



news from the board

Summary of information from the February 15, 2010, MAISD Board Meeting



2009-10 MAISD Board Members

Edward Garner, President

Donna J. Fiebelkorn, Ed.D., Vice President

Dwight Vines, Secretary

Barbara L. DeBruyn, Treasurer

William Loxterman, Trustee

career tech center offers many reasons to celebrate

Since its opening in January 2005, hundreds of area high school students have benefited by attending the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC). The 58,000 square-foot center houses cutting-edge technology and is staffed by industry and teacher-certified instructors. The MACTC serves as a living hands-on laboratory that is constantly upgraded to keep pace with the latest industry standards. Improvements have been made in technology, curriculum, materials, equipment, and instructional strategies. The addition of student organizations has made the career and technical education experience even richer for students. As board members and staff, I urge you to re-visit the MACTC during its upcoming Open House and Parent Conferences on Thursday, March 4, 2010, from 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Visit the main campus at 200 Harvey Street and/or visit an off-campus program at the Habitat for Humanity or LEED home site, Booker Institute of Cosmetology, or Muskegon Community College. Chat with staff, tour the buildings, and see demonstrations. The MACTC offers many reasons to celebrate!

Susan W. Meston, MAISD Superintendent

MACTC Tours March 4, 2010, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

- 200 Harvey Street
- Muskegon Habitat for Humanity Home at 867 Young Street
- LEED Home at 2543 Chestnut Trail
- Booker Institute of Cosmetology at 989 Lakeshore Drive
- Visual Design Class Room 1115 at MCC Stevenson Center
- Graphic Production Room 1104 at MCC Stevenson Center

mactc students successful at regional competitions

On Friday, February 5, 2010, fourteen Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) students competed in the **SkillsUSA Regional Welding Competition** at Ferris State University. Of 15 medals awarded, the MACTC students won 10 of these medals. The students who placed were: Alex Keeney of Fruitport, Mike Brooks and Robert Burch of Mona Shores, Kyle Ash and Jacob Comstock of Montague, Aaron Swain and Casey Brosseit of Reeths-Puffer, Nick Dennell of Ravenna, and John Pannoza and Connor Schropp of Whitehall.

On the following day, six (6) MACTC students competed in the **SkillsUSA Regional Criminal Justice Competition**. Four students placed and will be moving on to the state competition in April. The students are: Bretton Boone, Mona Shores; Jayme Degan, Montague; Justin James, Oakridge; and Dave Katje, Western Michigan Christian. These types of events are tremendous opportunities for students to demonstrate their skills while experiencing real-life testing situations. SkillsUSA is one of several student organizations offered by the MACTC.

teachers recognized as national experts, trainers

Local teachers involved in the West Shore Consortium for Dynamic History Instruction activities funded by the MAISD's **Teaching American History** grant have been recognized as experts in their field. They have been selected to present at the **National Council for History Education Annual Conference** on March 25-27, 2010, in San Diego, California. The grant will cover all travel and conference expenses for the eight teachers from Muskegon and Ottawa Counties.

Locally teachers from Fruitport, Oakridge, Orchard View, and Whitehall have become experts in a thematic approach to teaching American History. This approach overcomes the isolation resulting from the Michigan Content Expectations that divide U.S. History into three parts to be taught at three different grade levels. Now teachers from different grade levels have learned to work together to expand their understanding of American History and develop new ways to improve understanding for their students. They learn thematically, across the timeline, and talk to each other about how a theme unfolds in all eras of American History.

The results have been dramatic. Independent evaluation shows a deepening of content understanding and an increase of new teaching methods used in the classroom. According to David Klemm, MAISD Social Studies and School Improvement Consultant, "We have some of the best history teachers in the country right here in West Michigan; it's nice to see that expertise recognized in ways that benefit others." Mr. Klemm will also attend the national conference to share the new local documentary *Up from the Bottoms: The Search for the American Dream* and its companion teaching materials. The documentary tells the story of African American migration to northern urban areas in search of jobs, equality, and a better life through the lens of one local community: Muskegon, Michigan.

