



# news from the board

*Summary of information from the June 16, 2008, MAISD Board Meeting*

## **2007-08 MAISD Board Members**

Peggy E. Scouten, President

John Swanson, Vice President

Edward Garner, Secretary

Donna J. Fiebelkorn, Ed.D., Treasurer

Dwight Vines, Trustee

## **board approves new fee schedule; maintains low cost services**

This month the board approved a fee schedule for 2008-09 for certain services provided to constituent and non-public schools. The charges for **New Teacher Training, Technical Assistance, and Compliance Services** have been eliminated. The MAISD will continue to offer New Teacher Training and Technical Assistance services free of charge. **Guest Teacher Central Registry** fees are no longer being collected as well, as 11 of 12 districts have contracted with PESG to save money. The *Superintendent's Technology Committee* plays a key role in determining reasonable fees for **technology services**. This group recommends the fee schedule to the Superintendents' Association. They review and approve the schedule before the MAISD Board acts on it.

For the first time in four years, local districts will see an increase in the per FTE fee for technology services due to the expansion and improvement of data-related services. The MAISD has invested over \$1 million into a new financial system that all local districts will transition to in the next few years. Access to this system is included in the \$1 increase per FTE charge. The MAISD has also added a new data warehouse product to its list of services at no cost to local districts for three years. In addition, districts have the option to purchase unlimited bandwidth for their internet connections at an increase of \$1,400.

The MAISD continues to build on its strong history of adding services and upgrading systems with minimal fee increases. An annual \$800,000 MAISD contribution allows us to continue to assist local districts while maintaining lower fees than that of any other ISD offering the same breadth of services.

Susan W. Meston  
MAISD Superintendent

## construction trades students complete 15<sup>th</sup> home

The Muskegon Area Career Tech Center recently celebrated the completion of its fifteenth home constructed for Habitat for Humanity. All 15 homes were built by high school juniors and seniors participating in the “Construction Trades” classes. Prior to 2003, the homes were built through a cooperative career and technical education program through Muskegon Public Schools. Construction of this year’s home, located at 1926 Valley in Muskegon, allowed students to demonstrate skills that include block and brick masonry, concrete flatwork, rough framing, siding, heating/ductwork, plumbing, residential wiring, finish carpentry, and cabinet installation. HVAC/R (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration) students, along with Electrical/Electronic Technologies students, also assisted in the completion of the home in their respective areas.



## backpack giveaway

This summer 2,400 students in pre-K through 12th grades from throughout Muskegon County will once again receive free backpacks stocked with school supplies. The “Back to School” team that makes the free backpacks a reality is led by the Nazarene Community Resource Center and includes representatives from each church distribution site, local businesses, community agencies, community education directors, MAISD staff, Head Start staff, and other early childhood and public school staff.

The group is currently in the process of raising \$30,000 in financial support through local businesses, churches, and private donors. Churches will distribute the backpacks to the first 300 students accompanied by a parent or guardian. The “Back to School” event serves as a resource fair for families as well. Licensed hairdressers volunteer their time to provide \$2 haircuts and families will be given a free lunch, dinner, or snacks. Health and human service agencies will provide resources, and hearing, vision, and diabetes screenings will be offered.

## back to school backpack distribution sites

<b>Saturday, 7/26/08</b>	The Lakes Community Church of the Nazarene, Moorland Campus
<b>Thursday, 7/31/08</b>	The Lakes Community Church of the Nazarene, Eastwood Campus
<b>Saturday, 8/1/08</b>	Holton United Methodist
<b>Tuesday, 8/5/08</b>	Calvin Christian Reformed
<b>Saturday, 8/16/08</b>	Laketon Bethel Reformed
<b>Thursday, 8/21/08</b>	Lebanon Lutheran
<b>Saturday, 8/23/08</b>	Samuel Lutheran
<b>Thursday, 08/28/08</b>	Mission For Area People

## explaining grad rates

Late this summer the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will release redefined graduation rates for every public school. The new rate will be calculated by tracking individual students who first enrolled in ninth grade in fall 2003 and graduated four years later with a regular diploma. Continuing students, who were not reported as diploma recipients, will be recorded for accountability purposes as “off-track.” Some students, on a case-by-case basis, may obtain a one-year extension to the four-year requirement. These include students enrolled in middle colleges, English language learners, students with disabilities, and medically fragile students. The use of this new formula will mean decreases in the graduation rates for most schools in Michigan. MDE, CEPI (Center for Educational Performance and Information), and MSPRA (Michigan School Public Relations Association) have created tools to help schools explain the new graduation rates. They are available at [www.michiganedusource.org](http://www.michiganedusource.org) by scrolling to Communication Tools and clicking on Graduation Rates Toolkit.

