

Carstens is Named a Top Five School in State

Why is Carstens Elementary School, in a decimated east side neighborhood, such a success? Answer: the staff quit the blame game.

The staff decided to do everything to meet the needs of the whole child. If that means a student needs a coat, there's a closet at Carstens with clothes. If it means feeding a hungry child, it's done. They call it no-fault decision making.

"We go out and get it for the kids," says science teacher Elbert Bennett Jr. "We're not blaming the parents. We're not blaming downtown. We're coming together to make this the best building we can."

The reform of the building started about 12 years ago with the principal, Dr. Theresa Mattison and her staff. Mattison was not hierarchical by nature. She listened to teachers' ideas and delivered what they needed.

"It starts with her," said language arts teacher Vilanda Prograis. "She has mopped floors and wiped tables. She takes kids home throwing up in her van. You never see her dressy and prissy."

According to Prograis, Dr. Mattison turns to them for their best solutions. In return, she gets their professionalism, their expertise, and their dedication. She gets retirees to volunteer at the school and a business owner to donate a turkey to each family at Thanksgiving.

For all this toil, the garden feeds the family. The school regularly receives Adequate Yearly Progress and was honored by the Michigan Department of Education as one of the top five Title 1 schools in the state making significant growth.

The school raised its language profi-

ciency scores by 59 percent and its math scores by 80 percent since 2005-2006.

"The efforts of the entire staff are

reflected in your student proficiency scores," said Mike Radke, Assistant Director in MDE's Office of School

Improvement.

"It's teamwork here," Prograis says. "And there's no 'I' in teamwork."



Carstens students and teachers Elbert Bennett, Jr., Vilanda Prograis and Deborah Limage, hold the school's latest awards.

District Looking to Layoffs, Concessions

The Detroit School Board's budget for the 2009-2010 year has potential negative implications for members of the Detroit Federation of Teachers. On June 29, Emergency Financial Manager Robert Bobb announced that an additional 685 employees would receive layoff notices (which categories of employees is not yet known), bringing the total to 2,451.

The budget also calls for nearly \$87 million of labor concessions to be negotiated.

Although the layoffs and budget cuts result in a budget surplus of \$17 million for the 2009-2010 year, the district still has a deficit of \$259 million from previous years that needs to be repaid. In addressing the deficit, Bobb announced that the dis-

trict is considering all options, including bankruptcy.

DFT President Keith Johnson said the budget outlook was "devastating." However, he has put in place a seasoned negotiating team that is continuing to bargain.

"I have said many times that the salaries and benefits of our teachers are not the reason for this deficit," Johnson said.

In April, the union was optimistic that most of the 600 layoffs would be rescinded due to retirements and normal attrition. With the two additional rounds of layoffs, it is possible that some layoffs will not be rescinded. The final number of teachers who lose their jobs will be based on student enrollment in the fall, and the number of teachers who resign or retire.

Assignment	# Notices			***Years seniority (as of 3/13/09)
	April	June	Total	
Art	12	12	24	12.6
Counselors	32	11	43	11.7
English	57	41	98	8.5
Health/P.E.	28	20	48	12.6
Homeroom	295	189	484	9.7
Preschool	19	15	34	7.6
Social Studies	61	20	81	10.7
Business	17	0	17	9.7
Family-Consumer	5	0	5	21.7
Industrial Arts	1	0	1	30.7
Library	4	0	4	9.6
Mathematics	51	0	51	3.1
Science	50	0	50	4.7
Special Ed *	0	97	97	N/A **
School Social Worker	0	14	14	6.8
Total	632	419	1051	

* Note: Letters from the district indicate that Special Ed layoffs were due to teachers not completing required certification.
 ** Calculated on years as a DPS contract teacher.

Attention Members with Layoff Notices

DPS employees with layoff notices are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND a worker's orientation meeting on July 28 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. or July 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Martin Luther King High School. The orientation is sponsored by the Joint Adjustment Committee, a coalition of DPS, state and other agencies to aid with issues facing laid off workers. For more info, visit www.detroitk12.org/resources/staff/jac.

THANK YOU DFT:

Standing Strong in Time of Transition

As we close another school year I feel compelled to thank all of the members of our great Union for standing so strong during a time of tumult and transition.

