



news from the board

Summary of information from the March 19, 2012, MAISD Board Meeting



2011-12 MAISD Board Members

Donna J. Fiebelkorn, Ed.D., President

Dwight Vines, Vice President

William Loxterman, Secretary

Carol Mills, Treasurer

Kevin Donovan, Trustee

share your opinions about the future of education

Have you ever wanted to share your opinions about the future of PreK-12 education and student learning? Now is your chance! The MAISD partnered with the Community Coordinating Council, Muskegon Opportunity, and the United Way of the Lakeshore to host two, two-hour discussions called **Community Conversations**.

The events took place on March 22 and 27 and were facilitated by the Center for Michigan, a non-profit and nonpartisan “think-and-do” tank located in Ann Arbor. More than 250 of these dialogues are occurring throughout Michigan in 2012.

While these face-to-face group conversations filled to capacity quickly, there is still one more way engaged citizens, board members, students, parents, job providers, and educators can share their thoughts. Go to <http://www.thecenterformichigan.net/> and click on the words *Click Here to take the Online Survey*. By contributing to this statewide effort, we will help amplify the voices of Muskegon County residents on major education policy and reform choices.

Sincerely,

MAISD Superintendent

students put kindness journals to good use

In January, the MAISD printed and delivered more than 6,000 “**Kindness Journals**” to every elementary school countywide. The journals were paid for by the 2012 Year of Interfaith Understanding. During the school day students were encouraged to describe their daily acts of kindness in written journals. Following six weeks of journaling, they were asked to write essays about why using the Kindness Journal was important to them.

On March 20, children from seven schools were honored for their winning essays. The children represented third, fourth, and fifth grade students from Fruitport, Mona Shores, Montague, Muskegon Heights, North Muskegon, Ravenna and Reeths-Puffer school districts.



Muskegon Heights' Edgewood Elementary students pose with Superintendent Sipka, Principal Hernandez, and Bill Page at the “2012 My Kindness Journal Event”

“My Kindness Journal Event” was the culminating event in a year-long calendar of activities. Bill Page, former superintendent of Whitehall Schools, authored the “Kindness Journal” design. Page, author of a number of books for young people, proposed the near two-month exercise would encourage children to increase kind behavioral practices. In particular, he thought the exercise would discourage bullying and other negative behaviors.

grads earn diploma & degree with “early college”

This fall up to 50 eleventh-grade students will be the first to participate in an intensive five-year high school called **Early College of Muskegon County** (ECMC). Rather than graduating during their senior year, ECMC students will add a 13th year and have the opportunity to earn up to 62 college credits while they finish their high school diploma. Muskegon Community College (MCC) and the MAISD will soon begin marketing the program they will operate jointly. Approval from the Michigan Department of Education is expected later this week.

MCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Teresa Sturris and MAISD Associate Superintendent of Academic Services Jeanette Magsig worked together with local educators to craft the program and iron out the details. ECMC is designed to serve students who are “at risk” of not enrolling in post-secondary education.

Each year three to four eleventh grade students from each public school district, and four to five students from non-public schools, will be invited to attend Early College of Muskegon County. An application and interview process will be used to select students for the program. The students’ test scores and letters of recommendation will also be considered as part of the application process. There are several other successful early or middle colleges currently operating in Michigan.

According to MAISD Superintendent Dave Sipka, ECMC has been two-and-a-half years in the making. “This will positively impact the local economy. In addition to preparing more highly educated students to enter our workforce, we are opening doors for those teens whose families struggle financially. ECMC students will be the first in their families to attend college.”

