

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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August 20, 2010

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Kalamazoo Public Schools will be held on **Thursday, August 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marcy L. Peake, Secretary
Board of Education

The Board of Trustees, Superintendent and senior staff will have an informational meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's office area, and will also discuss any matters that may come before the Board.

- ❖ Please contact the Superintendent's Office in advance of the meeting if auxiliary aids or services for individuals with disabilities are needed.
- ❖ Official minutes of Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education open meetings are available for inspection within eight working days of the meeting at the Superintendent's Office, 1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
1220 Howard Street
August 26, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.

A G E N D A

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Attendance**
- IV. Announcements and Recognitions**
- V. Committee Reports/School Reports**
- VI. Correspondence**
- VII. Consent Calendar Items**
 - A. Minutes**
 - August 12, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - B. Business and Financial Reports**
 - C. Personnel Items**
 - Personnel Changes
 - D. Other**
- VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (3 minutes individual limit)**
- IX. Reports and Recommendations**
- X. Other Business**
- XI. Comments by Trustees/Superintendent**
- XII. Executive Session (if needed)**

Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, September 16, 2010.

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
1220 Howard Street
August 12, 2010 – Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

President Carol McGlinn called the August 12, 2010 regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1220 Howard Street.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Attendance

Board members present: Ervin Armstrong, Eric Breisach, Liz Henderson, Carol McGlinn, Marcy Peake, Patti Sholler-Barber, and Dr. Martha Warfield. Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice was also present.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions

Executive Director of Communications Alex Lee recognized several high school sports standouts: Cer Bolton from Loy Norrix High school for being runner-up in the MSHAA regional discus throwing event and participating in the state finals; Joe Billian from Loy Norrix High School for winning the MHSAA regional two-mile run event and participating in the state finals; Gabrielle Orbe from Kalamazoo Central High School (KCHS) for being runner-up in the MHSAA tennis regionals and participating in the state tournament; Khalidha Davis from KCHS for being runner-up in the 400-meter dash in the MHSAA regionals and participating in the state finals; D'Angelo Stevenson from KCHS for placing fifth in the state in the 100-meter dash; and Donovan Lewis from KCHS for placing ninth in the state in the high jump, and achieving the second highest jump on school record. Loy Norrix High School Athletic Director Andrew Laboe was also recognized, as was Kalamazoo Central High School Athletic Director Van Dickerson. Mr. Dickerson accepted the Certificate of Merit on behalf of Donovan Lewis, who wasn't able to attend the meeting. Family members and friends of the student-athletes were also recognized.

Mr. Lee congratulated three students from The Woodward School for Technology and Research (WSTaR) for their accomplishments at the Michigan History Day 2010 state finals: Aaron Felcyn, along with teammate Malik Hawkins Samuels, for placing third in the group documentary category, and Ryda Sundila for placing second in the individual documentary category. WSTaR principal Beth Yankee was also introduced, and accepted certificates of merit on behalf of Malik and Ryda, who were not able to attend the meeting.

Superintendent Rice recognized audience member Barbara Witzak, who will replace Patricia Coles-Chalmers as Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services. In addition, he introduced Gregory Socha, the new principal of Arcadia Elementary School, whose appointment was approved at the July 22, 2010 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Socha thanked the Board for the great opportunity, and Dr. Rice for recommending him to the Board. He said that he is excited to already be talking to Arcadia Elementary students, parents and staff, and thinks everyone will have a wonderful year.

The new principal of El Sol Elementary School, Kelly Alvarez, whose appointment was also approved by the Board at the July 22, 2010 Board of Education meeting, was also introduced by Dr. Rice. Ms. Alvarez expressed her gratitude for being able to meet the Board, and said that she is very excited about becoming an integral part of the El Sol community.

V. School Reports/Committee Reports

Committee Reports

Committee reports will resume when the 2010-2011 committee membership and meeting dates have been determined.

School Reports

None.

VI. Correspondence

Secretary Peake reviewed the correspondence received by the Board during the period of July 23-August 12, 2010. (File #3.)

