



The Board Report

A bulletin of actions taken by the Dearborn Board of Education

A publication of the Communications Office

November 14, 2011

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Whiston congratulated Becker, Howe, and Lowrey for being selected by the State of Michigan as schools that are "Beating the Odds." The Michigan Department of Education released a list of 123 schools that are "Beating the Odds," that is, these schools are outperforming schools with similar risk factors and demographics.

The Superintendent and other Central Office staff took part in the Rotary Club Lipsync program on November 10. The show featured several acts from the Dearborn Public Schools including staff members from Edsel Ford and students from Edsel Ford and Fordson. All funds raised at the event will go toward scholarships for Dearborn students.

Superintendent Whiston acknowledged Veterans Day and thanked all the men and women who have served and are serving in the armed forces. He also thanked schools for taking part in several Veterans Day events at their buildings.

Congratulations were offered to Trustee Guido and new Board member Roxanne McDonald for their win in the November 8 election. On January 1, 2012, Mr. Guido will begin his 19th year on the Board and Ms. McDonald will begin her first term. Superintendent Whiston also offered his thanks and appreciation to Trustee Petlichkoff who will end her term on December 31, 2011.

RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Commendations

District

Representatives from Walsworth Publishing were on hand to present the Edsel Ford yearbook staff with a special award for creating an outstanding 2010-11 yearbook.

Secondary

Congratulations to students at Fordson, Edsel Ford and Dearborn High for their success on Advanced Placement (AP) exams taken last spring. Eighty-five students were named AP Scholars, Scholars with Honor, or Scholars with Distinction.

Fordson

Scholar (score of 3 or higher on 3 AP exams): Fadal Bazzi, Mahdi Cherri, Ali Elrechouri, Marwa Harp, Mariam Jalloul, Ali Nasser, Fariha Rafio, Manal Saad, Nour Saeed, Ali Wazne

Scholar with Honor (score of 3 or higher on 4 AP exams): Zaynab Almothafer, Rimah Alwaya, Batour Aoun, Oday Dabaja, Rami Faraj, Ali M. Farhat, Michael Makled, Alaaedine Talab

Scholar with Distinction (score of 3 or higher on 5 AP exams): Mariam Abdulghani, Alla Albonijm, Irfan Hameedi, Jaleel Salhi

Edsel Ford

Scholar: Hassan Bazzi, Haley Behr, Nicholas Boileau, Colin Colter, Jacob Doner, Annelise Folkema, Mustapha Hammoud, Tyler Jankowiak, Jack Kiraly, Kim Le, Justin Malyn, Amel Mohamed, Patrick Phillips, Allison Range, Rachael Sawicki, Samantha Wagner

Scholar with Honor: Ahmed Harhara, Andrew Lieu

Scholar with Distinction: Ian Crowe-Sittig, Matthew Kliemann, Chad Westra

Dearborn High

Scholar: Bailey Allen, Amanda Amen, Anna Brink, Mahamad Charawi, Siknah Chehab, Samantha Collie, Peter Corso, Ryan Denison, Areej Fares, Marabella Fothergill, Kaitlyn Frank, Katie Frey, Joseph Gaber, Mark Gayeski, Laura Hayes, Jared Hoffman, Samuel Pilla, Brandon Reid, Richard Toler

Scholar with Honor: Hussein Abdallah, Ali Bazzi, Victoria Bell, Kyle Bettinger, Katherine Boyke, Nicholas Fleissner, Alexander Haam, Rachael Krawczyk, Robert Lebrell, Matthew Means, Eric Reilly, Batool Shukr, Lindsey Winstrand, Keenan Zigterman, Hassan Zreik

Scholar with Distinction: Evan Ballnik, Waseem Diab, Dema Fawaz, Rebecca Green, Emily Hayes, Norman Orabi, Erin Patterson

National AP Scholar (average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken and scores of 4 or higher on 8 or more exams): Norman Orabi

Edsel Ford

Congratulations to the Edsel Ford High School Boys Tennis Team for winning the Western Wayne Athletic Conference Championship 2011-2012.

Congratulations to Edsel Ford teacher Lisa Lark who was presented the Hometown Heroes Award for her efforts to gather photos of all 2,664 Michigan veterans whose names are inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. The award was presented by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the History Channel.

