

## survey data reflects positively on possible millage

### 2012-13 MAISD Board Members

Dwight Vines  
President

Kevin Donovan  
Vice President

Carol Mills  
Treasurer

William Loxterman  
Secretary

Lisa Tyler  
Trustee

“We find the MAISD in a very strong position to pass a one-mill increase in support of technology issues within its schools.” Those words begin an executive summary that describes the results of a recent phone survey of registered voters within Muskegon County. The survey, prompted by local superintendents, was conducted by Denno Reseach, LLC of East Lansing between February 18 and 20, 2013. The results indicate that 68% of the 400 respondents were either very likely or likely to support the initiative. School board members are using this data to inform their discussions on the possibility of a ten-year, one-mill “enhancement millage” in August.

If local school districts representing at least half of the student population in the county petition the MAISD to run an enhancement millage, the MAISD must do so by law. Currently, ISDs are the only entity that can offer this type of millage which would require the entire four million dollars in annual tax revenue to be distributed to each district for the purpose indicated on the ballot. If approved, each district would decide how their own technology funds would be spent. As an ISD, we stand ready to support our districts in this effort as needed.

*David L. Spoke*  
MAISD Superintendent

## students shine at showcase event

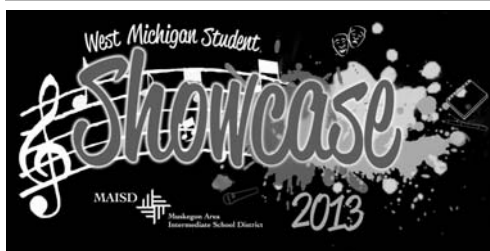
### Gary W. Ostrom Showstopper Award

Kayla Green and  
Hunter Zhao of  
Mona Shores  
High School

### First Place Award Winners

**Literary Arts**  
Abbey Vermeulen  
of North Muskegon  
High School

**Visual Arts**  
Abigail Wilson  
of Mona Shores  
High School



Students from Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, and Ottawa counties shined at the annual West Michigan Student Showcase event on March 20-21, 2013, at the

Frauenthal Theater. High school students were selected by their respective schools for excellence in the areas of academics, athletics, literary arts, performing arts, and visual arts. For many student nominees, this was the shining moment of their high school years; for others, it was the beginning of amateur or professional careers as actors, musicians, writers, athletes, and artists.

In the categories of literary arts, visual arts, and performing arts, all nominees who placed in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place received medals. The 1st place winners claimed the traveling trophy for that category as well. Prizes were \$1,000 for 1st place, \$500 for 2nd place, and \$300 for 3rd place. The Gary W. Ostrom Showstopper award also received a \$1,000 prize. To view photos and reports on the Showcase event, visit: <http://bit.ly/10mT5zj>.

### First Place Award Winners

**Performing Arts Solo/Duo**  
Jessy Dick  
of Reeths-Puffer  
High School

### Performing Arts Group

*The After Effect*  
featuring  
Chris Evans,  
Matt Fairfield,  
Alex Pearson,  
Ryan Slagle, and  
John Swainston  
of Mona Shores  
High School



## news from the board

Summary of the March 18, 2013, MAISD Board Meeting

## inadequate funding reflected in recent data report

*“Overall, you can see if the state continues to divest from public education, more and more districts will be facing unprecedented financial distress.”*

—Marios Demetriou  
MAISD Deputy  
Superintendent

Marios Demetriou, MAISD Deputy Superintendent, provided an overview of the MAISD Summaries & Information Report. This report reflects the most recent data regarding student counts, personnel, finances, valuation and tax rates, special education, transportation, and free and reduced lunch counts. The report can be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/ZTrxCq>. Mr. Demetriou explained that over the last five years, the number of students has dropped 8% countywide in public, charter, and non-public schools. While public schools have cut 195 employees over the past five years, they are still struggling under the weight of skyrocketing health insurance and

retirement costs. Although public school expenditures countywide have been slashed by \$12 million over the last five years, they have not kept pace with the severe decline of \$16.5 million in revenues. Public school districts in Muskegon County spent \$9 million (or 75%) of their savings in the 2011-12 school year alone. Because schools don't receive their first state aid payment until October, districts have had to borrow \$168 million at a cost of \$3.8 million over the past five years. “Overall, you can see if the state continues to divest from public education, more and more districts will be facing unprecedented financial distress,” said Mr. Demetriou.

