



PASSING *notes*

Excellent with Distinction

by Superintendent Dale A. McVey



Once again, the Hilliard City School District received the top rating of “Excellent with Distinction” on the state’s 2009-10 Local Report Card.

According to the Ohio Department of Education, we met 26 of the 26 indicators on the report card this year and our performance index score increased to 101.9, the highest index score the district has ever received.



Among the 610 school districts in Ohio who are rated, Hilliard City Schools is one of only 29 districts that have received the “Excellent with Distinction” rating all three years since its inception. That is quite an accomplishment for a district of our size and diversity. I commend our students and staff for their commitment and dedication to excellence, and I want to recognize our community for the support and involvement with our schools that is so critical to our continued success.

So, what is the story behind the rating? It is the staff member who goes the extra mile to ensure understanding for a confused student. It is the 2020 efforts across the district to translate the curriculum into real-life

experiences that maximize learning. It is the struggling reader who, when given personalized instruction, begins to love reading. It is the parent or community volunteer who takes their personal time to mentor a child. It is both the large and small efforts in each building, every day, that brings a district this size to great achievement.

As we move through this year, we will do our best to share some of these special chapters that make up the success story of Hilliard City Schools. This district truly is the best of the best – as the rating “Excellent with Distinction” signifies. I look forward to our ongoing success this year with a renewed commitment to providing an excellent education for each and every child.

Breakfast with the Board

November 20, 2010

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

**Annex behind the District’s Central Office
5323 Cemetery Road**

Community members are invited to sit down with board members in a casual setting to share ideas, express concerns or ask questions regarding the school district. Coffee and donuts will be served.

2020 Initiative



Asian Educators Visit

This fall, the district played host to 73 visiting educators from China and Singapore. The educators met with district leaders, visited school buildings and talked with students and staff about the differences and similarities between Asian and American schools. The visit was a unique opportunity to hold conversation with our global neighbors, examine our 21st century skills and connect to our 2020 vision.

Dual Enrollment Partnerships

Through Dual Enrollment Partnerships, a 2020 program, students can get a jump start on their future by taking college classes in our high schools to gain both high school and college credit for a fraction of the typical price. There are currently more than 300 students taking advantage of the program through partnerships with Ohio Dominican University, Columbus State Community College, Kenyon College, Sinclair Community College and ITT Technical Institute.

Dual enrollment has saved families across the district hundreds of thousands of dollars in college fees. One example is a 2010 Davidson graduate who started her college career at Stanford this year with 45 credit hours from dual enrollment, allowing her to enter college as a sophomore. She saved \$53,000 in college fees with her credit hours!

Long Distance Learning

Long distance learning labs have been implemented this year for both a German 5 class and for the newly introduced Mandarin Chinese class. Both offerings are taught via video teleconferencing with a teacher instructing students in all three high schools from a remote location.

Through this technology, we are able to offer two highly specialized classes that we might not otherwise be able to provide. Additionally, long distance learning allows students to communicate through a medium that is now regularly used in many companies who do business nationally and internationally - affording them early exposure to skills they will need in the workplace of the future.

Student Housing Review

In direct response to 2020 recommendations, Hilliard City Schools has formed a student housing committee to take a look at our current grade level configurations for our elementary and middle level school buildings (K - 5th grade elementaries; 6th grade stand-alone buildings; and 7th - 8th grade middle schools).

The committee of teachers, administrators and community members will determine if our current building arrangements are still effective for today's learners or if we should consider a change.

The committee's work is currently underway and should be completed with findings reported to the Board of Education in February.



Financial Update

The district's state funding is down again this year, and we have had to absorb a 4% or \$1.4 million reduction in funding over this biennial budget. However, the school system has responded well to these difficult economic times, implementing more than \$6.5 million in budget reductions and efficiencies since 2008. Included in that amount is \$1.2 million in reductions this year to stretch the 2008 levy dollars into 2011.

A couple positive developments this fall will continue to help with the financial challenges. The recent jobs bill federal relief plan passed by Congress will provide the district with some additional funding intended to save education jobs. We plan to hold onto these dollars as a welcome boost for the coming school year.

In addition, the district's administrators, teachers and support staff have all come together and agreed to a one-year salary freeze, effective January 1, 2011. This freeze in pay will save the district a total of more than \$1.4 million in the next year.

With the help of all these concessions, we have been able to extend the 2008 levy dollars for an additional year, as promised. Now, we will need to return to the ballot with an operating levy this spring. Though the millage has not been determined yet, the district will pursue the lowest possible rate that will allow us to maintain quality educational programming and continue to provide the excellent education the community has come to expect.

Facebook & Twitter

Hilliard City Schools has entered the world of social media! "Like" us on Facebook and sign up for our "tweets" on Twitter to gain real-time access to news and information concerning our school district. Go to our homepage at www.hilliardschools.org for direct links to our Facebook and Twitter pages.



District Seeks Senior Citizen Involvement

Superintendent Dale A. McVey is forming a Hilliard City Schools Senior Council to provide another platform for senior citizens to be involved with the schools. The new council will consist of senior citizens from across the district who are interested in the school system and are willing to share ideas and feedback.

"We are very fortunate to have senior citizens in our community who give their time and energy to our schools on a regular basis," Superintendent McVey said. "We hope this council will provide an additional opportunity for more purposeful discussion and engagement with our seniors."

The Senior Council will meet with the Superintendent on a quarterly basis. Meetings will include presentations concerning new programming or issues facing the district. Open discussion will be encouraged.

Any senior citizen interested in becoming a member of the council should contact Carrie Bartunek, School Community Relations Coordinator, at 614-921-7012 or carrie_bartunek@hboe.org.

Board of Education

Andy Teater, President
Dave Lundregan, Vice President
Paul Lambert, Member
Doug Maggied, Member
Lisa Whiting, Member

www.hilliardschools.org

Student & Staff Highlights

National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists & Commended Scholars

Semi-Finalists

Darby High School

Hannah Sanders

Davidson High School

Brandon Mills
Kevin Rose
Anna Saelens
Akul Yajnik

Hispanic Recognition Scholar

Andrea Villena - Darby HS

National Achievement Scholar

Ilhan Dahir - Bradley HS

Commended Students

Bradley High School

Mariah Sasson

Darby High School

Jacob McCollum
Christina Ulrey
Andrea Villena

Davidson High School

Michelle McPhillips
Justin Soltesz
Kevin Stephenoff

Excellence in Teaching

Avery Elementary first grade teacher Julie Johnson has received the prestigious 2010 NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English) Donald H. Graves Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Writing which annually recognizes one K-6 teacher in the nation.

Quarter Horse Congress

Congratulations to Bradley High School senior Jessica Cornwell who won the non-pro freestyle reining championship at the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus.

International Taekwondo Champion

Congratulations to Darby High School sophomore Taylor Brennan who took the bronze at the Korea Open International Taekwondo Championship in Korea this year.