VII. Consent Calendar

President McGlinn presented the Consent Calendar items: VII.A. July 22, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes; VII.B.1. Purchase Recommendation 2011-03 for \$21,677.77 from the Food Service fund for new food service equipment for Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts; VII.B.2. Annual Millage Resolution; and VII.C. Personnel Changes.

Implied motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Disposition: Voice vote: motion carried, 7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions.

Ms. Henderson requested clarification about agenda item VII.B.2. Annual Millage Resolution, since it is not the same as the county-wide millage. Deputy Superintendent of Business, Communication, and Operations Gary Start explained that this millage is a continuation of the district's debt retirement millage, which relates to the bond. He said the resolution also pertains to our operating millage, which continues to be 18 mills, and is a continuation of the millage that taxpayers paid for the 2009-2010 school year.

Regarding purchase recommendation 2011-03, Mr. Start confirmed for Mr. Breisach that the entire bid amount for the purchase of the new food service equipment went to a company located in the greater Kalamazoo area.

VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board

No one addressed the Board.

IX. Reports and Recommendations

There were no reports or recommendations.

X. Other Business

There was no other business conducted.

XI. Comments by Trustees

Patti Sholler-Barber: Announced that the first round of on-line Pepsi-Refresh Project voting was a success, and the First Day Shoe Fund initiative made it into the second round. She thanked *Kalamazoo Gazette* reporter Julie Mack for the newspaper publicity, and said that the organizers of the First Day Shoe Fund have received many inquiries as a result.

For the occasion of the last Board meeting of Pat Coles-Chalmers prior to retirement from the district, Ms. Sholler-Barber expressed to Ms. Coles-Chalmers the many ways that she has been a role model to countless young people, particularly young ladies, and observed that she will probably never know the full impact of her influence, encouragement, and advocacy. From a personal standpoint, Ms. Sholler-Barber thanked Pat for all that she has been to her.

Ms. Sholler-Barber also referenced a letter that Dr. Rice had shared with the Board from a young man who was so excited about receiving his books for summer reading that he said he waited at the mailbox each day in hopes of receiving them. She said the summer reading program is one of many projects and initiatives that Ms. Coles-Chalmers has had a hand in creating. Additionally, Ms. Sholler-Barber noted that there are still a few weeks of summer left, and stressed the importance of parents encouraging reading and spending time on educational activities or on the grade-level checklists to prepare children for returning to school.

Ervin Armstrong: Commented that Ms. Coles-Chalmers and he have a long history of working together, and reminisced about a very cold time in the gym at New Genesis when Ms. Coles-Chalmers came to address parents. He described the power of her “mama’s look” to diffuse inappropriate behavior. Mr. Armstrong also said that although Ms. Coles-Chalmers has already given much, he knows that she has much more to give, and will be blessed because she has blessed so many other lives.

Marcy Peake: Commented that Ms. Coles-Chalmers is, perhaps, the only person she has ever met who can hug anyone, have her hug accepted, and also returned. She thanked Ms. Coles-Chalmers for all she has taught her over the years, and expressed the thought that Ms. Coles-Chalmers’s legacy will continue through those, like her, who have been paying attention and watching, and learning things like how powerful a smile can be, especially when you need someone to agree with you. Ms. Peake also conveyed that the feeling of being valued that Ms. Coles-Chalmers placed within each of the many children with whom she shared her time and interest will always remain within them.

Liz Henderson: Thanked the Kalamazoo Promise donors for their gift that is bringing a great deal of excitement to the Promise students as they prepare to begin, or continue to fulfill, their college plans. In addition, she recalled a time 24 years before when the school that housed the classroom that her son’s grandparents had come to town to visit was closed, and how the new principal, Ms. Coles-Chalmers, graciously opened the building to them. She said everyone in the school community, and later in the district community, has appreciated the congeniality and grace with which Ms. Coles-Chalmers has conducted business.

Eric Breisach recalled the time around 20 years ago when his children were involuntarily transferred to King-Westwood, and how his visit to Ms. Coles-Chalmers’s office at the time began a long relationship, which will continue. He referenced some incidents that showed Ms. Coles-Chalmers’s wisdom of judgment of what is best for children, and how well she was able to halt inappropriate adult behavior with “the look.” Mr. Breisach also described the love that many former students still hold for her, and her for them. He said that he looks forward to Ms. Coles-Chalmers’s continued contributions to the district.

