



MUSKEGON HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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For Immediate Release

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Muskegon Heights EM signs contract with Mosaica *Informational Parent Meeting to be held on July 16th*

Earlier today, Emergency Manager Donald Weatherspoon met with the board of education for the Muskegon Heights Public School (MHPS) Academy System to share the details of a newly signed contract between the MHPS District and Mosaica Education, Inc., to provide the quality education that the children of Muskegon Heights deserve. Mosaica will serve as the education service provider for the new charter system set to open this fall. Newly appointed board members Carmella Ealom, Arthur Scott, and Darryl Todd reviewed the contract and voiced their support for the high academic standards, robust curriculum, and secure learning environment described.

The board voted to offer a public forum to parents, students and other interested community members on Monday, July 16, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Muskegon Heights High School Waters Performing Arts Center. Weatherspoon will share information about why Mosaica was selected to manage the new charter school and share other highlights of the schools operation including curriculum, transportation, athletic offerings, music, arts, and other key points.

“Mosaica was clearly the best fit for Muskegon Heights with high standards for academic performance and research based methods for supporting students that need assistance,” said Weatherspoon. “Mosaica will be a strong partner within the Muskegon Heights community. They have a proven business plan, an innovative curriculum that includes online learning and foreign language beginning in kindergarten, and a concrete plan for student safety that includes cameras in every classroom and hallway.”

Weatherspoon and the board of education will work together to support, review, and oversee Mosaica’s performance, to set policy, manage resources effectively, and ensure that the students of Muskegon Heights receive a high quality education. The board will oversee the charter and confirm it meets all state and federal requirements and maintain accountability.

Weatherspoon said there were a variety of things that impressed him about Mosaica including the requirement that staff attend 15 days of professional development before entering the classroom. Each teacher that needs one will have a coach to help them strengthen their teaching skills. Spanish will be offered right away in kindergarten and each year a language will be added. There will be athletics for both boys and girls, band, music, and performing arts.

“I expect great things from Mosaica. They come with experience, deep knowledge, extensive resources, and a skilled leadership team,” said Weatherspoon. “I am excited for the kids and the community. This is a second chance at success for everyone.”

The decision to move forward with the establishment of a public school academy system was based on the determination that there is not adequate funding to both repay the district's growing debt and continue providing necessary public educational services. Rising expenses, soaring health care costs, shrinking revenues, and decreasing enrollment have led to significant debt of approximately \$12 million.

For more information, visit the district's website at www.mhpsnet.org or the new public school academy website at www.MHtigers.org.

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