
Board Briefs

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

December 17, 2009

STUDENT ITEM

Pierce Chorale - The Pierce 8th grade Chorale, under the direction of Collette Yoder, performed holiday selections for the Board of Education.

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Waterford Cultural Council Holiday Card Contest Winner - The Waterford School District and the Waterford Cultural Council have partnered in a Holiday Greeting Card Design Contest. Waterford School District students were asked to submit card designs and the Cultural Council would choose one student's artwork to be featured on a holiday greeting card. Ms. Christie Kay, President of the Waterford Cultural Council, shared further information about the contest and introduced the student finalists, Shelby Seppala, 5th grade student at Haviland Elementary, and Delany Denomme, Beaumont Elementary 4th grader, as well as contest winner, Ernie Vespie, 5th grade student from Cooley Elementary.

SMART - The Waterford Senior Center is a nationally accredited intergenerational community resource that provides a number of opportunities and services to local senior citizens. One of the many essential services provided by the Senior Center, in partnership with the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART), is a transportation program for Waterford seniors and residents with disabilities. Wheelchair equipped busses operate Monday through Friday and provide over 10,000 rides annually. Uses for the vehicles include medical and dialysis appointments, shopping, and group activities. Fares for the rides are on a donation basis.

Recently, the board of directors at SMART awarded the Waterford Senior Center two new Michigan-made 14-passenger busses. These new vehicles will replace a used vehicle and enable the expansion of the Senior Center's transportation program in continuing service to the community.

The Board of Education wishes to thank the SMART Board of Directors and team members for providing these new vehicles and for their on-going support of this essential service to the Waterford community.

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT BY CENTRAL STAFF

Holiday Bazaar - Thank you to Mr. Jim Dunsmore, Instructional Aide for the SCI Program at Kingsley Montgomery School, who has coordinated another successful Holiday Bazaar at Kingsley Montgomery School. The Holiday Bazaar provides our students at Kingsley the opportunity to make crafts and sell them to our community. Outside vendors are also invited to help draw the public. The Holiday Bazaar also offers the opportunity for students to interact with the public and practice important social skills. Money raised from the Bazaar will benefit classrooms and improvements to the Kingsley Montgomery School playground. We appreciate Mr. Jim Dunsmore for his efforts in coordinating this important event.

Event Benefits KMS Students - We are also pleased to recognize Mr. Lenny Schiffman, SCI Teacher at Kingsley Montgomery School, who once again worked with the Lakeland High School student leadership class and Mr. Rolando, Activities Director for Lakeland High School, to benefit KMS students this holiday season. Student Leaders at Lakeland High School held a bowl-a-thon to raise funds for holiday gifts for KMS students in the SXI and SCI programs at Kingsley Montgomery School, Mott High School, Mason Middle School, and Grayson Elementary School. Students from Kingsley Montgomery School have been supported by Lakeland High School for over 20 years. Thank you to Mr. Lenny Schiffman for helping to coordinate the Lakeland High School Student Leadership Holiday Event.

MEMSPA Regional Honors Award - Congratulations to Burt Elementary School principal, Mary Barghahn who has been selected to receive a Regional Honors Award from the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association. This award recognizes Ms. Barghahn's educational leadership and commitment to enriching the educational lives of the students she serves. The regional award is presented to a single administrator in each of the 14 MEMSPA regions in Michigan. This is a very prestigious honor and we congratulate Mary on this outstanding accomplishment.

Elementary Schools Helping at the Holidays - At our elementary schools, students, staff and parents have been very eager to help our community this holiday season. You will find a complete list in your packet, but to highlight just a few: all of our buildings collected canned goods for the Waterford Goodfellows. Some schools handed out clothing items and collected donations for the Senior Center. A Turkey Trot was held to raise money for the Jr. Bed and Bread program and Giving Trees were in most buildings. Additionally, Girl Scout troops went caroling to a nearby nursing home and a blanket drive was conducted for the Furniture Bank of Oakland County. PTO members donated gift cards to Gordon Foods for families and have also adopted families through Lighthouse. It has been heartwarming to travel through the District and see how staff fosters the spirit of giving with students to those in need. Yesterday, I was visiting pupil services and the secretary at the front door was wrapping gift for the homeless.

