

Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

Feb. 22, 2007

Participation continues on new Strategic Plan

Starting next week, Thursday nights will be Strategic Planning nights for Metro Nashville Public Schools.

The meetings are the next step in the creation of the district's new MNPS Strategic Plan to accomplish the district's objectives over the next seven years. Schools Director Dr. Pedro Garcia has invited the community to participate in the creation of this roadmap to the future in an unprecedented effort to ensure the 2007-2014 plan is as inclusive as the city it reflects.

After dozens of community awareness meetings, nine Action Teams will begin meeting March 1 – and every Thursday night for a total of 10 weeks. Each team will map out a blueprint for accomplishing one of the strategies on the chart below.

More than 200 people have already generously agreed to donate this sizable amount of time and effort to ensure the future of our public schools is at the forefront of our city in the coming years. Volunteers can still participate by going to www.mnps.org, clicking on the New Strategic Plan link at left and then completing the online application form. Volunteers who have already signed up will be notified by telephone or email by early next week.

	Action Team Leader	Co-Chair	Facilitator	Board Member/District	Meeting Location
I. We will support each student as the operative agent in the successful discovery and pursuit of his/her personal goals.					
	Susan Whitworth Ris�� Pope	Manuel Fonseca	Elois Freeman	David Fox/ 8	J. T. Moore Middle 5:30-8:00
II. We will ensure all students achieve academic excellence.					
	Cherish Pich�� Michael Ross	Elizabeth Knox	Sam Braden	Ed Kindall/ 7	Croft Middle 6:30-8:00
III. We will provide all students with safe and nurturing learning environments.					
	Renita Perkins Pam Stockett	Lt. David Williams	Henry Flenory	George Thompson/ 1	Taylor Stratton Elementary 6:00-8:00
IV. We will ensure that we have exemplary staff throughout the system.					
	Janette Carter Margie Johnson	Kathy Nevill	Debby Gould	Jo Ann Brannon/ 2	Gra-Mar Middle 4:00-6:00
V. We will ensure an array of educational options for each student to pursue his/her personal goals.					
	Greg Patterson Kay Rackard	Lynn Stuart	Deirdre Reed	Gracie Porter/ 5	Lockeland Elementary 5:30-7:30
VI. We will ensure a network of personal support for each student.					

	Jim Overstreet Rob Sasser	Avi Poster	Brenda King	Karen Johnson/ 6	Una Elementary 5:00-7:00
VII. We will immerse all families in their children's education.					
	Alvin Jones Brenda Steele	Kathy Buggs	Enoch Fuzz	Marsha Warden/ 9	Eakin Elementary 4:00-6:00
VIII. We will ensure the convergence of schools and communities to achieve student success.					
	Jim Briggs Sheila Woodruff	Marc Hill	Harold Finch	Pam Garrett/ 3	Hull-Jackson Elementary 5:30-7:30
IX. We will establish MNPS as the premier educational system for ensuring every student excels at levels not previously imagined.					
	Wayne Parker Ervin Tinnon	Dan Surface	Rodger Dinwiddie	Steve Glover/ 4	Stanford Elementary 4:30-6:30

Open Enrollment enters final week

The final date for student transfer applications through the Open Enrollment process is Feb. 28. Families in Davidson County may choose from a list of schools with available space and request a transfer without being required to provide a reason for their request. If the transfer is granted, families are responsible for transportation to the new school and the student must maintain satisfactory attendance, conduct and effort to remain in the school. For more information and an application form, go to "Quick Links" at www.mnps.org. This year's open enrollment schools are:

Elementary – Brookmeade, Chadwell, Cumberland, Dodson, Dan Mills, DuPont, Gower, Hermitage, Inglewood, Rosebank, Tom Joy, Tulip Grove

Middle – Bailey, Bellevue, Cameron, Dalewood, Gra-Mar, Litton, Oliver, Two Rivers, West End

High – Hillsboro, Pearl-Cohn, Stratford, Whites Creek

2007-2008 Metro Schools budget

The MNPS Board of Education is expected to approve a final version of the district's 2007-2008 Operating Budget at its meeting Feb. 27. The \$571.2 million budget represents an increase of just 1.1% over the 2006-2007 budget, while the district's required expenses for employee salaries, benefits and inflationary costs have risen by 3.4%. That creates the necessity to reduce current services, including 100 custodians, 40 teachers and other staff and supplies.