## 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



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:

- Early College of Muskegon County
- Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana
- Muskegon Area Career Tech Center
- MAISD Regional Mathematics & Science Center
- Muskegon Opportunity
- Wesley School
- Educational Services Center  
630 Harvey Street  
Muskegon, MI 49442  
(231) 777-2637

[www.muskegonisd.org](http://www.muskegonisd.org)  
[www.twitter.com/maisd](https://twitter.com/maisd)  
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Intermediate School Districts throughout Michigan are celebrating 50 years of leadership, innovation and results.



[www.isd50.org](http://www.isd50.org)

## striving for access

Wesley School Physical Therapist **Megan Fox**, Speech Therapist **Kami Beilhartz**, and Occupational Therapist **Debbie Burkholder** updated the Board on the ways they are helping students with severe physical and cognitive impairments. Their mission is to help students successfully access the curriculum through a wide variety of strategies including computers, interactive white boards, switches, and specialized picture books. The MAISD Assistive Technology Team and other Wesley staff members are important partners in this work as well.

Ms. Fox, Ms. Beilhartz, and Ms. Burkholder shared examples of how students with hearing impairments, motor limitations, and restricted movement are learning in caring and fun ways how to express themselves, answer questions, and actively participate in reading groups and discussions. The team explained that ideally each and every Wesley student would have appropriate, individualized seating, a form of communication to express themselves, and a method of written communication that symbolizes themselves. While these ideals may seem simple to us, Wesley students need creative assistance and care to overcome barriers in order to reach these ideals. By providing students with helpful assistive technology and communication supports, they are now able to access the State Curriculum and move forward in the education process.

## purchases approved

The Board awarded the bid for replacement of the asphalt at the west parking lot at Wesley School to **Asphalt Paving, Inc.** at a cost of \$41,000.

The Board approved the purchase of Tyler MUNIS Annual Support and Maintenance from **Tyler Technologies** for \$85,362 for the period of February 2013 to June 2013. This represents the final year of a five-year agreement. The date was changed to align with the school fiscal year. This contract provides for software maintenance and telephone support used by the MAISD Technology Department to assist customer districts. These costs are covered by the annual fee charged to the districts. This contract provides for software maintenance and telephone support used by the MAISD Technology Department to assist customer districts.

## act 18 funds distributed

The Board approved the distribution of local districts' estimated share of \$1,800,000 of **Act 18** Special Education net available revenues. On an annual basis the MAISD distributes Act 18 Special Education funds to all LEAs and PSAs. The MAISD is currently making the initial payout for 2012-13. A second payment will be made in August 2013, with a final settlement after the State completes audits of Special Education costs.

## literacy series to launch

The Board approved the **Head Start/Early Head Start Family Engagement Goals**. The Office of Head Start has prioritized two overarching goals on which Grantees should focus: School Readiness & Family Engagement. The regulations require establishing goals for each of these topics. The Family Engagement Goals were developed using national research provided by the Office of Head Start and inserting local program strategies. The Head Start Policy Council reviewed the goals during their March meeting.

## calendar approved

The Board approved **Wesley School's calendars** for the 2013-14 school year. The Basic School Year calendar reflects 182 student contact days and the Extended School Year reflects 200 student contact days. There are also five professional development days for both calendars.

## ctc students to travel

The Board approved the overnight student field trips for 31 Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) students from three health programs to attend the **HOSA** State Competition on April 10-13, 2013, in Traverse City.

The Board also approved the overnight student field trips for 38 MACTC students from various programs to attend the **SkillsUSA** State Competition on April 18-21, 2013, in Grand Rapids.

## ecmc to add mentor

The Board approved the addition of a **Mentor-Early College** of Muskegon County position to support the expanding program and new cohort of students in the 2013-14 school year. The Mentor of ECMC works with the Dean in a partnership to provide students with a program of support that includes coordination of services and opportunities provided by Muskegon Community College and the student's home district, thus enabling students to attain a high school diploma as well as an Associate's Degree at the end of grade 13.

## isd trains on new platform

MAISD's School Improvement Team has been providing training and support to administrators and school improvement teams regarding the new **ASSIST** web-based platform to complete all school improvement reporting requirements. Three professional development sessions were held which included a total of 78 participants representing all local districts within Muskegon County. Within the school improvement process, districts and schools are required to review and analyze various data sources to determine effectiveness of curriculum, programs, and instruction.