



## news from the board

*Summary of information from the October 19, 2009, 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

Peggy E. Scouten, Trustee

## **governor meets with school leaders at maisd; urges engagement**

On October 23, Governor Granholm met with Muskegon Area school board members, superintendents, and MEA members at the MAISD. Less than 24 hours prior, she announced an additional \$127 cut to the foundation allowance unless revenues could be raised. Urging all of us to “engage” with our legislators and support efforts to raise revenues, she stated, “I’m asking you to help, because your voices are much more powerful than mine when it comes to those who represent you.” The Governor agreed that a longer-term solution to the school funding structure is also needed. The combined effort of school board members, superintendents and the community is critical to having a voice in Lansing.



Susan W. Meston, Ph.D., Superintendent, MAISD

## **local math teachers explore new content emphasis**

Last month teachers for grades three through five learned more about the new **Michigan Mathematics Focal Points** (the recommended content emphasis for each grade level). The Focal Points were developed for kindergarten through eighth grade by the Michigan Department of Education with input from educators around the state, including the MAISD Regional Mathematics and Science Center (MRMSC) staff. This work was based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Curriculum Focal Points. The MRMSC is now hosting professional development sessions to help teachers explore the Focal Points, investigate them as the “focus” of instruction, and understand the new expectation designations and definitions (core and extended core items). Teachers will learn how the Focal Points impact the 2009 MEAP and will identify and prioritize action steps as well. MRMSC will offer additional Michigan Mathematics Focal Points sessions for teachers of sixth through eighth grade in January, kindergarten through second grade and third through fifth grade in February.

## free musical offered

On **Tuesday, November 10, 2009**, fourth grade students will have the opportunity to attend the musical, **“Full Mouse, Empty Mouse, A Tale of Food and Feelings.”** This performance is being offered to all fourth grade classes in Muskegon County at the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts. The entire cost of the event, including transportation, is covered for all local fourth grade classes. The musical’s purpose is to raise awareness of how stress can lead to the development of eating problems in children. In a fun and entertaining way, “Full Mouse, Empty Mouse” offers age-appropriate tools to overcome life stressors. The stage production is based on the book by Dina Zeckhausen, Ph.D., and is directed by Judy Johnson, who is well-known and highly experienced in theater production. An additional free performance will be offered to the public that same evening. Call 231-739-8800 for details. Alecia Hoppa, Prevention/Health Consultant, participated in the planning of this event.

### **“Full Mouse, Empty Mouse” November 10, 2009**

#### **Sponsors:**

Community Foundation for Muskegon County  
Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts  
Lakeshore Eating Disorders Coalition  
Muskegon Area Intermediate School District  
Muskegon Civic Theatre  
Muskegon Community Health Project  
United Way of the Lakeshore

## collaborative formed

The MAISD is one of 33 Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) to form an **ISD Curriculum Collaborative**. The purpose of the collaborative is to:

- 1) work toward development of high-quality, viable curriculum for local school districts in Michigan across all subject areas in the Michigan Curriculum Framework;
- 2) leverage resources across ISDs through collaborative efforts in curriculum and professional development to serve local districts better;
- 3) provide curriculum materials and professional development programming to all ISDs beyond what any could provide alone; and
- 4) provide advice to MDE on matters related to curriculum and instruction.

The group developed from a series of informal meetings in November 2008.

## career tech update

Mike Carpenter, Muskegon Area Career Tech Center Principal provided an update on the programs hosted by the MACTC this past summer. “Summer Fun” was held the last two weeks of June and involved 180 students. The sixth through eighth grade students chose from 15 programs. Most enrolled in multiple classes. Mr. Carpenter shared photos of the students involved in a variety of hands-on activities related to heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), graphic arts, construction, crime scene investigation, culinary arts, early childhood development, welding, and computer repair. The MACTC also hosted a summer camp for students with cognitive impairments. The 15 students participated in hands-on activities related to culinary arts and landscaping/greenhouse management. The courses were co-taught by MACTC instructors and special educators.

## **bid awarded for lot**

The board awarded the contract for the parking lot resurfacing and expansion at Wesley School to Wood Trucking. The parking lot was reconfigured to allow students to be dropped off nearer to the building.

## **contracts renewed**

The board approved a contract renewal with Lisa Rutherford and Sherry Rose to provide nurse practitioner and consultation services through an agreement with the Michigan Department of Community Mental Health from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. The MAISD is acting as the financial reporter for this agreement with the Michigan Department of Community Mental Health, which provides for clinical and administrative consultation for the Child and Adolescent Health Center Program.

## **funds help those at risk**

The board approved a contract renewal with Catholic Charities of West Michigan for case management for at-risk families of birth to age five children through September 30, 2010. The contract funds a part-time person to work in the agency's Healthy Families program, focusing on prevention and early childhood development activities with families of young children. The scope of work aligns with the objectives of the Great Parents/Great Start funding, which pays 100 percent of the contracted cost via the MAISD as Grantee.

## **isd moves to voip system**

The board approved the purchase of a new Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) ShoreTel phone system from Sirius Incorporated, located in Holland, Michigan. A new telephone system is needed due to the deterioration of the current system. Moving to a VOIP telephone system will allow greater flexibility for technology staff and end users. The new phone system will also save the MAISD money by utilizing the current fiber network for phone connections and requiring fewer phone lines from a local telephone company. This VOIP solution will be scalable so that it can be offered to local districts that may be interested in utilizing the fiber network connected to this new phone system.

## **bus purchase approved**

The board approved the purchase of one 2009 60-passenger bus through Capital City International Trucks, Inc., d/b/a Capital City Bus Sales. This is the second new bus to be purchased for Head Start this grant year.

## **open house draws 518**

The MACTC Open House was a huge success with 518 visitors in addition to the staff and student ambassadors in attendance. This year's theme was "Picture Yourself," which focused on imagining oneself in a variety of occupations. Life-size cutouts were prepared depicting occupational professionals with student photographers snapping pictures. The Marketing/E-Commerce Silent Auction was very successful, raising \$900 to be used to support students attending DECA student leadership and competitive events. Enrollment at the center is up with a total of 770 students enrolled.

## special needs training

The MAISD recently offered a series of training sessions for Instructional Assistants (IA) who work with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Many of these students are placed in general education classrooms with the support of an IA. The series was designed to help staff become more aware of the characteristics of students with ASD and its impact in the school environment. Strategies for academics, positive social interactions and behavior were addressed and demonstrated.

## igor pd

Professional development for the “IGOR” data warehouse project will be offered this year, focusing on the school improvement cycle and how the data warehouse can be used to help with this process. This professional development will be conducted for school improvement teams and is being funded through grants offered through the Michigan Department of Education.

## laptop buy

The board approved the purchase of 33 laptops for professional staff at Wesley School from Entre Computer Services in Muskegon, Michigan. New HP laptops are needed to replace older machines. The purchase will include docking stations which provide easier mobility and addition of peripherals.

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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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