Dearborn High

Commendations to Dearborn High senior Anna Brink who has been named as a semi-finalist in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Competition. In addition, congratulations to Kaitlyn Frank who was named a Commended Student by the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Congratulations to Victor Gregory, auto instructor at Dearborn High, for successfully completing the on-site program review for certification renewal by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation, Inc.

O.L. Smith

Commendations to O.L. Smith students in Ms. Consiglio's computer class for their recent efforts to send well wishes to new military recruits. The students drafted letters to prospective U.S. Marines currently in basic training. The letters were part of a language arts and computer lesson. This random act of kindness, along with a well-learned lesson on letter writing, went a long way to cheer up some young men and women serving in the armed forces.

Salina

Congratulations to Salina teacher Reem Rababeh who qualified to run in the Boston Marathon.

Congratulations to Rola Bazzi for being awarded Social Worker of the Year. She accepted this prestigious award at the Michigan Association of School Social Workers (MASSW) conference in Lansing.

Bryant

Congratulations to the Bryant 8th grade band under the direction of Rich Pierce. This group presented pre-concert music at the Motor City Brass Band Concert at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center.

Elementary

Congratulations to Becker, Lowrey, and Howe for being named as schools that are "Beating the Odds." This is the second time that Lowrey and Becker have appeared on the list. The Michigan Department of Education released a list of 123 schools that are "Beating the Odds," that is, these schools are outperforming schools with similar risk factors and demographics.

In addition, Becker principal Nada Fouani, resource teacher Iman Khalil, and literacy coach Sue Abu-rus presented at the Special Populations Conference. Their session offered insight into daily instruction, academic programs, and intervention strategies that have been implemented over the last few years which have made a major impact on student achievement and learning in spite of all obstacles.

Congratulations to 14 Dearborn students who were offered positions with the Dearborn Youth Symphony for the 2011-12 concert season.

Maples Elementary

Congratulations to music teacher Kathy Prowse on receiving the Michigan International Professional Women Award for 2011. This award is given by the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit to a woman that makes a difference in her community and reaches out to other cultures.

River Oaks

Commendations to Jan Holmes, 1st grade teacher, Kim King, POHI consultant, Troy Patterson, media & informational technology coordinator, and Ibrahim Mashhour, River Oaks principal, for their efforts to keep a 1st grade student from falling behind and missing class. By using Skype, a two-way internet based teleconferencing application, a couple of webcams, and two computers, the River Oaks student, who was home recovering from surgery, continued to take part in daily lessons and was able to interact with his teacher and classmates during his extended absence.

Howe

Commendations to Howe School students for their participation in the Lindbergh Holiday Boutique. The students from Howe made several items that were sold in the show, and the money will be used to fund additional projects.

SPECIAL REPORTS

The Value of Journalism – McCollough-Unis

Ms. April Kincaid, social studies and journalism teacher at McCollough-Unis, along with several of her students, provided the Board with an overview of the Living Textbook program, a project introduced to the school by the Asian American Journalism Association. For the past year, students have been working with professionals in the field of journalism to create an on-line newspaper. The student work has been read by thousands and stories cover a wide variety of topics from international politics to national sports, to local events. This past summer the Arab-American National Museum hosted an event highlighting the work of the students that included a display of their writing and photos. The grant that funds the program has been renewed, opening the door for a new group of students to be part of this exciting learning experience.

Official Student Count

Count day this year was October 5 and is the basis of state funding. Dearborn Public Schools receives about \$8,332 for each full-time student enrolled in the district. New this year, state funding is now based on 90% of the district's September count and 10% of the previous February count. After the count day results were tabulated and sent to Lansing to be audited, the official count for fall 2011 came in at 19,021 full time equivalent (FTE) students. There are 8,973 FTEs enrolled in the K-12 program and 48 FTEs in the shared time program. The numbers represent 496 FTEs above projections. Some of the factors impacting enrollment are all-day kindergarten, foreign language in elementary grades, quality of instruction, variety of programs, and affordable housing. Mr. Gutkowski thanked all the staff involved in the count process.