Dr. Martha Warfield: Thanked Ms. Coles-Chalmers for generously extending her friendship and making her feel welcome when she was a newcomer to the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and for demonstrating that sorority sisterhood is all about caring for other people. She said she looks forward to hearing about the “new jobs” that Dr. Rice will have for Ms. Coles-Chalmers after her retirement, including how she will make children want to come to school on time and every day.

Carol McGlinn expressed her appreciation for Ms. Chalmers’s dedication to the district. She said that she quickly noticed and was impressed with Ms. Coles-Chalmers’s positive, “can do” attitude, and also her well-known work ethic that has contributed countless hours to the betterment of the district’s children. She said that Pat has left a great legacy, and there is no better gift than what Ms. Coles-Chalmers has given for our kids.

Ms. McGlinn also noted that high school sports teams and band members are already practicing, and that this is an important preparatory time for all the kids at all grade levels, including those who are college-bound. In addition, Ms. McGlinn expressed her thankfulness for the donors’ gift, which has made life easier for families during this period of fall college tuition bills.

Comments by the Superintendent

Dr. Rice referenced Patti Sholler-Barber’s comment about Ms. Coles-Chalmers never knowing the impact she has made on children’s lives, and also an old Chinese proverb, which Governor Granholm has often quoted: “Leadership is planting seeds for trees under whose shade you may never sit.” He

said he thinks the benefit from the standpoint of Ms. Coles-Chalmers and the community is that she has been able to see some of those trees take shape and grow up, and she has actually been able to sit in some of the metaphorical shade that the children she has influenced have produced as trees.

Regarding the “mama’s look” Trustee Armstrong referenced, Dr. Rice said it is a “fierce look” from a fierce educator and administrator. Borrowing Ms. Coles-Chalmers’s description of some teachers, he said she has been a “stomp down” good administrator, colleague, partner, and friend. He noted that he does not use the “friend” label lightly, and that she has been a partner in all that they have created in this district in the past several years, and also noted her many years of previous contributions as principal of King-Westwood. Dr. Rice said that she and he have agreed to “no good-byes; only different hellos,” and “friends forever.”

Ms. Coles-Chalmers responded with a challenge: It is her expectation that the Board, superintendent, and administration will service all of our children all of the time, and give them not what they need, but more than what they need. She added that she also expects that they will put students and our children first, because that has to be our goal all of the time. We have to teach them, and they have to learn, but the Board and administration will be the ones to respond. Ms. Coles-Chalmers said that she also challenges the district’s leadership to treat all children as they would their own children, and to be mindful of the three words above the entrance to King-Westwood Elementary: pride, excellence, and respect.

President McGlinn announced that the next regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, August 26, 2010.

XII. Executive Session

President McGlinn did not call for an executive session, and adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat VerMeulen, on behalf of
Marcy L. Peake, Secretary
Board of Education

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.

DATE: August 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Personnel Changes

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board approve the following employment changes:

- I. Employment
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
Lori Talbott, 2F, Assistant School Secretary, Loy Norrix High School, 08/20/2010
- II. Promotions/Key Transfers
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
Patricia Tabbia, 2F, from Assistant School Secretary, Loy Norrix High School to Magnet Assistant School Secretary, Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts
Maria Varnesdeel, 4F, from School Library Assistant, Lincoln International Studies School to School Library Assistant, Wood Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts, 08/20/2010
- III. Leaves of Absence
 - A. Professional/Management
 - B. Classified
- IV. Terminations
 - A. Professional/Management
Mary Mazei, 2F, Elementary, El Sol Elementary School, 08/13/2010; resignation
 - B. Classified
Dayhne Carver 3F, Night Custodian, Prairie Ridge Elementary School, 08/20/2010; resignation
Sharlene Davault, 2F, Bus Driver, Transportation, 8/31/10; retirement
Mary Spradling, 2F, .3 Library Assistant, Edison Environmental Science Academy, 08/23/2010, resignation
Bonnie Terrentine, 3F, Achievement & Behavior Support Specialist, 8/20/10; resignation