
WATERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Briefs

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION INTERIM MEETING

February 7, 2008

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Haviland Chess Club - The Student Chess Club is in its second year at Haviland Elementary. Organized and run by a parent volunteer, Greg Heilman has a vision for children in our district to grow and learn from playing the game of chess. He has seen firsthand how chess playing provides children an opportunity to develop new skills in problem solving and sportsmanship in a social and fun environment.

Currently, 47 children are participating in the Haviland Chess Club, an increase of 14 children since last year. Chess Club has expanded this year to include a club with 20 students at Cooley Elementary, led by Ms. Lori White in Child Care, and facilitated by parent volunteers. The students will participate in a chess club tournament between schools this spring. Ms. Novotny has also incorporated chess in all 13 elementary child care sites, as an enrichment activity with the help and direction of Mr. Heilman.

The excitement of students in chess club can be heard in the hallways as students "buzz" about their learning. We are proud to provide this opportunity for our families with no cost involved. Please join us for a lesson in Chess at Haviland Elementary Thursday's after school! "Check!"

Career Connections - Four students from Waterford Mott and Kettering that attend our Career Connections Class will be presenting some of their different experiences from the classroom, medical examiner, and the three major health care corporations in Northern Oakland County: St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, North Oakland Medical Center and Pontiac Osteopathic Medical Center.

Career Connections combines academic studies with work site rotations. These rotations provide students with real world settings by shadowing employees in a wide range of occupations in the health care field. Occupations include: radiology, pathology, nursing, surgery, emergency, finance/budget, security, dietary and physicians and many more. Students shadow employees that require no college as well as someone with a college degree. Emphasis is also placed on oral and written communication and team skills.

RECOGNITION BY SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD PRESIDENT

UAW Local 594 Caring and Sharing Committee - We are proud to recognize Mike Kelley, Terry Harden, and Theresa Hawley, representatives from the UAW Local 594 Caring and Sharing Committee. These individuals played key roles in making this past holiday season extra special for our Head Start families at Stepanski Early Childhood Center.

Head Start is a federal program that focuses on assisting children from low-income families. On December 17, 2007, 50 bicycles were delivered by Local 594 to Stepanski especially for each Head Start student. This extremely generous donation was made possible by the hard work and community caring of these fine individuals and the generosity of UAW Local 594 members.

On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you for brightening the holiday spirit for many Waterford families and for your ongoing community support.

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT FROM CENTRAL STAFF

The Michigan chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children has named their 2008 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Leonard Shiffman, teacher at Kingsley Montgomery School, recently learned that on February 28, 2008, he would receive the Dr. William C. Morse Teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Shiffman, will accept the award at the conference's recognition ceremony, which will take place at the Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Congratulations to Michael Lucas, student at Kingsley Montgomery School, for being named one of the winners of the 20th annual poster contest conducted by the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children. Michael's poster will be used to promote the Michigan's CEC's 2008 program "Celebrate Every Child." The program's purpose is to educate the public and promote the understanding and appreciation of students with disabilities. Michael's poster will be distributed throughout Michigan, at the State Department of Education in Lansing, and at the Michigan CEC convention, in Grand Rapids. Michael will be honored at a recognition reception with his family on February 28, 2008, at the Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Saturday, February 2, 2008, four Crary students attended the 32nd Annual Detroit Country Day Math Competition. The Crary representatives had a great time and worked very well together in the three events. This was a great learning experience for all and we look forward to next year's competition.

Congratulations to Waterford Kettering High School senior, Kara Jasina, who was recently named the recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Award.

We are also proud to congratulate Casey Curnutte, the first female football player in Kettering history and the 2007 Homecoming Queen, who has just been named to the Academic All State Special Mention Team. Casey carries a 3.8 GPA and scored a 27 on her A.C.T. Great job Casey!

INFORMATION ITEMS

Reaching and Teaching Struggling Learners - Matt Wandrie shared information with the Board of Education on Reaching and Teaching Struggling Learners.