Review of November 8 Professional Development/District Literacy

November 8 was a district-wide professional development day for all teachers. At the elementary level 61 different sessions were offered at three different locations. The sessions focused on literacy, math, or differentiated instruction. More than 100 district teachers took part in presenting the various topics to their colleagues. At the secondary level there were also three major components to the day. Sixth grade teachers were trained in Daily 5 and CAFÉ. Math teachers could choose from several different math sessions. All other teachers selected from a variety of sessions on literacy in the content areas. Follow-up surveys showed teachers gave a favorable response to the professional development day.

P-12 Audit Report (Board Report 11-44)

Bob Cipriano, Director of Business Services, introduced Jeff Dolowy from Plante & Moran. Mr. Dolowy presented an audit report for the 2010-11 school year. Each year, the Board of Education is required to hire an independent company to audit all district accounting records. The audit consists of examination of the basic financial statements of all district programs. This year, due to the large amount of federal funds received by school districts as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the auditors had to review twice the number of federally funded programs as in the past. The auditors were pleased to point out that the audit reports contain an "Unqualified Opinion" which is the highest level of assurance that an auditor can give.

Facility Use Report

Mr. Brian Whiston, Mr. Ronald Gutkowski, Mr. Robert Cipriano

More than 30 different groups use Dearborn Public Schools facilities on a regular basis including organizations such as Ford Men's Basketball, Jan's Dance Connection, Bazy Basketball, and Carol Volpe Dance Studio, just to name a few. In 2010-11 revenue from permits issued to use district facilities totaled just over \$153,000. Expenses came to around \$90,000, for a net profit of approximately \$63,000. About \$9,000 in additional income came from the rental of the high school athletic fields. The administration is proposing that 50% of the net income from annual field rental be returned to a school's maintenance fund. As an example, for 2010-11 around \$4,500 of the \$9,000 net revenue would go in the field maintenance fund.

BOARD ACTIONS

- Approved contract in the amount of \$23,637.92 for the replacement and repair of the stage rigging at Edsel Ford High School.
- Approved contract in the amount of \$38,123.64 for the purchase of one E250 Van and the purchase of one E150 Van for the Skilled Trades and Transportation Departments.
- Approved October Financial Statement.
- Approved resolution to accept responsibility for maintaining licensing requirements for the school-age childcare programs at Snow, Lindbergh, Howard, and DuVall Elementary Schools.

RESIGNATION

Gloria Ingram, Division of District Operations, Bus Attendant (Part-Time), effective 9/14/11.

Sheila McClendon, Division of District Operations, Bus Attendant (Part-Time), effective 10/28/11.

David Robertson, Oakman, Custodial C, effective 11/15/11.

Susan Shuryan, Nowlin, Noon Hour Supervisor, effective 11/18/11.

RETIREMENT

Sandra Ghnaim, Division of District Operations, Bus Driver (Full-Time), 21-1/3 years of service, effective 9/30/11.

Emily Kluze, Departmental Art Teacher, 40 years of service, effective 1/27/12.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nadia Mouzahem, On Care of Ill Members of the Immediate Family Leave, Secretary II, effective 1/4/12.

OTHER SEVERANCE

Rouvetta Graham, Division of District Operations, Bus Driver (Part-Time), effective 11/15/11.

Mary Reed, Haigh, Lead Childcare Provider, effective 11/15/11.

APPOINTMENT

Lindsay Babicki, Enrichment Teacher, Howe/Salina Elementary (3/10 Assignment), effective 10/25/11.

Patricia Cummings, Food Service Assistant, Edsel Ford, effective 11/15/11.

Rachel Cwiek, Elementary Teacher, William Ford, effective 10/14/11.

Shirine Elder, Intervention Teacher, River Oaks (Part-Time), effective 11/1/11.

Zeinab Haidous, Elementary Teacher, Salina Elementary, effective 10/31/11.

Katelyn Hanson, Childcare Provider, H.F.C.C. Child Development Center, effective 11/15/11.

Antonia Hernandez, Bus Driver (Part-Time), Division of District Operations, effective 11/15/11.

Sadrjl Jacobs, Custodial A, Dearborn, effective 11/15/11.

Dawn Johnson, Food Service Assistant, Woodworth, effective 11/15/11.

Alexander Joiner, Custodial A, Stout, effective 11/15/11.

