

CHAIR: Renee Castellon
PIG: Jim Rajewski

INVOCATION: Sam Choo
MAILER: John McClellan

MUSIC: D. Winegardner/W. Meyer
EDITOR: John Mier

CALENDAR

January 12 Club News and Publicity committee meeting, 1 p.m.. Mike Briggs.
January 12 Young Children Priority One committee meeting, 1 p.m.. Jim Schroeder.
January 19 Travel and Adventure program "Irish Stories and Glories", 7:30 p.m. at MCFTA.
January 21 Board of Directors meeting, noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

***Judy Bailey announced a Human and Spiritual Values committee meeting for 1 p.m. today.
***Al Burmester urged members to settle their Candy and Nut sale accounts as soon as possible.
***Jim Struthers said we need volunteers to usher at the next Travel and Adventure program ("Irish Stories and Glories") at the MCFTA on January 19. Jim circulated a sign up sheet.
***Jim Struthers introduced Dave Shannon, who is teaching the Inquiring Minds Program (IMF) at Longview School. This is a volunteer led program presenting various science topics to a small, select group of 4th and 5th grade students. DNA technology will be the subject for the next 5-6 weeks followed by mechanical motion physics. Dave is asking for at least one volunteer to help with the class, which meets each Wednesday from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.. Please call Jim Struthers (631-2473) if you're interested.
***Dick Skochdopole read a letter of thanks from Gerry Wasserman for our recent donation to MPS. Dick also announced a Junior Youth committee meeting for 1 p.m. today.
***Dick Jellum introduced former member JoAnn Glynn, who announced that a Blood Drive event will be scheduled for January 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Garden Room of the MCFTA. JoAnn emphasized that blood is urgently needed to replace low supplies in the Midland area.
***Jim Schroeder scheduled a Young Children Priority One committee meeting for 1 p.m. on Jan. 12.
***Roger Briggs needs volunteers to attend Key Club meetings. He'll have sign up sheets next week.
***President Renee announced that Kiwassee was recognized by the Michigan District as the only club in the District with a net gain five members during the 2008-2009 Kiwanis year. *Wow!*
Renee also said that there is a Club News and Publicity meeting scheduled for 1 p.m. on January 12.

NORM NEHER REVIEWS MPS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE FOR BUILDING CLOSURES

Dick Skochdopole, Co-Chair of the Junior Youth Committee, introduced Norm Neher who was Co-Chair of the Community Committee for Building Closures. Norm did an excellent job of reviewing the process followed by the committee, leading to their final recommendations in November. This Committee, which was authorized by the MPS School Board last Spring, consisted of 35 members from the Midland community (17 were representatives of each school in the district, 15 members were at large, and 3 were co-chairs.). The committee met bi-weekly from June 4 to November 5 in addition to frequent subcommittee meetings. Norm said they began by working to thoroughly understand the problems and issues, and to listen carefully to everyone involved. They then worked to establish and define the criteria they would follow and to develop potential solutions and priorities. They visited each school in the district to become familiar with the buildings and with the neighborhoods the schools served. Final criteria included average distance traveled by students, operating costs, number of students displaced (number who would have to attend another school), and capital required. Of course, they listened, listened, and listened. Many computer models were developed for various options (495 for a four school closure and 792 for a 5 school closure). Norm said the best option for a four school closure recommended closing Chippewassee, Longview, Parkdale, and Woodcrest. The five school scenario recommended closing Chippewassee, Longview, Cook, Parkdale, and Mills—which was their final recommendation. Estimated savings will be about \$375,000 per school not including possible reduction of teachers. Norm said demographic estimates show reductions in numbers of young adults and increases in older adults, along with lower birth rates and estimates of lower state funding. He also said future closure of one middle school and one high school is a strong possibility but is not imminent, and was not included in their recommendations. Several members thanked Norm, as well as Paul Walker, for their leadership and participation in this difficult issue.