

Good morning

Before we begin today's festivities I have a few reminders to go over.

For new staff needing to have their picture taken and for those who want an update or a retake, pictures are being taken in the kitchen from 7:30-12:30

There is coffee, juice, and water as well as other goodies on the table along the back wall. If you haven't already gotten something, please feel to help yourself.

If you have an agenda handy, you'll see that we will start the morning with some comments from our Board president, Mr. Steve Foster. We will then have an introduction of new personnel by their respective supervisors and we will follow that with the years of service recognition awards. At the conclusion of the awards we will hear from some very important people regarding the work that each of you do a daily basis. Our guest speakers who will speak in a few minutes tie directly into our theme of "MAISD is everywhere!" After hearing from them, we will conclude the morning with important updates from various departments.

At this point it is my pleasure to introduce Steve Foster, Board President as he will recap 2013-2014 school year as well as highlight initiatives for the 2014-2015 school year.

Onto new personnel.

Onto years of service.

At this point in the agenda I'd like to take some time to talk about the theme and give you some background on our guest speakers.

When our opening day planning committee was debating potential themes for this year we discussed many possibilities. In the end we settled on "MAISD- we are everywhere". We decided on that theme because we felt it was important to focus on the fact that the work that you do on a daily basis goes far beyond your classroom, your school bus, or your school building. It goes far beyond the city or town you work in or travel through, it goes beyond our county borders and our state borders and in some instances the work you do is felt on a global level. During our discussion we all agreed MAISD is truly everywhere. The children that you teach or transport and the families that we serve are all affected much more deeply than what you will ever know. The child you help has a family that is sometimes located nearby, sometimes not. Think about those that we serve as each having a web that connects them to others that are part of their lives. It's easy to fall into the trap of believing we are servicing a small group of children and families when in reality your work with them affects their aunts, uncles, grandparents, nieces, nephews all over the our state, our nation and most likely in some cases all over the world.

I was recently visited by a middle aged woman whose mother is currently receiving hospice services. Through this process they are identifying organizations for people to donate to at the time of her mother's passing. I was humbled to hear that her mother chose the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District as one of the beneficiaries. The daughter went on to tell that she was one of six children, three of which received services from our organization between 30 to forty years ago. She talked about the reverence, respect, and admiration that her mother still has for our staff and for our organization because of the outstanding service and treatment that her children received. She spoke of how her mother was a single mom who raised six children, three of which had disabilities and without our organization all of her children- those with disabilities in those without- would not have done as well in life as they were

able to. This is a testament to the statement that the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District is indeed everywhere. It is just one example of our staff having a positive effect on a family that- number one, spread far beyond the classroom and number two, has been felt for a long period of time. I guarantee that those teachers, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, food service workers, custodians, and administrators who were working with this family at that time had no idea how far of a reach both in space and time that their efforts would have on this particular family. Be assured that the work you are doing now is felt not only by the child in your room or on your bus, it is felt by their family and their friends and everyone else they are connected to both here in Montcalm County, across the state, and across the nation. And know that it will be felt for years and years and in fact it will be felt for generations to come. Our speakers this morning are living examples of what I have just shared. We have asked some former and current students and family members to take a few minutes and really share what the services you have provided to them have meant to them and what it may mean for them in the future. At this point I would like to ask _____ to come forward and share some thoughts. Now let's hear from _____. I would like to introduce _____. Our next speaker is _____. Finally, let's hear from _____. How about a round of applause for all of our speakers this morning. We appreciate you taking the time to come in and take part in our opening day ceremonies and in a very, very true sense confirm that the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District is indeed everywhere.

In your chairs each of you should have found a hand towel with our theme printed on it. The planning team decided this would be a good giveaway to reinforce the theme of MAISD is everywhere. We encourage you to take these towels with you as you travel both within the county, outside the county, outside our state, and maybe even outside of the country. If you aren't travelers we have some help for you. We have purchased backdrops with a variety of virtual destinations for you to visit this morning. As you leave here and throughout the day we encourage you to gather with your colleagues and take

photographs of yourself and others holding your MASB tells in these exotic locations these photos will prove beyond a doubt that MAISD is everywhere. We hope that you have fun with this activity. Please share your photos with your colleagues, families, and friends. And also feel free to share them with Penny as they may find their way onto our organizations Facebook site.

Now I would like and it is Ron Simon our associate superintendent for finance as he has some updates that he would like to share.

United Way information here.

Podcast information here.

Thank Board.

Thank Seiter Staff

Thank Penny

I would be remiss at this time if we did not stop and take a moment and remember one of our colleagues is not with us here this morning. On July 22, we lost an extremely dedicated and devoted teacher in Candace Oswald. Candace was a teacher at the ISD for 15 years. Her classroom was one of the first that I visited when I came to the ISD eight years ago. She taught in a variety of location including Walnut Hills, Greenville Middle School and Stanton. Please know that our organization has planted a tree in Candice's honor just outside of these doors on the grounds of the Seiter Center in the play area. Please feel free sometime today or in the future to stop by the tree and remember Candice and her giving spirit. At this time I would like to ask for a moment of silence in her memory. Thank you.

In closing I'd like to share a video with you that I believe really drives home this notion of our organization being everywhere. It's easy to get caught up in the day to day motions and lose sight in of the value of the work that we do. I encourage you to be mindful and proud of everything that you do for our children and families and know that your action and what you do has far reaching positive consequences that will go on for years to come and in ways that you may never know. Every time I watch this video I think of all of the work that you do and the services that you provide for our children and their families. I'm proud to be part of an organization that is so devoted to those that we serve and I'm fortunate to have you as colleagues and coworkers. I hope you enjoy the video.

This brings this morning's session to an end. If you are a CTE employee, you are asked to report back to the career center. General Education employees are to report back to their posts and special education employees are asked to remain in here for their next session. Again I'm pleased to welcome you back and I wish you good luck as you start the new year!