This three (3) year commitment will provide Waterford with the opportunity and resources to redesign our systems of academic intervention. An emphasis will be placed on improving the performance of struggling learners, particularly those whom educators find hard to reach and hard to teach. Specifically, our team will concentrate on refining our school improvement and intervention efforts. The majority of the activities will involve the building teams and will include, but will not be limited to, the following opportunities:

- Engage in data-based decision-making;
- Explore the advantages of a general education/special education collaborative teaching model and;
- Experience the power and wonders of shared leadership.

There will be hard work, concrete results, meaningful learning, quality networking, and most importantly, enhanced support for improved student performance. Teams will have opportunities to learn with Dr. Willard R. Daggett, Larry Gloeckler, Cathy Hamilton, and Dr. Larry Lezotte, all of whom are nationally recognized for their work with struggling learners.

Kindergarten Enrichment - Suzanne Antonazzo, Supervisor of Elementary Education, updated the Board of Education on plans to offer tuition based kindergarten enrichment at an additional 8 elementary sites. Kindergarten Enrichment has been offered at Houghton at Haviland for several years. The option was offered at Adams this year. We will offer the option to additional sites for the 2008-2009 school year.

MiPHY - Nadine Milostan, Supervisor of Student Support Services, provided an informational overview of the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) Assessment to the Board of Education.

NEW BUSINESS

Principal's Week - The Board of Education approved the resolution proclaiming the week of February 11 - 15, 2008 as Principal's Week and encouraged the community to appropriately recognize their principals and the vital role they play in the success of all students.

CTE Month - The Board of Education approved a resolution recognizing February 2008 as Career and Technical Education Month.

PEG Programming Resolution - The Board of Education approved a resolution requesting preservation of existing channel locations for public, governmental, and educational access channels, also known as PEG programming.

Contract Changes/Appointments - The Board of Education approved the following contract changes/appointments:

Broughton, Lori, Teacher
Increase from 110% to 120% Tenure Contract
Second Semester
Mott High School
Effective January 22, 2008

Clifton, Anne, Teacher
Increase from 110% to 120% Tenure Contract
Second Semester
Kettering High School
Effective January 22, 2008

Floyd, Marilyn, Teacher
Increase from 110% to 120% Tenure Contract
Second Semester
Mott High School
Effective January 22, 2008

Gannon-Piacentini, Connie, Teacher
Increase from 110% to 120% Tenure Contract
Second Semester
Mott High School
Effective January 22, 2008

Hall, Charles, Teacher
Increase from 110% to 120% Tenure Contract
Second Semester
Mott High School
Effective January 22, 2008

McGuckin, Christy, Teacher
 Increase from 110% to 120% Tenure Contract
 Second Semester
 Kettering High School
 Effective January 22, 2008

Miller, Anthony, Teacher
 Increase from 20% to 30% Probationary Contract
 Second Semester
 Kettering High School
 Effective January 22, 2008

Palmer, Jessica, Teacher
 Decrease from 110% to 100% Tenure Contract
 Second Semester
 Kettering High School
 Effective January 22, 2008

Reeser, Frank, Teacher
 Increase from 110% to 120% Tenure Contract
 Second Semester
 Kettering High School
 Effective January 22, 2008

Smitka, Steven, Teacher
 Increase from 100% to 120% Probationary Contract
 Second Semester
 Kettering High School
 Effective January 22, 2008

Wareck, Robert, Teacher
 Increase from 110% to 120% Tenure Contract
 Second Semester
 Kettering High School
 Effective January 22, 2008

Resignations - The Board of Education approved the following resignations/retirements:

Shana Roberts, Teacher
 PAVA, Orchestra
 Resignation
 Effective February 22, 2008

FUTURE

February 21, 2008

Student - Inspirations
 Information - Energy Conservation Project Update
 Information - School Resource Officer Update
 Information - Head Start Reports

For information on these subjects, watch the replay of the Board meeting on Channel 22 Friday following the meeting at 10:00 AM, Sunday at 12:00 PM, and again the following Monday at 8:00 PM. The Interim and Regular meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month, beginning at 7:00 PM. The public is invited to attend.