Between 10th and 11th Grades

Required Summer Experience

11th Grade

Begin program with half day at high school and take 13 college hours AND attend college success seminar

12th Grade

Attend high school at least 2 hours AND take 22 college hours

13th Grade

Take 24 college hours

Students will also take 3 college hours one summer

ruga to present to boards

Barbara Ruga, a member of Clark Hill’s Grand Rapids office, will be the featured speaker for the **Muskegon Area School Boards Alliance Spring Dinner** on Thursday, April 12, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. at Above & Beyond Banquet Center. Dr. Ruga is an expert trainer, advisor, and counselor for public school districts on a wide variety of labor law and employment issues. She will share valuable advice for board members and school leaders to use during negotiations and times of crisis based on her experience of over 30 years. MAISD Public Information Officer Kristin Tank will offer advice on addressing the media during crisis as well.

meeting dates changed

The board adopted a resolution to move the date of the April **MAISD Board of Education Meeting** to **April 23, 2012**, and the May meeting to **May 14, 2012**.

isd budget amended

The MAISD Board approved the second revised 2011-12 **budget amendments**. Amendments included new grants, and new lines and adjustments for personnel, supplies, materials, and services.

funds to be distributed

The board approved the distribution of local districts estimated share of **\$1,900,000 of Act 18 Special Education** net available revenues. On an annual basis the MAISD distributes Act 18 Special Education funds to all LEAs (local education agencies or school districts) and PSAs (public school academies or charter schools). This is the initial payout for 2011-12, a second payment will be made in August 2012, with a final settlement after the State completes audits of special education costs.

tech students to travel

The board approved the overnight field trip request for **45 Muskegon Area Career Tech Center** students and 10 chaperones to attend the **SkillsUSA State Competition** at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing, Michigan on April 20-22, 2012. The students have earned the opportunity to compete at the state competition and represent the Construction Trades LEED, Visual Communications, Catering & Culinary Management, Public Safety, Graphic Production Technologies, Auto Body Technology, Auto Service Technology, Cosmetology, and Machine Tool Technologies programs.

ctc names new principal

The board appointed **Kyle Fiebig** to fill the position of **Principal of the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center** effective April 30, 2012. Mr. Fiebig earned a Master's Degree in Agriculture and Natural Resources Education from Michigan State University. He comes to the MAISD from Montague Area Public Schools where he has served as the Agriscience Teacher and FFA Advisor and has served in Career & Technical Education since 1999.



added grant funds sought

The board approved a **supplemental Head Start** and **Early Head Start** grant application for \$278,262 in COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) funding and expansion funding to continue serving additional children added to the program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA or stimulus funding) and Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) funding.

wesley staff share skills

On March 1, 2012, Wesley School Social Worker **Michael Bausano**, Wesley School Behavioral Specialist **Stephanie Lathrop**, and **Lisa Cobb**, Social Worker from the North East Education Center presented at the **Michigan Council for Exceptional Children State Conference** in Grand Rapids. The three presented the research and knowledge they have on "Compassion Fatigue" as it relates to the high demand jobs found at both of these schools.

On March 2, 2012, **Katrina Ellis** and **Emily Basse** presented at the same conference. They presented the implement-tation of Whiteboard Technology for low-incidence populations. Many questions were asked of the two as they shared educational websites and resources appropriate for curriculum delivery.

41 attend history p.d.

In February, forty-one fifth through twelfth grade teachers from Muskegon and Ottawa Counties attended the **History Colloquium**, a record over the eight-year Teaching American History program. Presented by the National Council for History Education (NCHE), the colloquium followed a proven model for professional development in which an instructional specialist, a historian, and a master-teacher work with teachers to build a comprehensive approach to teaching historical content to young people.

video library launched

The MAISD launched a new video library at <http://muskegonisd.org/about/video/>

maisd strategic plan priorities

The MAISD Strategic Plan is made up of five priorities that guide the work of the entire organization through 2014.

- Priority 1** Positively impact student achievement for all students
- Priority 2** Collaborate on shared services to increase value and efficiencies
- Priority 3** Provide facilities and programs that meet student needs
- Priority 4** Inform public perception of education
- Priority 5** Increase community outreach

Mission Statement

To provide the leadership, programs, and services which complement and enhance the efforts of constituent school districts in extending educational opportunities to all students.

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:

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

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