

Intermediate
School
District 917

Intermediate School District 917

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ISD 917 BOARD NOTES

March 6, 2018

Regular Board Meeting

917 Teacher and Employee Of the Winter Quarter

Congratulations to Amanda Peters — 917 Teacher of the Winter Quarter!

Amanda is the Lead Teacher for the Juvenile Services Center, Speech, OT, DAPE and Options and is a role model to those she works with. She is knowledgeable, works great with all staff and is always willing to listen. Amanda is professional yet practical and realistic, she is approachable and understanding, she is a team player and assists her co-workers in any way possible from helping with evaluations to helping with assistive technology resources. Congratulations Amanda!



Congratulations to Cheri Godfrey— 917 Employee of the Winter Quarter

Cheri is a brailist for 917. She transcribes braille and creates tactile materials for students who are low vision or blind. Cheri is a go to person for adapting materials needed in member districts and programs within district with students who are blind/visually impaired. Cheri is very organized and gets things done in a timely fashion. Cheri also has experience as a para with a student who used braille. She understands the needs of students in the classroom and adapts materials tailored for each student's needs. She is able to think outside the box to make tactiles that can be used in a variety of ways.



PERSONNEL

Haley Benson, Classroom Assistant, effective February 26, 2018.

Paige Bjerke, Classroom Assistant, effective March 5, 2018. David Johnson, Classroom Assistant, effective February 13, 2018 (from Student Assistant to Classroom Assistant). BreAnne Kalina, Administrative Assistant II, effective March 5, 2018. Jennifer Kerkhoff, Classroom Assistant, effective February 26, 2018. Kathryn Kettler, Program Assistant, effective March 12, 2018.

Kevin McCabe, Custodian, effective February 12, 2018. Ashley Platz, Classroom Assistant, effective January 23, 2018 (from Student Assistant to Classroom Assistant). Laura Sulfita, Classroom Assistant, effective February 26, 2018. *Resignations & Terminations:* Russell Anthony, Computer Technology Teacher, effective June 8, 2018. Jean Beattie, Special Education Teacher, effective June 8, 2018. Tracy Schantzen, Program Assistant, effective April 3, 2018. Erica Somers, Classroom Assistant, effective February 7, 2018. *Retirements:* Claudette Lamprecht, Special Education Teacher, effective August 3, 2018. Jackie Pille, Program Assistant, effective July 1, 2018. Dave Rippelmeyer, Special Education Teacher, effective June 8, 2018.

DONATIONS:

Donation of \$25 to the TESA Program from Costo of Burnsville, to be used for student activities. Donation of \$600 from Bijan Riahi of Eagan, to the Youth Transition Program to support the cost of lunches for students. Donations were matched through the Benefiting Community Impact Fund, a fund of the American Online Giving Foundation and their participating corporation, Apple Inc. (Value: \$1800)

Calendar Information

March 20, 2018 - 10

AM to 6 PM- Special School Board Meeting (first round of Supt. interviews), 917 Board Room, DCTC



April 3, 2018 - 4:30

PM, Board Work Session (prep round 2 of interviews), DCALS North, 150 E. Marie, West St. Paul

April 3, 2018 - 5:00 PM - Regular School Board Meeting, DCALS North, 150 E. Marie, WSP

April 10, 2018 - 2-6 PM, Second Superintendent interviews, 917 Board Room

April 17, 2018 - 4:30 PM, Special Board Meeting, (approve finalist), 917 Board Room

April 25, 2018 - 3:45 PM, 917 Staff Recognition, DCTC Dakota Room

May 1, 2018 - 5:00 PM, School Board Meeting



Condolences

Our condolences go out to *Sara Tuvey, Teacher at the Youth Transition Program in Burnsville*, on the passing of her mother *Joann (Miller) Tuvey* from Janesville, Minnesota. Joann was 76 years old.



Our condolences to *Sharon Seeling, Health Associate at Lakeville North DASH Program*, on the passing of her husband "Raleigh" Seelig. Raleigh passed away of cancer on February 24, 2018. Raleigh was 67 years old.

Our condolences to *Jane Robinson, Teacher at the Youth Transition Program in Burnsville*, on the passing of her father, *Gene McDermott* of Faribault., on February 28, 2018. Gene was 85 years old.

Superintendent Search Information

Superintendent Search Consultant Ken LaCroix reviewed with the Board the applicants for the position of Superintendent of ISD 917.

The Superintendent Search Committee (Jill Lewis, Bob Erickson, Melissa Sauser, and Russ Rohloff) reviewed all applications thoroughly and recommended five finalists to be interviewed. The full board approved the recommended finalists.