Thank you for enduring the change in leadership at DPS, as Robert Bobb was appointed the emergency financial manager and instituted measures to restore this school district to fiscal solvency. The June 9 personal pickup of paychecks and remittance advisements was an inconvenience, and the benefits are not yet known, but we complied and proved once again that we are not the ones who have pilfered this district through fraud and misrepresentation.

Thank you for answering the "\$10 political call to action." Through your contributions of at least \$10 per member, we were able to double our COPE political action fund, which will allow us to provide financial support to candidates and causes that are in the best interest of public education and educators.

Finally, thank you for helping me with the transition in the leadership of our Union. Your support has helped me to begin to restore solidarity to our fractured Union. Whether you voted for me or not, you have given your support and



DFT President Keith Johnson being interviewed on the multitude of issues facing the Detroit Public Schools.

ideas to address the structural, financial, and operational challenges we inherited when we took office. With your support our membership meetings have been more orderly and informative, our informational forums have been productive, and our quality of service has improved.

We still have a lot of work to do

to bring you the level of service you demand, and together we will do it. Thank you and have a great, safe, and restful summer.

Notice of Apology:

I had technical problems receiving my DFT email. Now it is working. Feel free to contact me at work at kjohnson@dft231.com or at home at keith7606@sbcglobal.net.

President's Report



Keith Johnson

Thank you for not wavering in your commitment to your craft as DPS continued its downward spiral of corruption, dysfunction and inner chaos. You maintained your focus on delivering quality instruction even as the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan called us a national educational disgrace. Little does he realize that it was grace that carried us through the ineptitude of our elected school board and the mismanagement of our school district.

Day School for Deaf Perseveres

If the Day School for the Deaf community is one thing, it's persistent. The staff planted a garden and it was vandalized. So the staff planted again. Fast forward, and the new Birds and Butterfly Garden planted this spring is the fifth garden in as many years.

"We've had obstacles and roadblocks not only with our garden but with developing our school," said Principal Jan Goike at a June 5 ceremony. "But we've persevered."

On a balmy June day, friends of the Day School for the Deaf celebrated that perseverance and chatted about what makes the school work. For five-year teacher Becky Croskey, it's the cohesiveness of the staff and the leadership skills of the principal.

"This is where I want to be," Croskey says of the school at Forest and the Lodge freeway that

educates students who are hearing impaired, deaf or hard of hearing. "This is a very unique school and unless you're in it, it's hard to describe. The main thing that helps this school is the leadership."

According to Croskey, the principal advocates for the students and teachers and finds supplies and staff development opportunities for the staff.

The school works so well for its 40 students that Mayor Dave Bing attended the June 5 butterfly ceremony and said he fully supports the school's mission to stay open and



Principal Jan Goike, right, unveils the new butterfly garden.

serve the various needs of its students.

"This school is very, very important," Bing said. "We need to make sure we get a commitment from the city and the Detroit Public Schools to support this school."

THE DETROIT teacher

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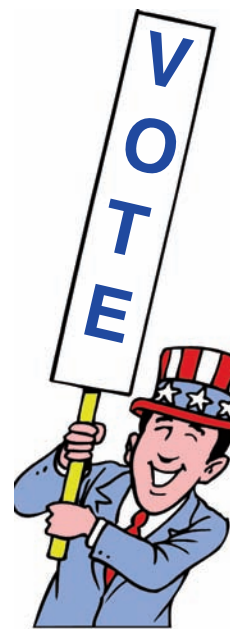
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UPDATES...

DFT/COPE Endorses Candidates



Detroit City Council

Alvin Sims
Mohamed Okdie
Charles Pugh
Derrick Hale
Saunteel Jenkins
Brenda Jones
Raphael Johnson
Gary Brown
James Tate

Southfield City Council

Janna K. Garrison

State Senate

Irma Clark-Coleman



Vote August 4th

Retirements Announced

The following DFT members have announced their retirements: Juanita Sanders, Margaret Redmond-Squires, Clester Lewis, Alice Kelley-Booker, Ronald Patrick Johnson, Betty Thomas, Marcia Hunt, Robbie Rhodes, Alan Schrecengost, Sharon L. Donato, Patricia Saddler, Juanita Sanders, Ellen Hechler, Carol Votruba, Carolyn Mattison-Wright and Marilyn Mattison-Wright. If you have retired in the last six months and would like it announced in the Detroit Teacher, please call the editor at 313-875-3500 ext. 776.

