



news from the board

Summary of information from the June 15, 2009, MAISD Board Meeting



2008-09 MAISD Board Members

Peggy E. Scouten, President

John Swanson, Vice President

Edward Garner, Secretary

Donna J. Fiebelkorn, Ed.D., Treasurer

Dwight Vines, Trustee

isd board member recognized for 15 years of service

This month the MAISD Board of Education recognized **Mr. John Swanson** for his numerous contributions to the ISD Board and the children it serves. His current term will expire on June 30, 2009.

Mr. Swanson has held many leadership positions during his 15 years of service, including five years as board president. He has played a key role in our organization's success and growth in delivering critical programs and services to local school districts. Mr. Swanson is extremely knowledgeable in the areas of school finance and asset management. He has provided a valuable perspective gained from his previous seven years on the Ravenna school board and in his position as owner and CEO of the national Swanson brand pickles.

We will miss Mr. Swanson's leadership, and we thank him for his years of dedication.

Susan W. Meston, Ph.D.
MAISD Superintendent

isd offers in-depth training for educators this summer

The MAISD is a busy place this summer as preparations are made for a variety of multi-day training events. Starting June 22, a five-day **REAL Science II Summer Academy** for high school biology educators will be held. Teachers will use modern laboratory science equipment to learn the principles and applications of bio-technology in the analysis of DNA and proteins. (Chemistry teachers attended their own REAL Science Academy June 15 - 19.) The four-day **Home Grown Summer Institute on Writing** for kindergarten through eighth grade educators also begins on June 22. Teachers will interact directly with experts from the *Teachers College Writing Project of New York City*, as they transform their classrooms into *Writing Workshops*. In July the five-day **West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative Institute** for kindergarten through 12th grade science and social studies educators will be offered. An eight-day **Teaching American History Summer Institute** will also begin in July. The summer will wrap up with the two-day **Teaching, Learning, Creating Early Childhood Conference** to be held August 17 and 18. 175 early childhood educators have already enrolled!

seeking public input

On **Monday, June 22, 2009**, at 6:30 p.m., Representative Joel Sheltrown (D-West Branch) and other legislators with an interest in House Bill 4410 will gather at the MAISD for a **Town Hall Meeting**. The meeting will offer parents, students, teachers, school board members, business leaders, and others the opportunity to express their opinions about adding a career and technical education (CTE) option to the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) requirements for high school graduation, effective for the 2011 graduating class. The option, outlined in House Bill 4410, would mean that students could choose either a CTE pathway or the MMC pathway to receive a high school diploma upon graduation. The CTE pathway would allow students to choose relevant coursework in CTE, which continuously evolves to meet the needs of employers in our local communities.

Town Hall Meeting with Lawmakers **Monday, June 22, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., MAISD**

To view the bill go to www.legislature.mi.gov

Click in the "Bill Number" box within the "Legislative Bill Search" section and Type 4410

biennial election results

During the biennial election on June 1, local districts elected **Ms. Barbara DeBruyn** to the MAISD Board for a two-year term. Ms. DeBruyn has extensive board experience including her service as current board chairperson for the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. She has also served on the boards of the United Way, Employers Association of West Michigan, and Muskegon Area First Business Advisory Group. Ms. DeBruyn recently retired as the Vice President, Chief Financial Officer of SAF-HOLLAND USA, Inc. She has an MBA with an accounting emphasis from Grand Valley State University. She resides in the Mona Shores school district.

Current ISD board members **Dr. Donna Fiebelkorn** (six-year term) and **Mr. Dwight Vines** (four-year term) were re-elected to the ISD board. All terms begin on July 1, 2009.

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, School Lunch and Capital Projects Fund Budgets were presented as well. During the meeting that followed, the board approved revised final budget amendments for 2008-09, the 2009-10 MAISD budgets, and the property tax levy for 2009.

service fees stay flat

The board approved a **fee schedule** for 2009-10 for certain services provided to constituent and non-public schools. The fees will remain the same as those charged in the 2008-09 school year for Regional Educational Media Center (REMC), data management, and Internet services.

head start grants sought

The board approved the submission of a **Head Start Expansion** grant. The proposed request would service an additional 67 children. The 2008-09 maximum waiting list was 265 income-eligible children. If the full request is granted, one new classroom will be added in the White

Lake area. All other slots will be allocated to existing delegate classroom configurations, adding revenue with minimal impact on expenses. This is stimulus funding subject to end in two years.

The board approved the submission of an **Early Head Start** grant. The community currently lacks an Early Head Start program; about one third of Head Start communities nationwide operate an Early Head Start program. The MAISD proposes to serve 84 pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. The program is a 52-week/full-year programming commitment. The program would serve 60 families in home-based settings and 24 children in center-based classrooms. Employees would be hired at the district level with minimal staff additions at the grantee level.

The board approved the submission of a Head Start grant to the Chicago Regional Office for **One-Time Program Improvement Funds**. Program Improvement Funds are intended to allow Head Start grantees to make one-time investments in addressing health and safety issues and/or in improving program quality. The MAISD applied for funding to purchase additional mobile vision screening equipment, replace bus safety harnesses, and for assorted improvements at delegate locations, such as playground enhancements.

students back on track

Middle schools from nine Muskegon County districts and five Newaygo County districts participated in an after-school, web-based program called **Back on Track: Ready for Algebra!** Over 300 eighth grade students were enrolled in 48 hours of mathematics support provided and facilitated by a highly-qualified teacher at each middle school. *Back on Track* was specifically designed to assist eighth grade students whose MEAP scores indicated a high probability for experiencing difficulties with Algebra. *Back on Track* is a partnership between the MAISD Regional Mathematics & Science Center (as part of Michigan's Math/Science Center Network), Michigan Department of Education, and Michigan Virtual University. CompassLearning® provided the on-line program.

physics applied in park

Twenty-two middle school teams participated in the MAISD Regional Mathematics & Science Center's Amusement Park Physics Student Program held on May 20, 2009, at Michigan's Adventure. Students from around the state solved problems using their mathematics skills and physics principles in an authentic setting. Nine schools with 368 students from Muskegon County attended. A total of 1,322 students participated, an increase of approximately 350 students as compared to last year's attendance.

mactc classes underway

The Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) **Summer Fun** program for middle school students is now underway with 178 students enrolled. These students selected from 16 classes in a variety of occupational and academic areas. Classes were held June 15-18, and will begin again on June 22-25.

MACTC and **Special Education** staff from the region will be piloting two exploratory classes this summer for special education students with cognitive impairments from the Fruitport and

Mona Shores districts. Students enrolled will receive 24 hours of instruction in Landscape and Greenhouse Operations as well as 24 hours of instruction in the Restaurant/Foods area.

schools added to project

Mona Shores' **Churchill Elementary** and Reeths-Puffer's **Central Elementary** will join 22 others schools in the county as part of the Michigan Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSi) project. MiBLSi is meant to improve reading skills and reduce problem behaviors.

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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