Interviews will take place on Tuesday, March 20, beginning at 10 AM, in the 917 Board Room. Interviews will be conducted in an open Board meeting. The five finalists are:

Janell Bullard—Special Ed Director—Meeker & Wright Cooperative
Marcy Doud—Assistant Supt/Special Ed Director—ISD 197
Melissa Schaller—Special Education Director—ISD 917
Mark Zuzek—Principal at Hastings Middle School
David Helke—Principal at Burnsville High School

If you have any questions, you may contact Ken LaCroix at 651-210-3598.

Reports and Motions

- **Jennifer Hetland** reported on the Options Program and Youth Transition Program review.
- **Melissa Schaller and Eric VanBrocklin** reported on planning for program and service expansions that will or may be coming up for next year. For the powerpoint presentation, go to the website under School Board, Board Meetings, Agendas.
- Motion passed approving the Assistant Directors' Terms and Conditions Contract, the Business Manager, Director of Special Education, Secondary Education Principal, and Technology Coordinator contracts for 2017-2019. Full summary available on the website under School Board, Board Meetings, Agendas.

Special Education—Good News

- **Ann Mayes** has been involved during the summers with the Commission for Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans. She was asked to join their collaborative effort and then was involved in a work group on IEP meetings in the summer of 2015. Ann ended up becoming the lead writer for their discussion guide focused on IEP meetings. Then in the summer of 2016, she cowrote the scripts for the webinars with an Intermediate District 916 teacher who is also a parent of a deaf son. This past summer in 2017, they refilmed all of the webinars and Ann involved **Luke Stadelman (a student who is deaf in our LNHS program) and his mother (also an assistant in our preschool program for learners who are D/HH)** to join her for the mock IEP meeting focusing on transition. The webinars, in addition to the discussion guide, are now live and can be seen here: <https://mn.gov/deaf-commission/news/?id=1063-325413>.
- At Lebanon Education Center the Student Activity Committee has established a Student Council. Students in middle school and high school classes were eligible to sign-up. Interviews were held with each applicant, and they all did AMAZING! The Lebanon Student Council has 10 student members that will organize activities for students throughout the rest of the year. They meet every other Tuesday for a half hour and have done a great job so far coming up with ideas and working together.
- ISD 917's TESA and DCALS programs will be hosting their 1st 2017-2018 school year Work-Based Learning (WBL) Advisory Committee meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 27th. The advisory committee assists the WBL coordinators in building, maintaining and improving our WBL program. This advisory committee will be comprised of parents, students, administration, teachers, local, county, and state business owners. The goal of this committee is to place our work-based learning students in competitive job opportunities while attending either the TESA or DCALS programs. Agenda items for this meeting include student status, student placement, employment trends and employment and curriculum connections.
- Staff in the CASE program have spent time reforming their commitments to students and re-training on some basic skills to increase consistency. It has created a renewed energy in this program which is important as we look forward to the continued growth.
- All licensed staff at Alliance Education Center have worked together to design some changes to the building starting next year. It has been amazing to see such a large team of staff work side by side to create an even better program for all of our students, families, and member districts.

GOOD NEWS—DCALS

- We have had 6 students from DCALS North mentoring with the students from Branch Out for the last few months. These students have been working as social mentors in activity and interest groups alongside the Branch Out students and all of the staff have nothing but positive words to say about their performance. The DCALS students are learning as much from the Branch Out students as the Branch Out students are learning from the DCALS students. This has been a wonderful pairing between districts, and is the second year that we have done this; I hope to continue this pairing for many years. The DCALS students are earning credit towards graduation by volunteering their time in addition to the credit that they are earning in their normal classes. A few of these DCALS students have siblings with special needs, so they have been right at home in working with their Branch Out peers.
- I would like to also mention that **Sue McIntosh and Tracy Berg, the Branch Out Case Managers and Lead Teachers** have been wonderful partners in facilitating this learning experience, along with all the other Branch Out support staff. Please help me to thank them for agreeing to this opportunity for DCALS students to continue to learn through life experiences here at school.
- On February 7th students from the DCALS program had the opportunity to tour and learn about water filtration systems at the SUEZ Water Technologies and Solutions site in Minnetonka. Thanks to **Bob and Linda Berg** for connecting us for this tour.
- **Paul Landwehr, Construction Trades Teacher for ISD 917 and Eric Van Brocklin** met with a potential partner for construction of a new house as part of Paul's class next year. This partner has the potential for having our program build multiple houses over the next few years. When we have confirmation of the agreement we will share more details. We are also working with the Dakota County 4-H to possibly build a small "Malt Shop" trailer for use at the Dakota County Fairgrounds and other venues sponsored by the 4-H group. **Steve Harrison, Blackhawk Tile and Stone** and house owner, had one of his employee's help with tile setting on the house that is currently being finished for him.



