
WATERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Briefs

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

March 20, 2008

RECOGNITION BY SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD PRESIDENT

Betty Campion Winner

On March 6, 2008, the Waterford Board of Education recognized seven outstanding Waterford School District support staff as nominees for the 2008 Betty Campion Distinguished Support Service Award.

Each and every nominee recognized possessed the qualities that distinguished them as an exemplary employee that goes above and beyond to make a positive impact in the District. However, after all nominations were reviewed by the selection committee one nominee stood out and has been sent on to the county level.

I am extremely pleased to announce that on Friday, March 14, Theresa Sherrill, Counseling Secretary at Kettering High School, was named as the Waterford School District Betty Campion Award Winner for 2008. We had the opportunity to surprise Sherrill at Kettering that morning and tonight we have a brief video to share that highlights the announcement.

Theresa demonstrates excellence in working with students, staff, and administration and has earned an enviable reputation throughout the District. We are proud to honor such an outstanding employee with this prestigious honor.

McCourt Musical Instruments - On behalf of the Board of Education, Superintendent Neu introduced Dan McCourt of McCourt's Musical Instruments. McCourt's has provided services to the District and students in the manner of reduced repair costs, deferred or waived billing on many repairs, scholarships for private lessons, among many others. When Board Member Scott Hudson came to acquire a dilapidated but historic 150-year-old violin from the Adams family estate, Patrick Kelly, a McCourt employee, restored this instrument to its original condition, donating parts and labor, as well as a \$100 violin case, to the Waterford School District. The violin will be awarded to a student to be played during the 2008-2009 school year and at a concerto completion this spring.

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT FROM CENTRAL STAFF

Destination ImagiNation - Congratulations are in order for our Waterford Destination ImagiNation teams! All 11 teams participated in the regional competition on March 8 at Waterford Mott High School and enjoyed a wonderful experience. These 11 teams were part of nearly 150 teams from southeastern Michigan that took part in the tournament.

Three Waterford School District teams scored well enough to move on to the State competition which will be held on April 19 on the campus of Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. These teams are Waterford Mott High School, Challenge—Hit or Myth; Pierce Middle School, Challenge—DI've Got a Secret; Haviland Elementary School, Challenge—Obstacles, of Course. The Waterford School District is very proud of all our Destination ImagiNation teams, and we wish those moving on the State Tournament the best of luck!

Geography Bee - Congratulations to Jude Sundquist. As winner of the 2008 Mason Middle School Geography Bee contest, Jude took a written test to be to become one of 100 finalists from the State of Michigan in the 2008 National Geography Bee at the State level. He will be going to Western Michigan University on April 4th for the State competition. Best wishes to Jude.

Channel 7's Brightest & Best - Kettering Senior Alexandra McGregor and Mott Senior Miranda McIntyre have been chosen as Channel 7's Brightest and Best. The Brightest & Best salutes outstanding graduating high school seniors. Since 1980, the station has honored graduating seniors from public and private schools who have demonstrated excellence in academic, extracurricular, and community pursuit. The program has recognized over 7,000 high school seniors, making it the longest-running program of its kind in the Detroit market.

PAVA Student/Staff Accomplishments - Waterford Mott art students received top honors in the 2008 Scholastic Art Awards. Gold Key recipients include Jessica Smith - Portfolio, Marsaun Baugh - Drawing, and Kali Riley Video and Film, as well as Digital Imagery. Silver Key recipients include Laura Boehme - Jewelry, Alec Helwig, Amanda McCray, Jessica Smith - Drawing. Jessica also received a Silver Key for Painting. Renee' Ciennik is their art teacher.

Kettering students currently had artwork displayed at Oakland Schools' Young @ Art exhibit through the month of February, and three students had their artwork chosen to go onto the State level of competition for a chance to be part of the governor's traveling exhibit. They are Emily Balthrop, Chelsea Harris (2 pieces) and Brittney Taylor. Tuesday, we were informed that Chelsea Harris' art work was accepted into the "Governor's Traveling Show" from the Michigan Youth Arts Festival competition. Only 18 pieces are given this prestigious honor. Frank Puddy and Lori Groff are their teachers.

Steve Kosinski, Supervisor of PAVA, had the opportunity to attend the All State Thespian Showcase at the Music Hall in Detroit last Thursday, and Kettering student Zac Rogers performed two monologues, while Mott student Kali Riley presented her film, Victim, which also won a Gold Key at Scholastics. Mott's Doug Strait and Kettering's Devin Drake were Assistant Stage Managers. Mott's Scott Long, Hillary Hall, Haley King and Emily Mitchell were all stage hands for the event, and several of our students had the opportunity to participate in a workshop with Tony Award Winner, Donna McKechnie, who also delivered the keynote. This was a wonderful, real-world experience for our students. Sponsors of the Kettering and Mott Thespian Troupes, respectively, Brian Drake was the Technical Director for the event and Marilyn Drake did publicity. Congratulations to all of these PAVA students and staff.

