



The Board Report

A bulletin of actions taken by the Dearborn Board of Education

A publication of the Communications Office

October 11, 2010

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Apology and Clarification Regarding Elementary Math

Superintendent Whiston apologized to elementary teachers and cleared up any misunderstandings from last month's task force presentation. He stated that Dearborn has highly-qualified teachers who are qualified in all subjects including math. They are a dedicated and passionate group of teachers who do make a difference.

State Funding

The Governor has said that she will veto the current school aid funding bill that was signed by the legislature. If she vetoes, the district would receive a million dollars less in funding than the current bill provides. (Update – Since this meeting the Governor did veto the bill.)

Informational Meeting

Save our Schools, a statewide organization, will hold a special meeting on school funding in the state on Thursday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m., at Wayne Memorial High School. Parents and staff are welcome to attend and ask questions.

More Students Bring More Staff

Superintendent Whiston stated that because the district has an additional 199 students, 11 elementary teachers and 6 secondary teachers were added.

RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

District

Commendations to Art Teachers Kate Blair, Dail Russell, and Annette Alexander-Frank for creating an award winning animated short film. Over the summer, Ms. Blair and Ms. Russell took part in a workshop offered through Detroit Area Film and Television (DAFT). Ms. Alexander-Frank is a DAFT member and runs the workshop. One of their assignments was to create a "morph," an animated film where objects morph into other objects. The trio decided to enter a contest being offered through The Partnership for 21st Century Skills asking for a one-minute video answering the question, "What does 21st Century Readiness mean to you?" Out of all the entries, theirs won first prize. The video is being shown at the Cyber Summit in Washington, D.C., and will soon be available to view on the district's web-site and channel 19.

Secondary

Dearborn High School

Congratulations to the following Dearborn High students who earned AP Scholar Awards on the basis of their outstanding academic performance on the May 2010 AP exams:

AP Scholar (score of 3 or higher on 3 AP exams):

Latifa Bazzi, Victoria Bell, Kyle Bettinger, Elizabeth Clyne, Aya Dabaja, Lillian Franko, Alexandria Garbus, Peter Gardner, Alexander Haam, Noelle Harb, Jared Hoffman, Erin Patterson, Michael Sears, Keenan Zigterman, Hassan Zreik

AP Scholar with Honor (score of 3 or higher on 4 AP exams):

Lauren Beck, Emily Hayes, Alexander Stockrahm

AP Scholar with Distinction (score of 3 or higher on 5 AP exams):

Ian Devins, Maureen Fleming, Andrew Gelderloos, Norman Orabi, Kristin Patterson, Elizabeth Shick, Rebecca Weaver

Commendations to Dearborn High seniors Alexander Stockrahm and Keenan Zigterman who have been named as semi-finalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Competition. They are two of approximately 16,000 national semi-finalists in the annual program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$36 million.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are also being recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Competition for their exceptional academic promise. These seniors placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the 2009 preliminary exam (PSAT). Victoria Bell, Emily Hayes, and Erin Patterson have all been named Commended Students from Dearborn High School.

Edsel Ford High School

Congratulations to the following Edsel Ford students who earned AP Scholar Awards on the basis of their outstanding academic performance on the May 2010 AP exams:

AP Scholar:

Joseph Carty, Jack Kiraly, Teresa Le, Andrew Lieu, Justin Malyn, Nadia Ourchane, Lindsey Reamer, Corey Stanbaugh, Prapitha Suresh, Alexander Wall, Chad Westra

AP Scholar with Honor:

Sarah Irish, Artur Ludscher, Mary Menter, Mariam Mohamed

AP Scholar with Distinction:

Emily Brehob, Raven Dunn, Lillian Hawkins, Adam Keelan, Matthew Kliemann, Michael Ryan, Megan Timpf

Fordson High School

Congratulations to the following Fordson students who earned AP Scholar Awards on the basis of their outstanding academic performance on the May 2010 AP exams:

AP Scholar:

Jonathon Akkari, Diab A. Ali, Alla Albonijim, Lubna Ayoubi, Oday H. Dabaja, Rayan S. El-Zein, Ghassan F. Fadlallah, Maha N. Hamid, Mariam S. Hamid, Zakaa A. Hassan, Thomas H. Makled, Ali Nahhas, Hasan M. Naserdean, Zeinab Shafiekhorassan, Hussein Yassine

