



# Morley Stanwood Community Schools

August 2009

School Starts September 8, 2009

## Back to School Events

### Morley Elementary

Kindergarten Open House - Monday, August 31st from 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
Annual Back to School Picnic - Wednesday, September 2nd from 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
School pictures will be Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>  
Book Fair week will be the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>

### Stanwood Elementary

Kindergarten Open House - September 2nd, from 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Kindergarten Class rooms  
Annual Ice Cream Social - Wednesday, September 2nd, from 6:00 - 7:00 pm.  
Club Choice Fund Raiser starts September 21 and runs through October 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Middle School

Middle School Open House - Wednesday, September 2nd, from 6:30-7:30 pm  
School Pictures will be Friday September 25<sup>th</sup>

### High School

Orientation for freshmen will be Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.  
High school open house will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 from 5:00 - 6:30 PM at the north end of the high school.  
Students may pick up their fall trimester schedules beginning Monday August 24<sup>th</sup> thru Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
High school pictures will be held on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> this year's homecoming will be on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and the dance will be October 10<sup>th</sup> from 8-11:30 p.m..

### Alternative Education

All students previously enrolled in the Morley Stanwood Alternative School will receive packets via mail informing them of school schedules and upcoming information on this year's programming. Any students who were not in attendance last spring should contact the school at 856-0410 after August 10, 2009 to sign-up for classes.

## Starting Times

School starting and ending times are as follows for the 2009-2010 school year:

**Elementary 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Middle School 8:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.**  
**High School 8:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.**  
**Alternative 8:10 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.**

### Career Center Schedule

**AM 8:30 - 10:45**  
**PM 12:40 - 2:55**

## Lunch Prices

Lunch/breakfast rates for the 2009-2010 school year will be:

Elementary lunch	\$2.00
Elementary breakfast	\$1.25.
Middle/high school lunch	\$2.25
Middle/high school breakfast	\$1.50

## Transportation Update

**Important Transportation Note:** Most routes and times for pick up and drop off will stay about the same for the 2009-10 school year. Should your routes or pick-up/drop-off times change by more than 10 minutes, you will be advised.

## Newsletter Mailing

If you know someone that needs to have the District newsletter mailed to them or you would like to have the newsletter mailed to you, please contact Penny in the Superintendent's Office 231-856-4392 or 231-823-2069.

## *News from the Superintendent*

First of all, let me introduce myself. I am Dennis Rosen, your new Superintendent of Schools. I was named Superintendent for the 2009-10 school year last March by the Board of Education. My official duties began on July 1 following the retirement of Dr. Linda Myers who served the district for 8 years as your Superintendent.

Actually, I am not totally new to the Morley Stanwood district. Since 2002, I have worked for the district on a part-time basis serving as the Curriculum Director, Professional Development Coordinator and the person in charge of Federal and State Programs, namely Title I. Prior to coming to Morley Stanwood, I worked at the Mecosta-Osceola ISD for 12 years and before that position was Superintendent of Schools in two other Michigan districts, Reed City and Litchfield. In addition before holding the above mentioned administrative positions, I was an elementary and middle school classroom teacher and also an elementary principal. Thus I assume the Morley Stanwood superintendency with several years of experience in a variety of roles and responsibilities. I am looking forward to a challenging and exciting year for the Morley Stanwood district.

On September 8 the district will open its doors to hopefully over 1500 students for the 2009-10 school year. This summer has been once again a busy one getting the buildings and facilities ready for another school year plus addressing multiple staffing needs and changes in several teaching assignments. This is all taking place as the district, the state of Michigan and many of its citizens are facing some daunting economic hurdles. It remains, however, the goal of the district, its Board of Education and the entire staff to provide a quality educational program and experience for all the students of Morley Stanwood.

Over the course of the next several months, I hope to meet many of the parents and residents of the entire community at numerous school functions and activities. Getting to know one another is key to working together to make our district the best possible learning environment for all our students. One of the first and best ways for this to happen is at the Open Houses to be held at each building in the district on Wednesday, September 2. The exact times are printed elsewhere in this newsletter. This is an opportunity for the entire community to visit the schools. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate since outdoor activities like picnics and ice cream socials are part of the Open Houses. High School students can pick up their schedules for the fall trimester at that time.

To and for parents.....enjoy the last few days of summer vacation with your children. We all look forward to working with and for them starting September 8!

## *2009-10 Staff Changes:*

During the summer there were several members of our teaching and support staff that retired or resigned. Most were long time members of the district. In fact the combined years of employment in the district exceeded 200 years. Retiring staff members include: Carol VanHaelemeersch, third grade at Morley Elementary, Middle School teachers Irene Schuberg, physical education and health, Evie Malcomson, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Linda Rinehart, English and Drama and Linda Bulow, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Maribeth Tronsen, High School science and Life Skills, Judy Benson, Middle School para-professional and Nancy Weeks, Middle School secretary. Resigning from the district was Barb Peacock, Alternative Education teacher. Congratulations and best wishes to all the retirees and resigners!