Math-A-Thon at Riverside Elementary - Lorraine Hemmerly's third-grade class at Riverside Elementary School recently adopted St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as their class project. The class participated in a Math-A-Thon that raises money for children who need cancer and other catastrophic disease treatment. These Riverside students raised an amazing \$2,553.60 through the pledges they raised for St. Jude's. Congratulations to the third grade students in Mrs. Hemmerly's class!

Michigan Reading Association Conference - March 14 - 17, the Michigan Reading Association held their 52nd annual conference in Detroit. Our own Adams Elementary Principal, Lynn Bigelman, was the MRA President Elect and MRA 2008 Conference Chair. "Bound Together by Literacy," the conference rivaled any national conference I have previously attended. Lynn secured speakers in the field of Literacy from all over the United States. There were 385 sessions offered at the conference and 3,000 people in attendance. With Lynn's leadership, many Waterford School District staff was involved in the process. Our Superintendent Rob Neu gave greetings during the first general session. Students from the Adams elementary chorus, under the direction of Jessica Blitchok, sang at this session.

Michigan Reading Association Conference (continued) - Lisa Spinelli, Laurie Runk, Angela Novotny, and Mary Lou Simmons were part of the conference planning committee. Our MSU interns from Waterford Village and Adams, Jenny Hopcian, Lindsay LaBar, Cheryl Wnuck, and Megan Callahan were seen everywhere doing behind the scenes work to make sure the conference was a success. Heather Nuckolls, Jan McCartan, Amy Barnes, Nadine Milostan, GERALYN Janeczko, Lisa Spinelli, Kelly Kujula, Michelle Hagen, Stephanie Isgrigg, Sue Wylie, Ken Janczarek, and Lindsay Peckham were all WSD presenters at this conference.

Three Waterford students, Ernest Vespie from Cooley Elementary, Sophie Ross from Adams Elementary and Emma Wilke from Riverside Elementary were all student authors published in Kaleidoscope 2008 and honored at a student luncheon.

We are proud of the work Lynn Bigelman did in chairing this event and in giving our staff the opportunity to attend, present or lead.

KMS Wildcats Special Olympic Basketball - The Kingsley Montgomery School Wildcats Special Olympic Basketball Team is very pleased to announce that they received a Second Place Silver Medal at the Special Olympic State Tournament held in Saline, MI. Mrs. (Elizabeth) Bitsy Baudino, Kingsley Montgomery School Adaptive Physical Education Teacher, and Mr. Jim Dunsmore, Instructional Technician, coached the team this year. Members of the Wildcats basketball team receiving a Second Place Silver Medal are Stephan Bringard, Van Hanner, Kristen Jacobs, Debra Mead, Justin Middleton, Michael Sirls, Kris Thomas, Robert Sevigny, and Yuri Goga. Congratulations to our Special Olympic athletes and coaches

Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association - Waterford Branch - Thank you to the Waterford Branch of the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association. The organization presented to Kingsley Montgomery School on March 10, 2008 a donation of \$500 to be used toward gardening projects. In addition, they are planning to help plant in the front flower beds this Spring. We appreciate the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association - Waterford Branch for their support of the students at Kingsley Montgomery School.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Economic Forecast - Deputy Oakland County Executive, Robert J. Daddow, provided the Board of Education with an economic forecast for Oakland County.

MEAP Results - Mike Batten, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Accountabilities, presented the MEAP results that were recently released.

Kindergarten Program - Administration provided information to the Board of Education and community as it relates to changes to the traditional kindergarten schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

Reinstatement - The Board of Education approved the recommendation of the reinstatement committee to reinstate, with conditions, a student previously expelled by the District.

Contract Changes(s)/Appointment(s) - The Board of Education approved the following contract changes/appointments:

Gregory Pappas, Teacher
100% Probationary Contract
Mott High School
Effective February 1, 2008

Resignations - The Board of Education approved the following resignations:

James Fromm, Teacher
Mott High School
Resignation Effective June 30, 2008

Benjamin Stevenson, Teacher
Burt Elementary School
Resignation Effective June 30, 2008

FUTURE

April 3, 2008

Student - Manufacturing Program
Information - Winter Athletics
Information - Middle School Intervention Report
Information - Sex Education Curriculum Changes
Action - Library Week Resolution

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.