Teachers selected to present at the National Council for History Education Conference

- Kelli Arnold, Orchard View Middle School
- Adam Carlson, Fruitport Middle School/High School
- Amy Dixon, Fruitport High School
- Marjorie Dorr, Ealy Elementary (Whitehall)
- Diane Kent, Oakridge Special Education

board test drives course

Randy Lindquist, Director of Technology Services, guided the board through a test drive of the Tech Academy for Administrators course recently offered by the MAISD. Board members used laptops to view the presentation through a wiki, which demonstrated some of the course content. The board members completed a survey using Google Forms and watched as their answers immediately populated a central spreadsheet. They then used a scheduling tool at www.doodle.com to instantly identify common meeting times. The full Tech Academy for Administrators course included many other topics like social bookmarking, podcasts, copyright, Creative Commons, blogs and several other free Web 2.0 tools. Mr. Lindquist explained that the course content was based on the National Educational Technology Standards created by the International Society for Technology in Education.

modification approved

The board approved a modification to the **MAISD Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services** to be submitted to the Michigan State Board of Education for approval. The local school districts asked that the plan be amended to include language to “increase the number of special education students per class period to an average of 15 students per class period with a cap of 18 per class period and no more than 2 class periods per day over 15.” Currently our plan allows for 15 students per classroom period. This change has been approved by the special education directors and local district superintendents/public school academy directors with input given by the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee as required by Michigan’s Special Education Rules.

support for added clients

The board approved the purchase of **Tyler MUNIS** Annual Support, Maintenance and Update Licensing for MAISD Technology Services’ clients Ingham ISD and its districts using MUNIS including Webberville, Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy, Dansville, Leslie and Okemos Schools.

Through this collaborative arrangement, support is provided by Tyler to the MAISD; and the MAISD, in turn, supports our Ingham County clients. These customers were acquired after the original contract for the financial management system with Tyler was approved. Operating System Database Administrative (OSDBA) Support is necessary to assist MAISD staff with MUNIS software upgrades and system issues.

parent to join committee

The board approved the appointment of **Laurie Gilbert** to the MAISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee. Whitehall District Schools’ Board of Education recommended that Mrs. Gilbert serve on the committee. PAC is authorized under Michigan Special Education Rules. Its purpose is to provide a formal mechanism for parent input to the ISD Plan for Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services.

change to save energy

The board approved the purchase of light fixtures and light bulbs for Wesley School classrooms from **Kendall Electric, Inc.** In an ongoing effort to increase building efficiencies and reduce energy costs, light fixtures and light bulbs at **Wesley School** will be replaced with high-efficiency T-8 fluorescent tubes and electronic ballasts. A rebate incentive from Consumers Energy will apply after installation and certification is complete.

21 teams attend training

Twenty-one teams of district/building leaders, teachers, and parents attended a workshop on strengthening parent involvement at the MAISD on Friday, January 29, 2010. The workshop was presented by consultants from the Michigan Association of State and Federal Program Specialists. Meaningful parent partnerships are foundational for ensuring student success. Any district or school receiving federal Title I funds are required to develop and implement a parent involvement policy and plan. This workshop provided teams with research-based strategies for helping parents become partners in their children’s education. This event was coordinated by Pam Varga, School Improvement/Rtl/High Priority Schools Consultant.

pinnacle system launch

Phase One of the Pinnacle Student Information System implementation has begun with trainings focused on secondary scheduling that began in February. Fruitport, Holton, MAISD, Mona Shores, North Muskegon, Oakridge, Ravenna, Reeths-Puffer, Western Michigan Christian, and Muskegon Catholic are all involved in Phase One. Each of them will begin using the new system in 2010-11.

wesley staff trained in tci

The Wesley School Staff have been trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) by Steve Vitto, Special Education Behavior Consultant, and Michael Bausano, Wesley School Social Worker. Mr. Vitto and Mr. Bausano are certified TCI Instructors through Cornell University.

students compete

The board approved the overnight travel for Muskegon Area Career Tech Center students to travel to the following state competitions:

- Seven (7) Marketing students will attend the DECA State Competition in Dearborn on March 11-14, 2010.
- Seven (7) Internet & Security students will attend the BPA State Competition in Grand Rapids on March 19-21, 2010.
- Eight (8) Landscape and Greenhouse Management students will attend the FFA State Competition in Lansing, Michigan, on March 10-12, 2010.

contract

The board approved a contract with the Reading Writing Project Network from New York to provide the K-8 Home Grown Summer Institute on Reading in June.

news from the board is a monthly publication of the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD). Its purpose is to provide a monthly summary of board action and highlight other helpful information. The MAISD operates:

- Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana
- Muskegon Area Career Tech Center
- MAISD Regional Mathematics & Science Center
- Wesley School
- Educational Services Center

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