Success! Union Wins Teacher's Grievance

The DFT has won a grievance for a high school teacher. The DFT member was teaching six hours, instead of the customary five hours a day, for more than four years. The DFT brought forward the case and the teacher won.

"The arbitrator unequivocally rejected the District's defenses," said the DFT's attorney Marshall Widick.

The Detroit teacher was awarded nearly \$38,000 in back wages.

"Once again the arbitrator supported the union's contention that the contract language is binding and the district cannot decide which part of the contract it will honor and which it will not," said DFT President Keith Johnson.

Before the UNION, the word was "NO"

No seniority

No job security

No representation

No grievance procedure

No prep periods

No standard work day

No uniform pay scale

No health care

No paid holidays

No paid sick days

No pensions

No prescription drugs

No family dental care

No family vision care

and NO way to win them without a strong UNION!

Courtesy of Metro Detroit LaborNews

Detroit Broadcast Students Receive Accolades



Golightly Career and Technical Center students were honored at the 2nd Annual Media Night.

By Dana Hughes

The radio and television students of Golightly Career and Technical Center celebrated their 2nd Annual Media Night on May 28. The event honored students for academic and broadcasting abilities.

In attendance were advisory board members, Adrienne Reynolds of Detroit Entertainers and Musicians News Magazine, Harold Meeks of tellusdetroit.com, independent film producer Hamisi Robinson, Edward Foxworth of Foxworth Marketing Group, and Wayne State University's television director Darryl Shreve.

Foxworth, the keynote speaker, spoke to the future broadcasters on marketing and branding themselves in the industry.

"What crosses your mind does not always have to cross your lips," Foxworth said. The theme of Media Night centered on the negative media toward the Detroit Public School system.

Golightly's Mass Media Program Managers Dana Hughes and Dennis Moore pointed out to parents and guests the numerous achievements and accolades received by the media students this school year.

Those awards included:
• 13 Honor Students
• 6 National Vocational Technical

Honor Society Members

- 13 students who will be attending various Michigan colleges and universities
- 14 Michigan Association of Broadcast Awards
- 8 Michigan Association of Educational Broadcasting Awards
- 1 2009 Carl E. Jacobson Educational Achievement Award
- 6 Detroit Media Showcase Winners
- 2 National Finalists in the "Courageous Persuaders" P.S.A. Video Competition
- 1 Recipient of the "\$24,000 Ford Motor Company High School Journalism Scholarship"
- 1 Michigan SkillsUSA Recipient
- 1 President Obama Inauguration Winner
- 1 Detroit City Council Testimonial Resolution
- 4 Spirit of Detroit Awards
- 1 Detroit NAACP "ACT-SO" Youth Council Winner

The Mass Media Program is accepting applications for 10- and 11th-graders for the 2009-2010 school year.

Students who are interested in pursuing a career in radio and television broadcasting should contact Golightly Career and Technical Center at (313) 822-8820 for more information.

Building Rep Dinner a Huge Success

The power is in the people. And for the DFT, that means its 5,500 members and its 194 building representatives.

Keith Johnson, DFT president, commended the building reps June 5 for doing the union's most important work during a very difficult year.

"Certainly being a building rep can be a thankless job," Johnson told the building reps at the 25th Annual Building Rep Appreciation Dinner at the DoubleTree Hotel. "You have classes you have to teach too."

"The strength of this union does not lie with the people in its offices," Johnson said. The strength and work of the union, he said, is done at the 194 schools where building reps work.

The 2008-09 year was one of the more challenging, Johnson said, with

changes in the district's leadership and the DFT's leadership, attacks on the Detroit schools and Detroit teachers from the Capitol to the Detroit News.

One of those attacks came from Education Secretary Arne Duncan who said he was "losing sleep" about the state of Detroit's schools and said our schools are "a national disgrace" when he visited in May.

"For all his sleepless nights," Johnson said, "The people who work in DPS, specifically the ones who work in DFT are not ashamed of the work we do. It doesn't mean we're satisfied with the results." Through all of these attacks, Johnson told the teachers to remember their worth and their mission.

"The ones that appreciate you the most are the ones you stand before every day."



DFT President Keith Johnson



Dave Scott of Deltal Dental



Sharon Brock of BCBS



Dinner Coordinator Mershira Oliver



Co-Op Optical Representatives Sherold Riddles, Ethelle King and Ben Edwards.