## budgets presented

The **annual budget/truth-in-budgeting hearing** was held just prior to the June board meeting. The tax levies for the General, Special Education, and Vocational Education Fund Budgets were presented. The Cooperative Education (Head Start), School Lunch and Capital Projects Fund Budgets were presented as well. During the meeting that followed, the board approved budget amendments for 2007-08, the 2008-09 MAISD budgets, and the property tax levy for 2008.

## contracts approved

The board approved contracts with the following vendors:

**Pioneer Resources** for food service for Wesley School for the 2008-09 school year.

**Hackley Life Counseling** to operate the You-Turn Program for the 2008-09 school year. You-Turn provides expelled students with a structured academic environment and programming in life skills.

**Reading Writing Project Network, LLC**, of New York for the Home Grown Summer Institute on Writing.

**Document Based Questions (DBQ) Project** training and classroom materials for the Teaching American History (TAH) Project.

**Teacher Created Materials Publishing Company** for training and classroom materials for the Teaching American History (TAH) Project.

**Asphalt Paving** of Muskegon for asphalt replacement and added parking spaces in the lot at the administration building.

**Wirtz Electric** of Muskegon for electrical upgrades to the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center. Emergency shut-off switches will be replaced with a new emergency shut-off switch and key-operated reset device.

## software approved

The board approved the annual purchase of software support for the **CIMS (Comprehensive Information Management System)** student management system from Weidenhammer of Pennsylvania. The support will include updates, fixes and support for modules that are used in day-to-day operations. The contract will be shifted to Weidenhammer to ease the eventual

transition to a new student management system. This fall MAISD staff and school district representatives will begin researching new systems and plan to extend a RFP (Request for Proposal). The goal is to have the new system in place by fall 2009.

## **federal review complete**

The **Head Start** federal review team has completed their evaluation of Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana. The informal feedback was very positive. This fall we expect to receive a formal written report from the federal government that will then be presented to the board when it is received.

## **lead-free training held**

**Head Start** recently partnered with the **Muskegon Community Health Project** and the area's **Lead Free Coalition** to sponsor local trainings for professionals in the area of childhood lead poisoning prevention. Participants learned how to prevent childhood lead poisoning using effective strategies and tools, many of which are targeted toward educating parents/families.

## **physics applied in park**

**Amusement Park Physics** is one of three student programs supported by the MAISD Regional Mathematics & Science Center. Designed especially for 5th-8th grade students, the program provides an opportunity for students to apply their mathematics skills and knowledge of physics concepts in the authentic setting of an amusement park. This year's event, held on May 14 at **Michigan's Adventure**, involved **943 students** and **127 adults** (teachers and school volunteers). One-hundred forty-four student teams, representing 22 schools, completed the eight problems designed by the Math/Science Center.

Six of the eight problems were scored using percent error (from the accepted value) to determine the winners. Teams from **Muskegon Heights Mathematics & Science Academy** placed first and second in the Overall Winners category, and a team from **Muskegon Technical Academy** was the third place Overall Winner.

## **nine graduate/celebrate**

Nine **Wesley School** students received their certificates of completion on June 10. The ceremony was attended by many family and friends. The graduates were joined by nearly 300 Wesley School graduates, alumni, friends, and family to celebrate the annual prom on June 5.

## **civic ed**

Local students are promoting changes in public policy and learning about the process through **Project Citizen**, a federally funded civic education program directed in Michigan's 2nd Congressional District by David Klemm, MAISD Social Studies and School Improvement Consultant. Ten teachers were trained in the program this year, resulting in 12 local projects. Project Citizen provides students an opportunity to learn about state and local governments and how to make a difference in their communities. Groups of students identify problems, consider several policy solutions, and develop an action plan to carry out their chosen solution. A deeper understanding and commitment to civic life develops in students because they ask why a problem exists in their communities and how the root causes can be addressed. Research shows

that students involved in the program have greater civic knowledge and skills and are more likely to stay involved in public life.

## changes in personnel

The board adopted employee retirement resolutions honoring **Marjean Fritz** for 34 years of service and **Marva Roberts** for 19 years of service to the MAISD.

The board acknowledged the retirement/resignation of **Shari Graham**, Program Director for School Student Progress and Assessment/Language Arts, effective October 1, 2008.

The board approved the employment of:

**Tina Harmon** as Curriculum Consultant for the Special Education Department.

**Elissa Penczar** as the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) Restaurant, Catering and Culinary Management Instructor (transfer from employment by Muskegon Public Schools)

**Michael Lorey** as the MACTC Welding Instructor (transfer from employment by Muskegon Public Schools)

**Kirk Kolberg** as a MACTC Building Trades Paraprofessional

**Tiffany Bonjerno** as Administrative Assistant for Registration

The board named **David Krebs** to the position of Program Director for the Math and Science Center and **Annette Smith** to the position of Financial Projects Specialist.

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**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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