



**Ann Arbor Parent Advisory Committee
Board of Education Meeting
March 10, 2010**

Good evening. My name is Amy Shepherd and I have been involved with the Ann Arbor PAC for the past five years. I have two boys attending Ann Arbor Public Schools. One is a 9th grader at Huron and the other a 4th grader at Angell. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teaching team at Angell for their kindness, creativity and dedication to my child's education.

The PAC has met twice since our last report. We were happy to welcome Yolanda Bell, AAPS Transition Coordinator, to our meeting on Monday, Feb. 1st. She explained that the Transition Process, for students with IEP's and 504's, begins at age 14 when they begin to explore interests that could turn into careers after high school. At our March meeting, Larry Simpson shared the proposed budget cuts and we discussed how future cuts might affect students served by Student Intervention and Support Services.

We want to thank both Yolanda Bell and Larry Simpson for their presentations and for always providing plenty of time and consideration for the questions and discussions that follow.

We would also like to extend this Thank You to Dr. Roberts for meeting with the officers to discuss the budget issues facing the district. With these budget cuts in mind, the PAC is dedicated to helping the district raise awareness about the upcoming 2011 Special Education Millage Renewal.

I am excited to share that the Disability Awareness Workshops are, once again, in full swing. These hands-on, activity-based workshops are designed to teach an empathetic understanding of physical, developmental, and learning disabilities. The goal of our Disability Awareness work is to spread the message that disability is a natural part of the diversity of all communities. One in 5 Americans is a person with a disability – which makes people with disabilities the largest minority group in the nation. And, it's the only one that anyone can join at any time.

This year also marks the first time that we have not had to rent the workshop equipment from another district. After three years of fundraising and gathering items, we are proud to be utilizing our own equipment kit. So far, Eberwhite, Angell, Allen, Wines, and Ann Arbor Open have all held successful events due to the parents and volunteers who bring the workshops to life.

We would like to invite you to come and experience a workshop for yourselves. The remaining elementary school workshops are:

Friday, March 12th at Haisley

Tuesday, March 16th at Lawton

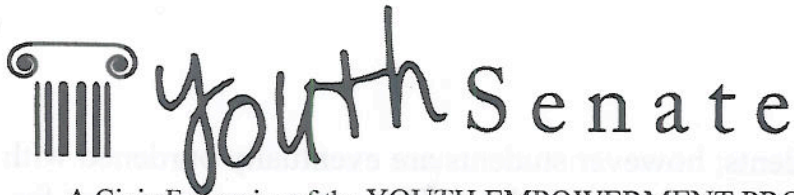
Wednesday, March 17th at Logan

Friday, March 19th at Dicken

Friday, March 26th at King

As always, we invite the public to attend a monthly PAC meeting; the first Monday of every month at 7pm in room B329 of Skyline High School. Due to Spring Break occurring during the first Monday in April, the next meeting will take place on the 2nd Monday of April, which is on April 12, 2010 at 7pm. Join us and experience the difference you can make in the lives of families whose students receive special education services

Thank you for your time this evening.



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3-10-10 Report to the School Board

Good evening Trustees and Dr. Roberts. We are Priya Menon and Lisa Liu; sophomore Senators from Skyline.

DISTRICT UPDATES

Fight Poverty in Africa Project

Last week, the Fight Poverty in Africa Project facilitated classroom simulations for health and social studies classes at Huron and Pioneer high schools. Students from Pioneer and Huron presented for approximately 10 minutes in each class on the abject affects of poverty on Africans, especially youth. Over 35,000 people die each day in Sub-Saharan Africa from preventable causes such as starvation, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and childbirth.

The students' goals for the presentation were to help their peers understand the severe cycle of poverty in Africa, why the suffering in Africa is relevant to their lives and how they can help.

After receiving training before and over break, a diverse group of 26 students from the Africa Project facilitated more than 100 presentations between both high schools last week. The students received an overwhelming response from their peers and raised \$700 from passing the can at the end of presentations, with the permission of each teacher. This spring, the funds raised through these presentations, combined with more from bake sales and other donations to the project, will be sent to TOSTAN. TOSTAN is a U.S.-based nongovernmental organization that, for over 30 years, has focused on the education of villagers in the areas of disease transmission, human rights, access to clean water and development of a governing council, including two teen representatives.

The Youth Senate and the Africa Project appreciate the support of Pioneer and Huron teachers and administrators for our efforts through this project. The sixth annual dance, *The Benefit*, is being rescheduled; the date will be announced.

Less Vacations?

During second semester, many junior and senior students are preparing for Advance Placement (AP) tests, SAT I and II tests, and final exams. At the same time, there are multiple Teacher Work Days or Professional Development, vacations, and school assemblies that disrupt teachers from preparing their students for these tests.

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Missing class is usually welcomed by students; however students are eventually burdened with an endless work load to make up for the altered school schedule. These tests are important for students and consequently, there should be less disruption on the flow of education to relieve stress for both teachers and students. Less vacations and breaks during the second semester might actually prove better for students!

SCHOOL UPDATES

Huron's Achievement Solutions Team

With the first semester completed at Huron High School, the Achievement Solutions Team (AST) students are excited about their progress. By second semester, 75 percent of failing grades were raised to passing grades. Students worked with assigned academic peer coaches and received help to set weekly and semester academic and personal goals.