Dancing With the Stars



Othniel McGriff and Jackie Ross



Dorothy Burk and William Brown



Bldg. Reps Corey Stokes and Vanessa Parnell



Dinner Planning Committee members are pictured above. Back row: Mark Grier, Danny Coleman, Curtis Dunlap. Front row: Mershira Oliver, Samele Ambrose, Sandra Ambrose, Keisha Allen and Glenda Booker.



Heritage Optical President George Barnes and S. Renee Ross.



Past Vice Presidents Marjorie McWilliams, John Butler and Lois Doniver



Samele Ambrose working sign-in table.

Building Rep Dinner a Huge Success



Left to right standing: Shalonda Staples, Vanessa Rasheed, Marcus Walton, Edith Buckley and Jan Curry. Left to right seated: Mitzi Davis, Judith Harper, Evelyn Foreman and Lillie Gladney.



Barry Cannon, Johnny Mickles, Sandra Ambrose and Daryl Newman.

Building Rep Dinner a Huge Success



Left to right standing: Margaret Redmond-Squires, James Britton, Marjorie McWilliams. Left to right seated: Sandra Hughes, Marshall Widick and Sidney Lee.



Left to right standing: William Brown, Peggy McConnell, Richele Oliver and Joe Quesnelle. Left to right seated: Pat McPherson, Imani Hines and Dorothy Burk.



Left to right standing: France Bowers, Robin Partmon, June Price, Donna Rowell. Left to right seated: Kay Nevels-Shavers, S. Renee Ross and Linda Thomas.



Left to right standing: Marva Fletcher, Desiree Clinkscale. Left to right seated: Sandra Battle, Miranda Washington and Melaine Tillman.



Left to right standing: Mark Moroni, Janis Schoenherr, Jill Caprathe, Rosemary Sholtz, Virginia Sellers, Kurtis Brown. Left to right seated: Thea Hines, Josephine Raupp, Sherrie Tyler and Kathy Halliburton



Left to right standing: Erica MacDonagh, Frances Borg, Doris Jordan-Smith. Seated: Emily Kimbrough.



Sandra Battle, Marva Fletcher, Desiree Clinkscale and Kathy Halliburton.



Left to right standing: Joseph Hines, Edith Boatner, Vanessa Parnell, Markita Hall, Marcy Wells-Davis. Left to right seated: Yvette Willingham, Marion Frehsee, Susan Ramos.



Left to right standing: Alice Willis, Lenny Barnes and Sherold Riddles. Left to right seated: Ethelle King and Danielle Doniver.



Left to right standing: Michelle Puryear, Wendy Newberry, Valda Adams and Victor Gibson. Left to right seated: Doris Flaherty and Jennetta Clark.



Left to right standing: Jeanne Bunn, Joyce Spencer, Becky Szymaszek, Joi Anderson, Chris Abood and Bill Taulbee. Left to right seated: Mary Helen D'Angelo, Tracy Arneau, Rita Herrera and Prestine Massey.

Building Rep Dinner a Huge Success



Left to right standing: Toni Clover, Shirley Morrison, Yolanda Stewart, Marjorie Jones. Left to right seated: Anita Daly, Wanda Lundy-Colquait and Vilanda Prograis.



Standing: Liz Dunn and George Adams. Seated: Jewel Gines and John Elliott.



Left to right: David Fuqua, Carla Henry, Sherry Samuel and Nona Harris.



Left to right standing: Beverly Wilkerson, Catherine Croft, Ivy Bailey and Gena Porter. Left to right seated: Kimberly Liddell-Love, Brenda Jones and Robin McDaniel.



Left to right standing: Brenda Snow, Diane Smith, Laveta Browne, Clyde Lewers and Patrick Falcusan. Left to right seated: Jackie Ross, Debbie Pruitt, Sharon Guyton-Rogers and Mearon Lewers.



Left to right standing: Karin Whittler, Linda Wilson, Estella Burnette, Lisa Downey, Barbara Downey. Left to right seated: Terrence Martin, Margaret Weertz and Mike Guyton.



Left to right standing: Corey Stokes, Felicia Langford, Wanda Hogg, Karen Reed, Gregory Phillips. Left to right seated: Kim Ewing-Travis, Lisa Scott, and Audrey Hamilton.