Fady Konstantinidis, Mathematics/Chemistry Teacher, Fordson, effective 10/31/11.

Yasmin Mohamed, Social Studies/Language Arts Teacher, Salina Intermediate, effective 11/8/11.

Nabil Nagi, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, Stout, effective 11/8/11.

Manna Noyes, Noon Hour Supervisor, DuVall, effective 11/15/11.

Siham Saidi, Elementary Teacher, Salina Elementary, effective 10/25/11.

Areege Shakarchi, Elementary Teacher, McCollough/Unis, effective 10/18/11.

REAPPOINTMENT TO NON-INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Abir Alakhrass, Maples, Receptionist/Clerk, effective 11/7/11.

Almaza Sobh, Long, Paraprofessional/Instructional, effective 10/24/11.

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Jennifer Coulter, Maples, Custodial C, effective 10/31/11.

SALARY SCHEDULE CHANGE OF STATUS

Erin Golec, Departmental Montessori Teacher, from BA, Step 9, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; to MA, Step 9, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; effective 8/29/11.

Kimberly Lawson, Division of District Operations, from Bus Driver (Part-Time), to Bus Driver (Full-Time), Division of District Operations, effective 10/17/11.

Diebh Mozham, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, from BA, Step 3, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; to MA, Step 3, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; effective 1/30/12.

Elizabeth Naudi, Departmental Montessori Teacher, from BA, Step 3, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; to MA, Step 3, Schedule P-12 Teachers'; effective 8/29/11.

Terry Roberts, Division of District Operations, from Bus Driver (Full-Time), to Bus Driver (Part-Time), Division of District Operations, effective 10/17/11.

Arya Sharian, Woodworth, from Secretary II (Full-Time), to Miller, Secretary II (Part-Time).

Najwa Sotres, Division of District Operations, from Bus Driver (Full-Time), to Bus Driver (Part-Time), Division of District Operations, effective 10/17/11.

CHANGE IN CLASSIFICATION

Janet Celeski, from Woodworth, Food Service Assistant, to Bus Attendant (Part-Time), Division of District Operations, effective 11/15/11.

Karen Faunce, from H.F.C.C., Grill Cook, to Receptionist/Clerk, Whitmore-Bolles, effective 11/21/11.

Tamika Hart, from Salina Intermediate, Custodial A, to Custodial C, Salina Intermediate, effective 11/15/11.

Joyce McCreary, from Division of District Operations, Mail Courier, to Food Service Assistant, Fordson, effective 11/14/11.

Joyce Scipio-Long, from Division of District Operations, Bus Attendant (Part-Time), to Custodial A, McDonald, effective 10/17/11.

Michelle Segerson, from Snow, Noon Hour Supervisor, to Receptionist/Clerk, Snow, effective 10/15/11.

ACHIEVEMENT OF TENURE

Dima Chehab, Woodworth, Science/Mathematics Teacher, effective 10/28/11.

Fihmiya Hamdan, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 10/31/11.

Yvonne Jenks, Departmental Physical Education Teacher, effective 10/11/11.

Iman Karaali, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 10/22/11.

Mariam Kobeissi, Henry Ford Early College, Counselor, effective 9/24/11.

Shima Nasir, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 10/14/11.

Amy Tondreau, Departmental Bilingual Teacher, effective 10/14/11.

Heather Webber, Departmental Vocal Music Teacher, effective 3/14/11.

DISCUSSION ITEM

The Board of Education interviewed four law firms at their October 24, 2011 meeting. The Board took time to discuss those interviews. It was apparent that all four firms had much to offer and would do a fine job representing the district. However, the Board must select one firm who they feel would provide the best level of service. No decision was made and the Board will continue to review and discuss possible selection.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday, November 17, 2011, P-12 Board/Superintendent Retreat, 6:00 p.m., at the Administrative Service Center.

Monday, November 21, 2011, Regular HFCC Meeting, 7:00 p.m., at Henry Ford Community College.

Monday, November 28, 2011, P-12 Board Study Session, 7:00 p.m., at the Administrative Service Center.

Monday, December 12, 2011, P-12 Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., at the Administrative Service Center.

Monday, December 19, 2011, Regular HFCC Meeting, 7:00 p.m., at Henry Ford Community College.