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# Board Briefs

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*SUMMARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION INTERIM MEETING*

*April 2, 2009*

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## STUDENT ITEMS

**Reading, Writing, and Math Labs** - Gerri Arnold, Carly Stone, and Principal Cheryl Ellsworth presented information to the Board of Education regarding the Reading, Writing, and Math Lab intervention programs at Mason Middle School. Members of the Board were provided personal demonstrations of the work being done in Math Lab from several Mason students.

## RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

**Betty Campion Nominee** - At the last Board of Education meeting, we had the pleasure of recognizing four exemplary members of the Waterford School District support staff who were recommended for the Betty Campion Distinguished Support Service Award. At this meeting, Superintendent Neu was pleased to introduce the 2009 Waterford School District nominee for the Oakland County Betty Campion Award, Mrs. Sandra Kristen.

Sandy has served the students of the Waterford School District in various roles since 1991. In 2002 she joined the Secondary Education Department as the Secretary to the Supervisor of Secondary Education and has since become a pillar of the department. Sandy is the consummate professional. She embodies the spirit of service through her unwavering commitment to the students, parents, and staff of the Waterford School District. She continually goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure all solutions to challenges are met. And while her day is full of repeated interruptions, she always makes you feel that you are the reason she is there.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Superintendent Neu congratulated Mrs. Kristen, the 2009 Betty Campion nominee, and wished her all the best at the County level.

**Blue Ribbon School** - The Waterford School District is very excited about the recent announcement by the Michigan Department of Education that Riverside Elementary School has been selected as a Michigan Blue Ribbon School! The Blue Ribbon is the most prestigious education award in the State, honoring schools for excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, community support, and continuous improvement.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Neu congratulated the staff, students, and parents of Riverside Elementary for this impressive achievement. This is an immense honor for which we should all share great pride.

The District also extended a special appreciation to Principal Bill Gesaman for his extraordinary leadership. Riverside Elementary is actually the second school in Waterford that Mr. Gesaman has led to a Blue Ribbon status. In fact, while principal at Adams Elementary, Mr. Gesaman guided Adams down path to Blue Ribbon success at both the state and national level. It is clear that Mr. Gesaman is an outstanding educational leader who is dedicated to continuous improvement and committed to the children and families he serves.

Again, congratulations to everyone involved in making Riverside Elementary School a designated Blue Ribbon School in Michigan!

## RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT FROM CENTRAL STAFF

**Student Athletes** - Kettering High School student, Adam Lessel was recently named to the All-State Academic Team by the Michigan High School Interscholastic Bowling Coaches Association. Over 5,000 student athletes participate in high school bowling and only 29 boys were selected for this team. In addition, Adam Lessel and fellow Kettering student, Holly Broadwater have both been named to the All-State First Team, also by the Michigan High School Interscholastic Bowling Coaches Association. Congratulations to Adam and Holly on their outstanding achievements!

**Student Essay** - Congratulations to Mason Middle School student, Rebecca McDonald, who placed first in the Americanism Essay Contest, sponsored by the Pontiac-Waterford Elk's Lodge. Rebecca's entry was selected out of 177 entries. She will receive a \$50 check from the Elk's and her teacher will also receive \$50 for the classroom needs. Congratulations to Rebecca and best of luck as your essay advances to the Elk's district level for competition.

**Fundraising Efforts** - Through various events and activities, the Mott High School Student Leadership & Student Council raised \$700 to donate to the Penrickton Center for the Blind. Thank you to the students of Mott High School for their terrific charity efforts.

**Performing and Visual Arts** - The various HS and MS bands, choirs and orchestras of the Waterford School District recently competed in MSBOA Band & Orchestra Festivals as well as MSVMA Choral Festival, and did quite well. The following school groups received Division I ratings, and thus, qualified for State Festivals:

Crary 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert Band, Chris Braue, Director  
 Crary Orchestra, Cory Himmelpach, Director  
 Mason Orchestra, Molly Wyber, Director  
 Pierce 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Symphony Band, Dave Bishop, Director  
 Kettering Wind Symphony, Scott Adkins, Director  
 Kettering Wind Ensemble, Scott Adkins, Director  
 Kettering Symphony Orchestra, Merlyn Beard, Director  
 Mason 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir, Jackie Thompson, Director  
 Pierce 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir, Colette Yoder, Director  
 Kettering Concert Choir, Michelle Harness, Director  
 Kettering Chamber Choir, Michelle Harness, Director

Out of 20 overall grades which comprise the Final Rating, the Kettering Wind Ensemble received 18 A's and 2 "A-'s - the highest achievement of any performing group in Waterford School District history.

On Tuesday, March 31, the Waterford Kettering Jazz Ensemble earned straight Division I ratings at the MSBOA State Jazz Festival, and thus, were invited to perform at the Detroit International Jazz Festival Labor Day weekend. That same day we learned that the Waterford Kettering String Quartet - Samantha Bogner, violin, Kaylee Wojcicki, violin; Elyse Komarzec, viola & Michael Lively, cello - have been nominated to audition to perform at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival in Kalamazoo May 7 - 9, 2009.

Nearly 100 music students qualified for State Solo & Ensemble Competition, and 30 student solo & small ensemble groups received Division I ratings. Congratulations to all of these fine students and teachers for representing Waterford so well.

## INFORMATION ITEM

**Fitness Challenge** - The Fitness Challenge, which began in 2007-2008, involves students in the third thru fifth grades. Fitness goals in four areas were established at each grade level. Individual, school and District-wide awards motivate improvement in the fitness levels of the students. PE teachers, Jim Peterson and Brian Tass presented the Fitness Challenge, the results, and the various things happening this year with the Challenge.

**WaterfordFilmWorks Magnet Program** - Beginning in fall 2009, Waterford high school students can enroll in the leading-edge WaterfordFilmWorks Magnet Program. Waterford is the first in Michigan to offer a full magnet program in film production. The program will include two courses: *The Art of Film* and *The Craft of Film*. Steve Kosinski, Supervisor of Performing and Visual Arts, presented further information to the Board of Education regarding the WaterfordFilmWorks Magnet Program.

**Employee Benefits Update** - Thomas Wiseman, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, provided an update regarding employee benefits.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Library Week** - The Board of Education approved a resolution recognizing National Library Week, April 12 - 18, 2009, and encourages all residents to visit a library to take advantage of the wonderful library resources available and thank their librarians and library workers for making information accessible to everyone.

**Resignations** - The Board of Education approved the following resignations:

Crowl, Amanda, Teacher  
Burt Elementary School  
Resignation  
Effective June 30, 2009

Helms, Janet, Teacher  
On Leave of Absence  
Resignation  
Effective April 1, 2009

Dalgleish, Emily, Teacher  
Adams Elementary School  
Resignation  
Effective June 30, 2009

Jeskey, Joanne, Teacher  
Kettering High School  
Resignation  
Effective March 16, 2009

## FUTURE

April 16, 2009

Student - Winter Athletic Accomplishments  
Information - Helping Hands/Student Leaders  
Information - Food Service  
Action - Teacher Appreciation Week

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, again the following Monday at 8:00 PM. The Interim and Regular meetings, held on the first Thursday of each month, beginning at 7:00 PM. The public is invited to attend.