This is the earliest budget cycle ever required for MNPS – and revenue estimates from both the state and the city could eventually provide more money for schools. School Board members have prepared for this scenario with the proposed Unfunded Priority List copied below:

1	\$1,658,500	Match the expected state raise for teachers by adding a 1.61% raise for all support employees
2	4,752,000	Restore 40 teaching positions and add 50 for additional student enrollment
3	669,200	Add 14 High School Registrar positions
4	1,885,000	Restore 50 of 100 custodial positions
5	2,005,200	Increase reading textbook purchase to include all grades from K-6
6	75,000	Match grant funding for Scientists in the Classroom
7	1,605,800	Increase the COLA raise for teachers and support staff to 2%
8	168,000	Restore 5 attendance worker positions
9	1,885,000	Restore remaining 50 custodial positions
10	378,200	Add funding to match potential state grant for up to 10 new PreK classrooms
11	1,128,105	Increase per-pupil supply money to schools from \$35 to \$50
12	150,000	Fully fund STARS, a counseling service for students
13	211,200	Add 4 Math Specialist
14	431,200	Add general office assistants to 14 small schools with no assistant principal
15	567,300	Restore PALS program to 8 teachers
16	300,000	Add 4 technology technicians to keep IT plan on 5-year implementation track
	\$17,869,705	Total Unfunded Priorities

Glencliff High students earn national certification

Five seniors in the Culinary Arts program at Glencliff High have earned the title of Certified Dining Room Associate from the Federation of Dining Room Professionals.

Under the instruction of Chef Mary Campbell, the students passed the federation's extensive computer-based test on their knowledge of the techniques and etiquette required in the nation's finest dining facilities. The rank, which entitles the students to add "D.R.A." on their business cards, opens the door to employment or post-secondary study at the country's top culinary schools. Furthermore, the students are among an exclusive group which has earned the certification, because Chef Campbell knows of no other high school that offers this program in the state of Tennessee.

The students, who received their certificates in a ceremony at Glencliff last week, are Hazhin Salih, Shelan Sinjo, Barez Faraj, Beybin Salman and Helbin Shemsulldin. The five young women are planning to attend college and plan to study either nursing, early childhood education or culinary arts.

MNPS students to study at MIT

It won't be a typical spring break trip for 12 of Metro Schools' most talented eighth- and ninth-grade science students selected to spend a portion of their vacation studying with

some of the country's best scientists. Instead, the students will travel to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston March 20 through 23 for an exploration of scientific possibilities.

The trip is the Adventure Science Center's highly selective second annual Science Ambition Mission. Southwest Airlines will provide free air transportation for all 12 students and their mentors, while the Adventure Science Center will pay ground transportation, hotel, food and program expenses for the group. MNPS is grateful for our community partners such as the Adventure Science Center which make such meaningful learning experiences available to our students.

The participants this year are: Devonte Duff, grade 8, Dupont-Tyler Middle; Zuki Maisha, grade 8, Head Middle; Rachel Smith, grade 9, Hillwood High; Benjamin Almassi, Sam Blumenthal and Erin Duck, all grade 9, Hume-Fogg High; Elana Rosenthal, grade 8, J.T. Moore Middle; Aaron Broder, grade 8 and Dah'jyon Walden, grade 9, M.L. King High; Lisa Starke, grade 9, Nashville School of the Arts; Isaiah Bolden, grade 8, Rose Park Middle; and Thuy Trieu, grade 8, Wright Middle.

Meigs honors oldest living alumna

Hattie R. Grady, 96, will be the guest of honor at the second annual Black History program Feb. 23 at Meigs Magnet Middle School. Grady, who still lives in the East Nashville area where Meigs is located, is the oldest living alumna of the historically black school.

The theme for this year's celebration is "HOPE" – H for History, O for Opportunity, P for Portraits and E for Endurance. An alumni reception will be held in the multi-purpose room immediately following the program, which begins at 8:30 a.m. Meigs is located at 713 Ramsey St.

Schools benefit from Airport Authority golf tournament

Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority Board Chairman James H. Cheek and President & CEO Raul Regalado presented checks totaling \$63,989.72 to the McGavock Middle School Cluster and McGavock High School.

The generous donation, presented Feb. 21, is part of the Airport's consistent efforts to foster and promote art and music programs in the six Metro schools. The money came from the proceeds of the 11th Annual Aviation Classic Golf Tournament, held in September at the Hermitage Golf Course.

Metro Schools Director Pedro Garcia was on hand to express the district's appreciation for the Airport Authority's unwavering support since 2003 – a sentiment echoed by the six principals of Dupont-Hadley Middle, Dupont-Tyler Middle, Donelson Middle, Margaret Allen Middle, Two Rivers Middle and McGavock High. Each of the schools will use the funding to benefit and support art and music programs for their respective students.

