arts Avenues** inservice for K-12 visual and applied arts educators. Over 20 educators spent the day focusing on the latest trends in art, which included a special presentation from Cindy Todd of Kendall College of Art and Design. In addition, 15 art educators attended the **Artful Thinking Workshop** that was also hosted by the MAISD and coordinated by Rochelle Sartorius. The program helps develop thinking dispositions that support thoughtful learning in the arts—and across school subjects.

budget

The board set the date and time for a review of the **2010-11 General Fund Budget** for Thursday, April 29, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. at the MAISD Educational Services Center. A representative from each constituent district's board of education will be invited to attend. PA 234 requires ISDs to submit their General Fund budget to local school boards annually. The local school district boards must review the budget, then approve or disapprove the budget. The ISD board may then review any comments prior to adoption of the budget.

calendar

The board adopted a new **common calendar** that is now posted on the MAISD website. The new calendar extends the December holiday break to ten days.

news from the board is a monthly publication of the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD). Its purpose is to provide a monthly summary of board action and highlight other helpful information. The MAISD operates:

- Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana
- Muskegon Area Career Tech Center
- MAISD Regional Mathematics & Science Center
- Wesley School
- Educational Services Center

630 Harvey Street, Muskegon, MI 49442, (231) 777-2637

Visit us online at www.muskegonisd.org and www.twitter.com/maisd

E-mail: ktank@muskegonisd.org