AP Scholar with Honor:

Jihad Fahs

AP Scholar with Distinction:

Mariam Abdulghani, Sahar Adora, Sakeena Fatima, Mohamed Ali H. Ghandour, Jihad J. Komis, Ali M. Reda, Jaleel A. Salhi, Samantha G. Yassine

Elementary

Maples Elementary School

Commendations to the Maples Elementary School Drumming Ensemble for their performance at the Michigan Municipal League Conference. One of the highlights of the performance came when the group joined several other vocal and instrumental performance groups from the city of Dearborn for a spectacular closing number. Special thanks to Lisa Napolitan, Mrs. Mustafa, Mrs. Unis, Mrs. Hussein, Mrs. Alhage and Mrs. Alsaïdi for all the extra help to make this show so great.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Official Student Count

Mr. Marc Zigterman, Student Services Coordinator, reported on the official student count for fall 2010. Student count impacts the district's budget, class size, curriculum offerings, staffing needs, and the overall health of the district. Dearborn is fortunate to have additional enrollment given that many districts in the state, including many neighboring districts, are experiencing enrollment declines. Dearborn's lowest enrollment was in 1985 when the district had 12,000. Currently, student numbers are at 18,632. Dearborn Public Schools receives approximately \$8,500 for each full time student. Funding is based on 75% of the September count and 25% of the previous year February count. The fourth Wednesday count this school year was September 29, 2010.

Graduation Rate

Assistant Superintendent Ron Gutkowski gave a presentation on the graduation and drop-out rate. The basic calculation of the graduation rate is the number of students who graduate in four years divided by the number of first time freshmen in the cohort, plus students who transfer to our district. A profile of a high school drop-out is a student who is absent almost 11 days a year, GPA of just over 1, lived in Dearborn just under 10 years, and was suspended approximately 15 days during his high school years.

BOARD ACTIONS

- Approved contract in the amount of \$6,986,076 to provide Phase IV projects of the comprehensive energy program.
- Approved contract in the amount of \$133,562.82 for the purchase of one Ford F250 long-bed pickup truck, the purchase of two E250 vans, and the purchase of two Ford F350 Snow Plow trucks.
- Approved September Financial Statement.
- Approved the lease of office space in the DFT Building with the Dearborn Federation of Teachers for use by the Special Education Department.
- Approved Executive Session (closed) on Monday, October 25, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., at the Administrative Service Center.
- Approved Executive Session (closed) on Monday, October 18, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., at Henry Ford Community College.
- Approved appointment of Amy Keith to Coordinator II Secondary Literacy Consultant, effective 10/25/10.

RESIGNATION

Mustafa Ali, Fordson, Mathematics Teacher, effective 8/30/10.

Zeinab Ball, On Laid Off Status, effective 9/13/10.

Blanche Bissland, Division of District Operations, Bus Driver (Part-Time), effective 9/1/10.

Suzan Farhat, Fordson, Science/Mathematics Teacher, effective 8/30/10.

Fathie Hachem, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 10/15/10.

Vanessa Kelley, Lowrey, Custodial A, effective 10/7/10.

Elvedina Melkic, Fordson, Mathematics Teacher, effective 10/4/10.

Raefah Saab, Lindbergh, Paraprofessional/Instructional, effective 9/7/10.

Nabiha Saad, Fordson, Food Service Assistant, effective 10/1/10.

Ammerah Saidi, Fordson, Language Arts Intervention Teacher, effective 8/30/10.

Eman Saleh, Salina Intermediate, Secretary IV, effective 10/15/10.

Elizabeth Seres, District-Wide, Interpreter Technician, effective 8/25/10.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Ioana Cioca, Lindbergh, Custodial C, effective 9/23/10.

Jason Ferry, On Extended Health Leave, Custodial A, effective 9/8/10.

APPOINTMENT

Zenib Ali, Community Liaison, Salina Intermediate, effective 10/12/10.

Mariam Berry, Departmental Title I Teacher, Becker, effective 9/20/10.

Kristina Kolin, Departmental GSRP Teacher, effective 10/11/10.

Wissam Kostantinidis, Mathematics Teacher, Fordson, effective 10/18/10.

