



news from the board

Summary of information from the August 18, 2008, MAISD Board Meeting

2008-09 MAISD Board Members

Peggy E. Scouten, President

John Swanson, Vice President

Edward Garner, Secretary

Donna J. Fiebelkorn, Ed.D., Treasurer

Dwight Vines, Trustee

progress report serves as accountability tool

This month each MAISD Board Member received a copy of the 143-page “MAISD Progress Report.” This report, which is compiled annually, highlights the work that has been performed by the ISD since the 2004-05 school year. The MAISD Progress Report is tied to the seven goal areas of the MAISD Strategic Plan. These goals include technology; organizational improvement; administrative support services; curriculum, instruction and assessment; leadership development; public education; and equity and diversity. Within each of the goal areas are specific action plans that address the goal. The report identifies the goal, action plan, progress/evidence of completion, and status, which shows the start and end date for the work or if the work is ongoing.

This report to the MAISD Board of Education serves as one accountability and evaluation tool for the work that we do. It is meant to be an internal document for both the ISD staff and our board members. The report provides a means for measuring what we do against the goals stated in our strategic plan and for ensuring that our work is aligned with the MAISD mission of providing leadership, programs, and services.

Susan W. Meston, Ph.D.
MAISD Superintendent

house public hearing offers opportunity to be heard

The MAISD is pleased to have been chosen by Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Representative for the 22nd District and member of the House Education Committee, to host a public hearing regarding high school graduation requirements. The hearing will be held on Monday, September 22, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the MAISD Conference Center. Other members of the Education Committee will also be present.

The public hearing offers an important and unique local opportunity for school board members, school staff, parents, and others to speak about their personal experiences, opinions, suggestions, and ideas regarding the requirements. The state legislature enacted the requirements, also known

as the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC), into law in March 2006. The MMC includes English, mathematics, science, social studies, health/physical education, the arts (visual, performing, or applied), world languages, and an online learning experience. With the exception of world languages, these requirements are effective with the Class of 2011, this year's 10th grade class.

sensational service training offered free to schools

This past school year the MAISD Office of Public Information began offering a free training series to all 12 public school districts entitled "Unlocking Sensational Service." The MAISD purchased the training materials from the National School Public Relations Association and offers the six hours of training in hour increments or in half-day sessions. The training includes a discussion of personal customer service experiences with "good" and "bad" examples. These experiences are related to the local district's customers: parents, students, staff, and community members. As the training unfolds school staff examine the definition of customer service, consider the power of first impressions, and discuss phone etiquette, body language and tone of voice. They also practice handling complaints and dealing with difficult people.

To date Reeths-Puffer, Montague, Mona Shores, and Ravenna office staff members have participated in the training. Reeths-Puffer classroom paraprofessionals have also been trained. The MAISD will be training Fruitport's transportation, food service, office, custodial, and library staff later this month. The response from school district staff has been very positive and has prompted the development of an additional training module based on a book by Kelly E. Middleton and Elizabeth A. Pettitt called Who Cares? Improving Public Schools Through Relationships and Customer Service. This is a true story about Mason County Schools in Kentucky and how a focus on customer service impacted their schools with improved student achievement, more volunteer hours, better community support, and higher enrollment.

students try tech center

Mike Carpenter, Principal of the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC), provided the board with an overview of the **MACTC Summer Fun** program that took place the last two weeks in June. Nearly 200 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from throughout Muskegon County attended and some chose to participate in both morning and afternoon sessions. The students learned new skills, used equipment, and had fun working on a variety of projects. Students repaired automobiles, created their own custom license plates, used design and photo manipulation software, disassembled/ assembled computers, and manufactured their own tool boxes, license plates, flashlights, and PVC pipe assemblies (ideal for shooting marshmallows).

board approves grant

The board approved the submission of a federal grant application to fund **Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana** from December 1, 2008, through November 30, 2009, in the amount of **\$5,895,921**. This grant would provide basic funds to serve 924 children and families and funds specified for Training and Technical Assistance. All Head Start grants require a 25 percent local match. The majority of this \$1.5 million match would be made up of in-kind services from volunteers for the program and the value of classroom space donated by the school districts.

contracts renewed

The board approved a contract with **Pioneer Resources** for custodial services from October 2008 through September 2009. The MAISD has contracted with Pioneer Resources for several years for custodial services and administrative services (security) for the Wesley School complex and the administrative offices. MAISD-sponsored trainees are used on the work crews at Wesley School.

The board approved a contract with **Port City Cab** and **Great Lakes Shuttle** for student transportation from the transition classrooms to work and community sites. Students generally use public transportation to get to work sites in the community. Occasionally, due to timing or unavailability of bus service to a location, the students will use a taxi cab to get to their work site.

free webinars offered

The technology department will host 30 professional development webinars offered through the **International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)** during the 2008-09 school year. Several webinars are offered by ISTE each month, and sessions will be hosted at the MAISD at no cost to participants. Topics include Digital Storytelling, Project Based Learning, 21st Century Tools, Blogging in the Classroom, and much more.

new coordinator named

Jane Clingman-Scott has been selected as the new Coordinator of the **Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC)/Great Start Collaborative** of Muskegon County. The purpose of the collaborative is to assure a coordinated system of community resources and supports that assists all Muskegon County families in providing a “Great Start” for their children from birth through age five. Ms. Clingman-Scott replaces Jane Beaudoin who coordinated the countywide early childhood planning initiative since 2006. The MAISD Board approved a contract with Ms. Clingman-Scott’s sole proprietorship, JCS, to coordinate the state-funded early childhood grant, from August 2008 through September 2009.

Ms. Clingman-Scott brings more than 20 years of local experience in neighborhood redevelopment and community organizing. She also has extensive grant writing and resource development skills that mesh well with the emerging and future needs of the collaborative. Ms. Clingman-Scott will facilitate the progress of implementing the 15 goals of the Collaborative's strategic plan, entitled "Creating Young Stars." Filling her position will also satisfy the ECIC grant requirements.

systems to be explored

School district and MAISD staff members are exploring several **student management system** options including Infinite Campus, TIES, CIMS (web enhanced), TEMS, and PowerSchool. Each of these vendors will offer an overview session to show participants the key features of their products. This information will be used to provide input into the request for proposal the MAISD expects to post in October.

personnel

The board approved the employment of **Alecia Hoppa** as the Prevention & Health Education/Science Consultant for the MAISD.

The board acknowledged the retirement resignations for **Harold Kent McFaden**, Delivery Driver, and **Frances Wood**, Instructional Assistant at Wesley School.

grant won

Katrina Ellis, Wesley School teacher of students with severe multiple impairments, applied to Target for a literacy grant for her classroom. She was awarded \$2,000 to assist in this process.

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

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