Secondary Schools Helping at the Holidays - At the secondary level, students, staff and parents have done so much to help our community this holiday season. The Board of Education received a complete list of activities and projects, but to highlight just a few: all of our buildings collected canned goods to be donated to the Waterford Goodfellows. There have been Turkey Trots, Candy Grams and dances to raise money to purchase gift items for those in need. Additionally, students rolled up their sleeves and volunteered their time and talent to sew scarves, wrap gifts at the Senior Center, and decorate assisted living facilities. Staff members have donated generously and purchased gift cards for families and have also adopted families through Lighthouse. I am very proud of the commitment that our entire educational community has shown in helping those in need during these difficult economic times. Their kindness and generosity will make the holiday brighter for so many.

The Henry Ford Teacher Fellow Program - Congratulations to Pierce Middle School teacher, Beth McLaren, who was recently honored for exceptional contributions to The Henry Ford Teacher Fellow Program. This new and dynamic partnership between selected educators from Michigan and Ohio and The Henry Ford Education Team played a critical role in the development of educational resources that will enhance teaching and learning. They have worked collaboratively to create new and exciting learning experiences that utilize the sites, exhibits and collections at The Henry Ford. This is a great opportunity and we applaud Beth for her involvement and recognition.

INFORMATION ITEM

NCA/AdvancED Visit - Following the recent Quality Assurance Review visit, December 6-9, 2009, the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) Quality Assurance Team announced that the Waterford School District will be recommended to the AdvancED Accreditation Commission for International District Accreditation. Mike Batten, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Accountability, presented information as it relates to the process, accreditation status, and plan for continuous improvement.

Energy Management Strategy - Thomas W. Wiseman, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Randy Portwood, Executive Manager of Facilities, and Suzanne Antonazzo, Supervisor of Elementary Education, provided the Board with an update as it relates to the District's energy improvements and energy conservation plan. Information will also be provided relative to the District's intention to develop a program that creates energy awareness and strategies that result in saving additional dollars for the District.

Resolution: Race to the Top - The Board of Education received a recommendation to adopt a resolution authorizing the Board of Education President and Superintendent of Schools to sign the Michigan Participating LEA/ISD Memorandum of Understanding. Furthermore, this resolution authorizes the Board President and Superintendent to rescind the District's participation in Race to the Top in the event the yet-to-be-adopted statewide plan includes terms or conditions that are not in the best interest of the District.

Facility Utilization Study Update - Superintendent Neu provided an update to the Board of Education relative to the Facility Utilization Study. The second meeting of Ad Council and the Plan Development Team will occur on January 25, and open Community Forums will held at Mott High School, at 6PM, on January 26 and 27.

Head Start Reports - The Board of Education received the Head Start Director's Report for November 2009 as well as the October 2009 Financial Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Reinstatement - The Board of Education approved the recommendation of the Reinstatement Committees with regard to the decision on the reinstatement request of two students previously expelled by the District. The committee recommended that the students be reinstated with conditions.

In keeping with Michigan law, committees consisting of school board members, school administrator, teacher and parent of a pupil in the district reviewed the reinstatements. After reviewing all facts and information in the matter, and giving careful consideration to the applicable State law, the committee submitted the recommendations as stated above.

Resolution: Race to the Top - A recommendation failed relative to the resolution authorizing the Board of Education President and Superintendent of Schools to sign the Michigan Participating LEA/ISD Memorandum of Understanding. This resolution would also authorize the Board President and Superintendent to rescind the District's participation in Race to the Top in the event the yet-to-be-adopted statewide plan includes terms or conditions that are not in the best interest of the District.

The Board of Education approved a motion that the Board of Education shall schedule a public meeting prior to the January 7, 2010 deadline to reconsider the resolution relative to Race to the Top.

Resignations - The Board of Education accepted the following resignation(s)/retirement(s):

Brian Robertson, Teacher
International Academy West
Resignation Effective December 18, 2009

Mark Schott, Teacher
Mott High School
Resignation Effective December 18, 2009

FUTURE

- (1) *Winter Break - December 21 - January 1*
- (2) Student - Pierce: National Junior Honor Society, January 7
- (3) Information - Head Start Policies, January 7

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. Board of Education meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month, beginning at 6:00 PM. The public is invited to attend.