GOOD NEWS—DCALS



- The **Dakota County Perkins Consortium** held it's 4th Annual Career and College Fair at Hastings HS on Thursday, February 22nd. We had over 120 vendors and close to 1200 students attend this event. There were many opportunities for students to try hands-on activities, meet with college/military reps, and some industry participants were actively recruiting for employment. **Lynn Colvin, Career Counselor at Hastings HS** deserves much praise for highly effective organization of this event. Also a big thank you to **Patrick Lair-DCTC Student Success Coordinator, Bob and Stephanie Meinke, a variety of students from Hastings HS, and Mike Johnson-Principal of Hastings HS** for making this event another great success.
- On February 15th students and staff from the DCALS sites were able to visit and tour the Target **Center and MN Timberwolves/Lynx facilities**. This tour is courtesy of Jim Buffo- Partnership Sales Manager for the Wolves/Lynx and a graduate of Hastings HS. Students were able to see and hear about all aspects of careers contained within this organization.



GOOD NEWS—DCALS

- The Food Industry Careers Annual Gingerbread Gallery was moved to February for Valentine's Day this year. It was held in the East Commons. Over 300 people came and viewed the houses. The students did a great job decorating. The 2018 Gingerbread Village Winners are:

2nd Shift:

- 1st Place: **Mackenzie Stephas- TESA** (Valentine Heart Cottage)
- 2nd Place: **Michael Bacon- Branch Out- West St. Paul** (Log Cabin)
- 3rd Place: **Elizabeth (Betsy) Lerbs- Branch Out- West St. Paul** (Around the Campfire Cabin)

3rd Shift:

- 1st Place: **Leihla Wilson- Kennedy HS – Bloomington** (Garden Vines Cottage)
- 2nd Place: **Yessenia Lopez-Mendoza- Kennedy HS- Bloomington** (Pagoda House)
- 3rd Place: **Stephen Roth- Simley HS-** (Cherry Mania)

Winners of Gingerbread House Giveaway: Bob Erickson- Lakeville School Board Member; Dick Bergstrom – Bloomington School Board Member; and Judy Stoos- TESA paraprofessional staff member

- **Food Industry Careers Instructor, Cherry Cramer**, attended the Minnesota Association of Family and Consumer Sciences 2018 Annual Conference in Rochester, MN. In addition to many wonderful keynote speakers and breakout sessions, Cherry connected with the Minnesota Pork Producers and Minnesota Beef Council. Both organizations will be part of helping create a menu item for the Cheery Café to be held April 10, 11, 12 and April 17, 18, 19. The Pork Producers donated a \$20.00 check for pork product in the classroom- one to the Food Industry Careers program and one to the Fundamental Chef program. In addition they donated 3 food thermometers for Student of Distinction winners in the Food Industry Careers program.

COMING SOON The Cheery Nook Café

- Food Industry Careers and Fundamental Chef Training students will be operating the Cheery Nook Café April 10, 11, 12 and April 17, 18, 19. Parents, relatives, students, teachers, staff and school board, are invited to attend. Customers are needed to make it a great learning event for the students. Serving times will be 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-1:30 p.m. each day. The menu is currently in the making. Items will include salads, soups, entrees, and desserts. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Contact Cherry Cramer, Instructor at [651-423-8225](tel:651-423-8225) or cherry.cramer@isd917.org to reserve your spot!
- DCALS held a Student of the Quarter celebration on Friday, February 16th. The following students were recognized for improvements during 2nd Quarter. **Brianna Babbitt, Brandi Bohn, Taylor Buus, Nick Clark, Malachi Gillam, Meghan McNamara, Lila Munson, Kaylee Prantner, Alvin Thammavongsa, Virginia Walker, Emily Westerdahl**. Other students were given gift cards as part of a drawing for positive attendance from McDonalds, Chipotle, and Kwik Trip. These cards were purchased with money that was raised through the Rosemount Chipotle Fundraiser in January.
- DCALS has created an amazon wish list - and we've had an amazing response! Snacks, food and school supplies have been donated to our food shelf. Staff and students have really appreciated the generosity shown to them. **DCALS Wish List**. Link: <http://a.co/fKec9FW>
- We have 11 DCALS students graduating March 2nd -- Mod 8 for a total of 51 graduates so far this year.

GOOD NEWS—DCALS

- **Chef Patty went to Sonnet Montessori School in Lakeville** and decorated Valentine cakes with a total of 40 students, all under 4.5 years old.



- **Kari McElveen's** culinary students visited Chef Patty LaBeau's Fundamental Chef Training class on Wednesday 2-28-18 from 10:00-11:45 AM. These students were able to work in our commercial kitchen and prepared a hibachi meal, including beef, chicken, & vegetables, plus hibachi rice with yum yum sauce. The students experienced more than a full class period and also learned about the other career & technical education class offering here at ISD # 917.



