

Darren S. Kroczaleski
Superintendent of Schools
January 25, 2010

From the desk of the Superintendent:

Reflecting on this busy past year, I feel we have definitely accomplished some wonderful things collectively. Though the focus this past year was mainly on our extensive construction/ renovation project, I felt this might be a great opportunity to share with each of you some of the other wonderful things we have accomplished over the past twelve months.

Before I begin, I want to thank the Board of Education for their support and continued encouragement. The bond could not have been passed without your support, and the construction project could not have been as successful without your oversight. Secondly, I want to thank the staff. Our District has a tremendous group of hardworking employees and Administrators who truly have a passion for the job they do and the students they serve.

2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

FACILITIES

- A lot of Board time and energy has been directed to facilitate the construction/renovation project which has been finalized on-time and under budget.
- We were able to hold the graduation ceremony for the class of 2009 in the new high school gym.
- A huge, community Open House was held in September to celebrate the project's completion. This was held in collaboration with a community tailgate party.
- The Site Committee continues to meet to ensure the project's punch list is completed and the project is done completely and properly.
- The construction/renovation project included many items in the new and updated facility at the high school/middle school project. These include, but are not limited to, new furniture, technology, network infrastructure, wiring and cabling, heating controls, blinds, updated security system, and landscaping.
- An experienced Property Service Manager was hired in March to ensure our new and older buildings and grounds are taken care of properly.
- Worked with Consumers Energy to obtain energy credits with new, updated equipment.
- Rummage sales were held to reduce surplus of unused and old equipment/items.
- New, updated Bureau of Fire Services Evacuation maps were distributed for the new facility.

- Site Committee fixed the guardrail by the student parking lot.
- Abatement completed for the High School/Middle School complex.
- Completed the demolition of the old industrial arts building as well as clean up of the area.
- Purchased new stage lighting and sound system.
- Purchased utility vehicle for snow plowing.
- Purchased van paid for with tribal grants.
- Purchased 4 off-lease buses in July with a 5 year note from IBT.
- Approved and completed installations of new roof on annex and bus barn.
- A community Plant the Seed project was arranged at Linwood Elementary.
- Fixed parking lot and infields at Linwood Elementary.



STAFF

- Provided professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators at the elementary and middle school who attended "guided school improvement sessions" to help with school improvement process.
 - Informational flyers presented at the Midland Community Center due to potential school closings in the Midland area.
- Hired a new Drama Director.
- Provided Professional development opportunities for clerical staff on customer service and phone training.
- Many meetings were held with the Board Policy Committee to approve the NEOLA policies.
- Received an award from Set-Seg to recognize the district's safety record for property/casualty insurance.
- Developed new fundraising policy to ensure adequate cash controls.
- Held two H1N1 flu clinics in collaboration with the Bay County Health Department.
- Updated race-ethnicity forms for the district as required by the state for students and staff.

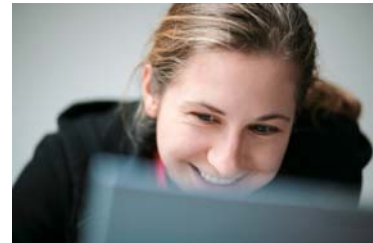
CURRICULUM

- Continued availability of our Great Starts Great Parents preschool program.
- Continued with a Summer Academy to offer academic recovery credits.
- Approved on-line learning for high school credit in July.
- Updated Curriculum Maps and End of Course Tests in the High School/Middle School.
- Received positive reviews from MDE on our Title 1 onsite review in the spring of 2009.
- Implemented Pearson Testing program at high school for all End of Course Tests.
- Working with the Bay Area Chamber for Bay Commitment Scholarship opportunities.
- Purchased 150 8th grade social studies textbooks.
- Finalized textbooks for Michigan Merit Curriculum.
- Implemented Junior Renaissance Program.
- Turned over driver's training to the King of the Road in February.
- Implemented RenPlace at Mt. Forest Elementary.



TECHNOLOGY

- Created online discipline system at the high school/middle school.
- Placed on web and updated, district color-coded calendar on-line access.
- Updated District Technology Plan.
- Placed all the district contracts on-line.
- Made available the General Fund check registers on-line to increase transparency.
- Presented new payroll/web inquiry available to staff.
- Made NEOLA policies available on-line.
- School Messenger software was approved and in use for community and district events to increase communications.
- District implemented participation in providing MDE electronic transcripts for colleges.
- Implemented new substitute system and training on WillSub.
- Purchased new and remanufactured copiers for the district.
- Purchased document cameras and projectors for elementary classrooms using the High Priority Grant.
- Updated website to reflect new curriculum maps.
- Implemented data warehouse to aid in school improvement.
- Purchased new High School/Middle School computer lab with Title IIA funds.



BUDGET

- Applied for ARRA funds (stimulus).
- Held many special board meetings regarding the district's financial crisis.
- Prepared a Voluntary Severance Package for the teachers.
- Meeting with the unions regarding our district and the state's financial crisis led to the USW and Administrator's giving concessions to help with our budget.
- Participated in county-wide board meetings to collaborate regarding budget information.
- Met with legislators in Lansing and locally to discuss budget concerns.
- Reduced Athletic Budget by \$40,000 due to financial situation.
- Developed, in cooperation with USW and Arnold Sales, more efficient custodial procedures.
- Ensured district cooperation with the State for Race To The Top federal funding
- Renewed the Food Service contract with Chartwells in April.

Things to look for in 2010

- A Board of Education that strives to continually remain student-centered and focused on helping all students achieve success.
- Ensuring the completion of all punch list items for the construction/ renovation project.
- Continuing collaboration with the ISD to improve educational opportunities for students.
- Continuing efforts with our Board Strategic Goals.
- Continuing to seek grants that could assist our District.
- Participating in future county-wide board meetings to increase collaboration efforts.
- Working toward ways to continue to improve our student's learning and meeting curriculum and graduation requirements to enable our students to succeed.
- Begin working on establishing our Administrative guidelines with NEOLA services.
- Using data warehouse to research and improve the educational focus.
- Continuing to work on ever-changing federal and state guidelines to create a top educational experience for our students.
- Continuing to explore reductions/restructuring with increased educational needs and lower revenue.



In Conclusion . . .

Pinconning Area School district has the capacity to make a difference in the best interest of our students by always striving to maximize our educational efforts. With the current staff and Board in place, Pinconning Area School District will continue to move forward and be a leader in educational excellence.

I sincerely thank each Board member for allowing me to serve you. The time and energy you give to our students and staff does not go unnoticed. Though a lot of time is spent with facilities and budgets, you always keep our students' education as the focus. Your dedication is a reflection of the excellent academics we provide here at Pinconning. Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you and provide a better opportunity for our students and community.