



# The Board Report

A bulletin of actions taken by the Dearborn Board of Education

A publication of the Communications Office

April 11, 2011

## **RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **District**

Commendations to Lisa Meyer, music resource teacher, and Linda Tolia, retired music teacher, for their recent presentation at the State Music Conference held in Grand Rapids. Their session, "Out of the Box Recruiting," was based on building the connections that exist between creating meaning from text and creating meaning from music.

### **High School**

In March all juniors in the district took the ACT. Congratulations to the 24 students from Dearborn, Edsel Ford and Fordson who achieved a composite score of 30 or higher.

### **Early College**

Commendations to Heyam Alcodray, principal at the Early College. She and her staff hosted a very successful visit from Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier, Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education. In a letter from Dr. Dann-Messier to Ms. Alcodray, she states: "...thank you and your staff for hosting an incredible visit at the Henry Ford Early College as part of my March visit to Michigan. I greatly appreciated your time and effort, on top of an already full schedule, to organize such a top notch visit."

Commendations to the Early College students who participated in their first Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competition. Twenty-two out of the twenty-four students who competed in this regional competition placed and will now have the opportunity to compete with students from all over the state. Special thanks to HOSA Advisor, Gloria McKenzie. Results are as follows: First Place, Health Education – Kelly Featherston, Aimee Slaughter, Antoinette Gordon; First Place, Creative Problem Solving – Samantha Abdorabehe, Sarah Kazbour, Syria Yehia, Sara Almaliky; Third Place, Medical Terminology – Ali Lakhani; First Place, Medical Spelling – Omar Lakhani; First Place, Job Seeking Skills – Hamza Lakhani.

### **Dearborn Center for Math, Science and Technology**

Congratulations to DCMST students Ali Habhab and Ahmad Hider for their participation in the 2011 Michigan Science Fair held at Kettering University in Flint, Michigan. Ali's project was on Liquid Organic Compost Fertilizer, and Ahmad's was Geomagnetic Effects on the Wide Area Augmentation System. The students will receive \$20,000 scholarships for Kettering payable as \$5,000 per year for four years.

### **Dearborn High**

Commendations to Dearborn High students Rasha Zahran, Aliya Mahmoud, Nasri Sobh, Tom Gunderson,, and Rayan Osman. The students attended and presented at the Great Lakes PeaceJam Conference in Kalamazoo. These students are part of the Peace Club at Dearborn High and have been taking part in a year long project called Raise Hope for Congo. Special thanks to Susan Dobbs, teacher at Dearborn High and sponsor of the Peace Club.

### **Woodworth**

Commendations to the students at Woodworth Middle School for their efforts to collect more than \$700 for the American Heart Association. Congratulations to Mariam Hachem, the top fundraiser collecting a total of \$110.

### **Elementary**

On March 29, elementary teams squared off to determine who would be district chess champs. Commendations to the team from Lindbergh, coached by Laura Polidori and Louis Barton, for their first place finish. Second place went to River Oaks, coached by Linda Webb. Snow clinched the third place spot, coached by Jim Walters, and rounding out the top four was McCollough/Unis, under the direction of David Bates. The middle schools also held their championship competition the week before. Lowrey captured the top spot with a 5-0 record. Their team is coached by Ed Barlow.

### **Lindbergh**

Commendations to Lindbergh Elementary students and families for their efforts to raise more than \$2,300 for the American Heart Association through the Jump Rope for Heart program.

### **Henry Ford Elementary**

Congratulations to Henry Ford Elementary for their efforts in the Pennies for Patients program, benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The Henry Ford community, including students, parents, and staff, raised \$3,348 this year, the most collected by the school in the ten years that they have participated in the program! Thanks to Ms. Jacqui Kostovski, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, for her efforts to head up the campaign.

### **Miller**

Commendations to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Miller Elementary for collecting more than \$170 for the relief efforts in Japan. The students made fun book markers to sell. Also, students at Miller were jumping rope and raised \$885 as part of Jump Rope for Heart.

### **Becker**

Commendations to the staff, students and PTA at Becker Elementary for raising \$1,200 for the American Cancer Society. The school also raised \$468 for two of their families in crisis.

### **Haigh**

Two different student groups at Haigh joined forces to collect almost \$1,000. The money will be donated to the American Red Cross and designated for Japan Earthquake relief. Congratulations to Haigh 5<sup>th</sup> grade student Alex Bellaire for his first-place prize in the Wayne County Anti-Bullying Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest. Also, congratulations to Haigh 4<sup>th</sup> graders Adam Illyes and Nathan Rudolph who together took home the second-place prize for their PSA. The student videos were selected as the two best among the 80+ entries received.