GOOD NEWS– Special Education

- The Lebanon Student Council held their first event for the year, and it was a success!! Each class was asked to decorate their door (or a whole hallway in some cases) with a summer theme. Classes were judged on creativity, most use of color, and best representation of a summer theme. Staff and students each got one vote and the Student Council tallied up the totals to decide on the winners.

Creativity: **Trainer/Smith**

Most use of color: **Thames**

Best representation of summer theme: **Moga/Riesgraf**

Grand Champion (most votes overall): **Dunlap/Blackert**

The Grand Champion will get a handmade trophy and all 4 winners will receive an ICE CREAM SOCIAL hosted by the Student Council.

To view all the pictures, go to www.isd917.org, under About, School Board, Agendas and Minutes and click on March 6, Regular School Board Meeting, and look under Agenda Packet, Good News Report, Sp. Ed. Good News.

- Teacher and mental health practitioner from Lebanon Education Center, Jessica **Sinkinson and Bonnie Korman**, took their middle school class to the Science Museum in downtown St. Paul. They spent the day seeing all the great exhibits and even got to watch the Omni theater movie, Rocky Mountain Express. The students said they liked the vibrating chair, the sneezing girl, the stegosaurus, and the fact that Ms. Sinkinson wanted to smell the mummy. They did not care for the Omni theater movie, but still liked the opportunity to see it. Staff said they had a VERY enjoyable day and want to go again. The students were well behaved and very polite.
- Another team from Lebanon Education Center, **Ashley Dunlap and Terra Blackert**, took their high school class to Feed My Starving Children in Eagan. They packed food and labeled it for transport to Haiti
- The winter Olympics was celebrated at Lebanon Education Center. **Mary Callister, PE Teacher, and Amy Hurla, MHP**, created two weeks of Olympic activities for students. Students have participated in passing the torch from one classroom to another, taking the Olympic oath, tracking medals earned, and learning about the history of the Olympics. Students have designed their own gold medal to be displayed in the hall. Each day in physical education students participated in Olympic games including the biathlon (scooters and throwing a ping pong ball at a target), speed skating (skating on mop heads), bobsled (scooters taped together), curling (sliding pucks down the hallway to a floor target), and hockey shooting. Students also participated in the Olympic flag scavenger hunt, identifying the country and continent. Lastly, closing ceremonies were celebrated by each classroom (country) developing an activity and students rotating from classroom to another participating in that country's activity.

GOOD NEWS—Special Education

- As part of **Brenda Szoka's** transition class at Cedar SUN, students have been given the opportunity to expand their job skills. Brenda's class has just recently partnered with the Open Door Mobile Pantry. The Open Door is a hunger relief organization dedicated to ending local hunger through access to healthy food. Through its collective programs, the Open Door serves almost 5,000 Dakota County residents each month, and distributes over 1 million pounds of food annually, 70% of which is fresh and/or perishable. Clients are able to access healthy food choices through a fixed-site food pantry in Eagan, multiple Mobile Pantry sites (including monthly stops at Cedar, Lebanon, and Alliance), the Mobile Lunchbox, and the Garden to Table program. Students and staff volunteer their time and talents at the Mobile Pantry warehouse located in Apple Valley. The group is involved in sorting donations, stocking shelves, separating large quantity packages and repacking items for distribution. Last week the class worked on bagging diapers, juice boxes, and dry pet food. The students have done a nice job learning new skills and learning to work as a team. The students enjoyed the variety of jobs. They are proud to be part of the Mobile Pantry knowing that they are helping fellow students receive items that their families need.

In addition, Ms. Szoka's class has been busy collecting and recycling plastic shopping bags. They have taken these bags and folded, cut and tied them together to make plarn (plastic yarn). The plarn has then been crocheted into a sleeping mat. The class has completed three mats this year. They have been donated to homeless shelters.

- Our school social worker in the TESA program was concerned that students were unprepared with food to eat during the school day. Having adequate food impacts learning, mood, and general well-being. As a result, the school social worker began searching for another way to meet this need without overusing their personal resources to supply food to students that need it. This including seeking for donations from several community grocers, one of which being Costco. When the application for donation was dropped off to Costco, they were generous enough to approve a \$25 gift card on the spot! This money will be used to purchase healthy snacks for students on an emergency basis.
- On Friday February 16, 2018 parents, families, and friends came out to Lakeville North High School to cheer on PACES, DASH and DHH students in the 2018 PACES Winter Olympics. Since early January, DAPE teacher, Danielle LaFrance coached and trained the students in adapted floor hockey, curling, the luge, and speed skating. **Occupational Therapist, Cindy Jacobs**, made gold medals for each student. A special shout-out and "thanks" to the paras, related service providers and teachers who made this event a huge success. See you in 2022!