Robert Murray, Social Studies Teacher, Dearborn, effective 9/28/10.

Karen Nash, Custodial A, Fordson, effective 10/12/10.

Eric Quine, Departmental Physical Education Teacher, effective 10/11/10.

Soussan Saleh, Noon Hour Supervisor, Maples, effective 10/12/10.

Cynthia Talley, Science/Mathematics Teacher, Bryant, effective 10/6/10.

Jean Tawile, English/Social Studies Teacher, Bryant, effective 9/29/10.

Christina Thomason, Noon Hour Supervisor, Long, effective 10/12/10.

Kyle West, Carpenter, Skilled C, Division of District Operations, effective 10/12/10.

REAPPOINTMENT TO PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Jennifer Williams, Dearborn, Art Teacher, effective 10/7/10.

REAPPOINTMENT TO NON-INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Ahud Al-Asady, Snow, Paraprofessional/Instructional, effective 10/12/10.

Donna Brefeld, Whitmore-Bolles, Paraprofessional/Instructional, effective 10/12/10.

Grace Lakatos, Howe, Paraprofessional/Instructional, effective 10/12/10.

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Sarah Lott, Departmental GSRP Teacher, effective 10/4/10.

SALARY SCHEDULE CHANGE OF STATUS

Bahia Abulhassan, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, from BA, Step 1, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; to MA, Step 2, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; effective 8/30/10.

Sandra Azzopardi, Edsel Ford, Spanish Teacher, from MA, Step 4, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; to MA(30), Step 4, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; effective 8/30/10.

Elizabeth Keimig, William Ford, Elementary Teacher, from BA, Step 1, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; to MA, Step 2, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; effective 8/30/10.

Rema Khaled, Salina Elementary, Elementary Teacher, from BA, Step 1, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; to MA, Step 2, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; effective 8/30/10.

Melanie Stevens, Departmental Resource Room Teacher, from BA, Step 2, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; to MA, Step 2, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; effective 8/30/10.

CHANGE IN CLASSIFICATION

Wafaa Beydoun, from McDonald, Noon Hour Supervisor, to Food Service Assistant, McDonald, effective 10/12/10.

Mary Dakroub, from Woodworth, Secretary II, to Secretary IV, Salina Intermediate, effective 10/12/10.

Timothy Kalis, from Edsel Ford, Engineer D, to Engineer C, Whitmore-Bolles, effective 10/12/10.

Sandra Lansing, from Fordson, Food Service Assistant, to Cook, Fordson, effective 10/12/10.

Vergenia Paskaris, from Bryant, Food Service Manager I, to Food Service Manager II, Maples, effective date to be determined.

Soud Sareini, from McDonald, Paraprofessional/Instructional, to Secretary II (Part-Time), Miller/Becker, effective 10/12/10.

Artur Trezil, from Henry Ford Community College, Building Operation Specialist, to Engineer D, Dearborn, effective 10/12/10.

ACHIEVEMENT OF TENURE

Mariam Abadeh, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 10/4/10.

Mohammad Abdelfattah, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 9/28/10.

Fatima Abdulla, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 9/20/10.

Sereen Awada, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 10/2/10.

Swsan Beydoun, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 10/9/10.

Derrick Borg, Departmental Resource Room Teacher, effective 9/17/10.

Charles Hool, Stout, Language Arts Teacher, effective 9/25/10.

Mariam Johair, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 10/2/10.

Amane Karaali, Woodworth, Language Arts/Mathematics Teacher, effective 10/5/10.

Kristin Koss, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 10/3/10.

Wedyan Sleiman, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 10/9/10.

Stacy Sobh, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 9/17/10.

Danielle Travis, Maples, Elementary Teacher, effective 9/17/10.

Amanda Wolski, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 10/4/10.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, October 18, 2010, HFCC Executive Session (closed/legal), 6:00 p.m., at Henry Ford Community College.

Monday, October 18, 2010, Regular HFCC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at Henry Ford Community College.

Monday, October 25, 2010, P-12 Executive Session (closed/negotiations), 6:00 p.m., at the Administrative Service Center.

Monday, October 25, 2010, P-12 Board Study Session, 7:30 p.m., at the Administrative Service Center

Monday, November 8, 2010, P-12 Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at the Administrative Service Center.