### **DuVall**

Congratulations to Duvall 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who created a short film titled “Animazoo” and captured a best of show prize in the Michigan Student Film Festival. Also submitted was an ani-matic movie done by students Sean Peacock and Simon Aytes called “Movie Man #6,” based on their original comic book. Congratulations to Sean and Simon as their film also won a best of show!

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

### **SuccessMaker**

#### **Mr. Brian Whiston, Mr. Michael Shelton, Ms. Julia Maconochie**

SuccessMaker is instructional software that provides elementary and middle school learners with adaptive, personalized paths for mastery of essential reading and math concepts. The software is intended to address a wide range of students in grades K-8, including struggling readers, English language learners, and students in need of extra challenges. SuccessMaker provides real world problems to help activate the link between accessing prior knowledge and acquiring new skills. The overriding goal of the program is to increase student achievement through technology by three primary avenues: 1) the use of instructional skills and strategies with a research base; 2) customized instruction that is driven by assessment; 3) instruction that continually adapts to the needs of each learner. Program strengths include: individualized course work, based on on-going assessment; variety of reports that enable teachers to closely monitor progress; content and objectives aligned to state and national standards; teacher reference and additional lesson materials available online; explicit, systematic instruction delivered via multiple strategies; offers a great deal of flexibility. Stout Middle School principal Julia Maconochie provided examples of how the program is working at her school. Stout has been using SuccessMaker for almost five years, but the program is available at all middle schools and several elementary schools.

### **District Assessment Results/MEAP**

#### **Mr. Brian Whiston, Dr. Gail Shenkman, Mrs. Norma Jean Sass, Dr. Kathleen Klee**

Dr. Klee provided the Board with a summary of the MEAP test that was given in the fall of 2010. For elementary students in grades 4 and 5, reading scores have seen an increase since 2008. Writing scores have increased since 2008 in grade 4 and are 6% above state average. Math scores increased in grades 3-5 since 2008, and scores are above the state and county averages. Scores in 5<sup>th</sup> grade science are below the state, but above the county average.

At the secondary level, the district has seen an overall increase in reading scores since 2008 in grades 6, 7 and 8. Writing is 5% higher than the state average. Science scores have increased by 6% in grade 8, are slightly below (1%) the state average, and 11% above the county average. Social studies scores have decreased slightly in grade 6 and increased slightly in grade 9. The average social studies scores are below the state average for grades 6 and 9 but above the county average.

Overall, the district continues to improve on the state assessment test; however, the district’s goal is continuous improvement for all students. Reading is the area of greatest concern and is integral to all tests, including math. Schools are focusing on the achievement gaps between general population and sub-groups.

## **Act 18 Center Program Agreement**

### **Mr. Brian Whiston, Mr. Michael Shelton**

The Wayne County Center Program agreement provides the parameters for the operation of Special Education Center programs and the distribution of Act 18 funds. This agreement has been in place since 1995. Wayne County RESA, in conjunction with local district superintendents, has recently revised the agreement. The revisions included in the new agreement do not change services provided to students or have any real impact on funding. Updated language and terminology to more accurately reflect current terminology and accepted standards are among the changes included in the new agreement. It also removes obsolete provisions. All local districts or public school academies that participate in the services and funding described in the agreement need to be a party to the agreement. This information was brought to the Board and will officially be signed by the Superintendent.

## **BOARD ACTIONS**

- Approved \$132,900.00 for additional licenses and training of SuccessMaker for McDonald Elementary, Salina Elementary, and the Special Education Department.
- Approved \$23,652.00 for the purchase of the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) program for the Special Education Department.
- Approved \$33,548.00 for leveled books for Oakman Elementary.
- Approved \$27,191.00 for specialized curriculum, leveled Read PM Series books for Miller Elementary School.
- Approved contract in the amount of \$39,990.00 for the replacement of the carpet in 19 classrooms at Oakman Elementary School.
- Approved contract, not to exceed \$160,000.00, for miscellaneous slate roofing and copper gutter repairs, as directed by the Operations Division.
- Approved contract in the amount of \$634,140.00 for the replacement of the original slate roof at Maples Elementary School.
- Approved contract extension, not to exceed \$70,000.00, for miscellaneous glazing repairs.
- Approved contract, not to exceed \$42,500.00, for shredded wood, to be used as soft surface material for the District playgrounds.
- Approved contract in the amount of \$29,230.00 for the replacement of the vinyl coated floor tile at Lowrey School.
- Approved contract in the amount of \$96,650.00 for the replacement of the shingle roof at William Ford Elementary School.
- Approved March Financial Statement.
- Approved updating Policies 7434, 7250, 5111 and 8531.
- Approved determining athletic eligibility at each progress report, every six weeks.
- Approved an Executive Session (closed) on Tuesday, April 26, at 6:00 p.m., at the Administrative Service Center.