Peer coaches are students with past experiences of overcoming academic challenges. Current AST students include students in grades nine through twelve representing a diverse set of racial, ethnic, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds. Students are currently developing their academic goals and strategies for attaining those goals for the remainder of the school year.

Community High and Earth Day

Community High is holding a week of festivities to honor April 22nd, Earth Day. This will also be building up to Community's Volunteer Day on April 28th, which the Forum Council voted to spend performing community service. The week of festivities, which begins April 19th, will be about eating healthy, helping the environment and having fun.

April 19th, Dress Like a Fruit Day/Meatless Monday: Try not to eat meat on this day.

April 20th, Salad Day: Salad making contest and a salad eating contest, winners will win shirts.

April 21st, Dress Like a Vegetable Day: Dress like a vegetable!

April 22nd, (Earth Day): Everyone is encouraged to not drive and teachers encouraged to not use paper. During forum, jazz bands will play on the back lawn, ultimate Frisbee and drawing on the back parking lot with chalk and other activities.

April 23rd, Farm Fresh Friday: TBA.

April 28th, Volunteer Day: All Forums will be required do community service; many will clean up parks and other places in Ann Arbor. It looks like an exciting week for Community!

Thank You to Trustee Lightfoot

The members of the Skyline Junior State of America and Achievement Solutions Team would like to thank Trustee Lightfoot for visiting our groups. Trustee Lightfoot spoke to us about our aspirations and goals, giving us advice and encouraging us. We would love to have you back

anytime and the Youth Senate is encouraging other student groups to have you as a speaker also. Thank you!

Skyline Forensics Team

The Skyline Forensics Team has recently experienced a considerable amount of success. The team has won three overall achievement trophies this year, competing at four Michigan invitationals (North Branch, Birch Run, Dexter, and Powers Catholic High Schools). Grace Pritula, Ilana Rashes, Nivetha Samy and Priya Menon all have placed in one of the top seven positions. A huge round of applause goes to the team's wonderful coach, Laura Sparrow, whose hard work and dedication played an enormous part in the team's numerous successes.

NOTE: Youth Senate Reports do not necessarily represent the beliefs and opinions of the entire district student body, nor any respective high school's entire student body. The Senate Reports to the School Board are always opportunities for diverse student voices to be heard.

Thank you for listening to the Youth Senate's Report, and have a good evening!

Prepared by: Priya Menon (SHS '12), Abraham Liddell (HHS '10), Emily Holmes (HHS '12), Jae Jung (HHS '11), Oliver Hill (CHS '12), Nicole Kulaga (PHS '10), Aoxue Tang (PHS '12)

Presenters: Priya Menon (SHS '12), Lisa Liu (SHS '12)

Contact: senate@youthempowerment.com or senate@aaps.k12.mi.us

County elected representatives. The committee will express our desire for stable school funding and the high priority of education funding in the face of difficult budget decisions. The committee will also engage in the active education of parents within AAPS on state school funding issues and ability to impact change.

The Advocacy committee will not support specific bills or legislation, support a partisan candidate, and or make partisan statements.

Success for the advocacy committee will be defined as a stable, known funding stream for education that adequately meets the needs of Ann Arbor Public School students.

The committee is open to all parents and staff of the Ann Arbor Public school district and has held its first organizing meeting. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Donna Lasinski @ lasinski@mac.com, 997-7265.

Please take time to e-mail your legislators about the importance of stable school funding. If you are unsure who your legislator is, go to http://house.michigan.gov/find_a_rep.asp, type in your zip code, and a list of your representatives will pop up for easy e-mailing! You can confirm your representative using the district map on the same page.

Your message can be simple and straight to the point.

"I am a concerned parent in your district who would like to see school funding stabilized and funding cuts halted. Education is top priority for me in my voting considerations. I am interested to know how you plan to fund our schools in a stable, consistent manner to ensure that our students are well prepared for the future."

EVERY PERSONAL E-MAIL COUNTS. It is the only way legislators know that we are paying attention!

Thank you.

Good evening, Trustees, I am Martine Perreault, chair of Ann Arbor PTO Council.

Anne Brod had been out Board of Ed rep for the past two years, and I regret to announce she has had to resign from the position. Anne has not been able to devote the time she feels she should to be able to continue in the position. We thank her for her contributions representing our Council to

the Board of Education, and look forward to her continued involvement on the Council.

Our seat here will be filled by our remaining board members, so we will be able continue our involvement at Board of Education meetings.

I'd like to give a brief recap of a few of the recent undertakings of the Council.

In addition to our monthly Council meetings, in February, we presented part two of our Officer Training series, Treasurer Training, part 2. Held at Clague Middle school on February 11, and presented in collaboration with the New Center and Board Connect, it was a continuation of last spring's well-received Treasurer's Training, covering more advanced topics for Treasurers.

In April we will be presenting a similar training for PTO Board officers, also presented by with the New Center, and Board Connect. April 29, at Tappan Middle School. PTOs may find more information on our website: www.tinyurl.com/PTOHome.

In addition we have been researching information for our PTOs on several topics, from procedural guidance for PTO spending in support of schools, making the best use of media and publicity, reviewing and updating PTO bylaws and governacnce.

 **Advocacy Committee:**

The PTO Council has kicked of an advocacy committee to voice the concerns of Ann Arbor Public School Parents on state level school financing issues.

The committee will be primarily concerned with active advocacy with Washtenaw

PTO Council Advocacy Committee



If you would like to join the
committee, addressing state-level
school funding please contact

Donna Lasinski

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734/997-7265.



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