## **RESIGNATION**

**Rebecca Bergren**, On Personal Leave, Departmental Speech and Language Impaired Teacher, effective 3/15/11.

**Mary Lyle**, On Child Care Leave, Elementary Teacher, effective 1/18/11.

**Cara Russell**, Lowrey, Elementary Teacher, effective 3/29/11.

**Fadwa Selameh**, Geer Park, Elementary Teacher, effective 3/25/11.

## **RETIREMENT**

**Glenda Carinci**, Administrative Service Center, Business Services, Secretary V, 24-3/4 years of service, effective 6/30/11.

**Linda Knowles**, Administrative Service Center, Instructional Services, Secretary III, 14-1/2 years of service, effective 6/17/11.

**Frances Saleh**, Salina Intermediate, Paraprofessional/Instructional, 12-3/4 years of service, effective 6/30/11.

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Dunia Ahmed**, On General Purpose Leave, Paraprofessional/Instructional, effective 6/6/11.

**Melissa Ames**, On Personal Leave, Language Arts Teacher, effective Fall 2011.

**Deborah Bowman**, On Personal Leave, Departmental Media Specialist, effective Fall 2011.

**Etab Charara**, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 3/28/11.

**Lisa Cronin**, On Personal Leave, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective Fall 2011.

**Zainab Dabaja**, On Child Care Leave, Departmental Learning Disabled Teacher, effective Fall 2011.

**Susan Finerty**, On Personal Leave, Elementary Teacher, effective Fall 2011.

**Dawn Hansen**, On Personal Leave, Departmental Media Specialist, effective Fall 2011.

**Lara Komeiha**, On Personal Leave, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective Fall 2011.

**Tanya Kopp**, On Personal Leave, Physical Education/Science Teacher, effective Fall 2011.

**Monica Kubitz**, Fordson, Language Arts Teacher, effective 4/14/11.

**Christine Mack**, On Child Care Leave, Elementary Teacher, effective Fall 2011.

**Wafaa Makki**, On Extended Health Leave, Principal, effective Fall 2011.  
**Julie Musallam**, On Child Care Leave, Spanish/Speech Teacher, effective Fall 2011.  
**Kelly Rummel**, On Child Care Leave, Elementary Teacher, effective Fall 2011.  
**Colleen Schumm**, On Personal Leave, Social Studies Teacher, effective Fall 2011.  
**Abbey Sleiman**, On Child Care Leave, Mathematics Teacher, effective Fall 2011.  
**Shadia Zamlut**, On Personal Leave, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective Fall 2011.

#### **OTHER SEVERANCE**

**Malory McNamee**, Fordson, Food Service Assistant, effective 4/12/11.

#### **APPOINTMENT**

**Mark Andrews**, Custodial A, McCollough/Unis, effective 4/12/11.  
**Danielle Chapman**, Custodial A, Lowrey, effective 4/12/11.  
**Rania El-Fassih**, Receptionist/Clerk (Bilingual), William Ford, effective 4/12/11.  
**James Mitchell**, Custodial A, Whitmore-Bolles, effective 4/12/11.  
**Teresa VanHook**, Custodial A, Stout, effective 4/12/11.

#### **RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Iman Abu-Rus**, At a Location to be Determined, effective Fall 2011.  
**Khadejeh Khocheiche**, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective Fall 2011.  
**Ali Kobeissi**, At a Location to be Determined, effective Fall 2011.  
**Tina Mroue**, At a Location to be Determined, effective Fall 2011.

#### **SALARY SCHEDULE CHANGE OF STATUS**

Noemi Moisa, Departmental GSRP Teacher, from BA, Step 2, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; to MA, Step 2, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; effective Fall 2011.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT OF TENURE**

**Eman Ahmed**, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 4/1/11.  
**Lisa Caldwell**, Elementary Teacher, Long/Whitmore-Bolles, effective 3/26/11.  
**Dorothea Erisman**, Departmental Teacher of the Moderately Cognitively Impaired, effective 3/16/11.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Monday, April 18, 2011, Regular HFCC Meeting, 7:00 p.m., at Henry Ford Community College.  
*Tuesday*, April 26, 2011, P-12 Executive Session (closed-negotiations), 6:00 p.m., at the Administrative Service Center.  
*Tuesday*, April 26, 2011, P-12 Board Study Session, 7:00 p.m., at the Administrative Service Center.  
Monday, May 9, 2011, P-12 Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., at the Administrative Service Center.  
Monday, May 16, 2011, Regular HFCC Meeting, 7:00 p.m., at Henry Ford Community College.