As a result, the district was able to recall nine teachers that were laid off last May. Those teachers include Greg VanStrien, Band and Technology at the Middle School and High School, Jake Wing, English and Social Studies and April Szymanski, Special Education at the High School, Jessica Kolenda, English at the Middle School, Bryan Bohn, physical education, Ruth Symmes, 4<sup>th</sup> grade and Erin Kangas, Special Education at Morley Elementary, and Julie Darden, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and Kristin Jenkins, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Stanwood. No members of our staff remain on lay-off status. Welcome back to all the above!

## *MS Newspaper Drive*

The Morley Stanwood Recycling Club will be holding their annual newspaper drive on Saturday, October 3rd from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. The truck will be located in the . Newspapers should be tied or bagged together.

Student volunteers will be available to unload your papers. If you have any questions call Mrs. Jutila at the Middle School (854550 ext 633). Plan now to help save the environment and get rid of all those old newspapers.

## *Looking for Graduates who Earned 'Full Ride' Scholarships*

Did you or your relative who graduated from MSHS earn a 'full ride' scholarship? If you did, please notify the High School offices so you will be included on a new display that has been placed next to the pictures of the academic honor students in the hall outside the gymnasium.

The academic board pictures all graduates who have excelled and earned scholarships that **paid for their entire university experience**. This is quite a feat!

If you know of someone who should be included please let the school offices know.

## **ACT TESTING:**

This year ACT is offering a September 12th test. The deadline for regular registration is August 7 or late registration is from August 8-21. Students may pick up a registration

packet from Mrs. Berry or the preferred method would be to register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Students would not be able to use this test as part of the MME retest.

Morley Stanwood Community Schools  
2009-2010 School Calendar

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**September**

1 - 3 2 Teacher work days and 1 Professional Dev. Day  
4 & 7 **No School** - Labor Day Weekend  
8 **First Day for Students**

**October**

15 Parent Teacher Conferences 5-8 pm  
High School Only  
16 **No School** - Professional Dev.

**November**

4 & 5 Parent Teacher Conferences 5-8 pm  
Middle School Only  
19 & 23 Parent Teacher Conferences 5-8 pm  
Elementary Only  
24 **End of First Trimester**  
25 - 27 **No School** - Thanksgiving Holiday

**December**

21 - 31 **No School** - Holiday Break

**January**

1 **No School** - Holiday Break  
4 School Resumes  
21 Parent Teacher Conferences 5-8 pm  
High School Only  
22 **No School** - Professional Dev.

**February**

12 - 15 **No School** - Presidents' Weekend

**March**

5 **End of Second Trimester**  
8 **No School** - Staff Work Day

**April**

1 **No School** - Professional Dev.  
2 - 9 **No School** - Spring Break  
12 School Resumes

**May**

23 Graduation  
31 **No School** - Memorial Day

**June**

8 Last day for students - Full Day  
**End of Third Trimester**  
9 Last day for teachers - Work Day

**PHONE NUMBERS:**

Transportation  
231-856-4676  
Morley Elementary  
231-856-7684  
Stanwood Elementary  
231-823-2211  
Middle School  
231-856-4550 or  
231-856-2688  
High School  
231-856-4444 or  
231-823-2688  
Alternative School  
231-856-0410

**Regular Board Meetings and Finance Committee Meetings**

*REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS: are held on the second Monday of each month beginning at 6:30 P.M. Meetings are held at the High School in the Media Center. Any location changes will be posted in the same manner as Special Meetings.*

*FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: are held on the Second Monday of each month in the Superintendent's office at 4700 Northland Dr., Morley Michigan, beginning at 8:30 a.m.*

***Help Our Schools***

These product labels and rewards allow us to raise funds to supplement our organization's goals. All three buildings participate in the Meijer's rewards program; see the organization numbers listed below.

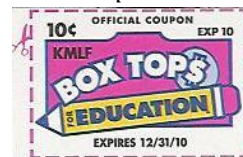
**Middle School:** The Middle School collects Box Tops for Education, Campbell product UPC's, and School Spirit labels found on Soft-n-Good bread and assorted products, Perfection Bakery for 5 cents a label.

**Stanwood Elementary:** Stanwood collects Campbell UPC Codes, Spartan UPC Codes, Tyson Project A+ Labels, Empty printer cartridges, Capri Sun Juice Pouches, Nestle Pure Life Labels, Box Top's for Education. They also collect rewards from Target Stores Credit Card purchases.

**Morley Elementary:** Morley collects Campbell UPC Codes and Box Tops for Education.

**Our registered Schools:**

Morley Elementary:  
Organization #: 540304  
Stanwood Elementary:  
Organization #: 108182  
MS Middle School:  
Organization #: 975488



***MSCS Board Briefs***

## **June**

**RECOGNITION** Principal Dennis Szczerowski and Board member Steve Barnes recognized the band students who participated at state completion. Board member Cyndy Marek recognized and gave certificates to the four principals, Doug Beemer, Kim Colby, Clark Huntey and Dennis Szczerowski for their buildings fund raising efforts on behalf of the American Red Cross.

**FOCUS** Terry Blanchard of GMB reviewed bond extension activity to date and the next steps in the process should the board agree to keep going on the project. He provided a financial summary and lists of work projects the extension would cover and answered all questions by Board members and community present

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Approved the consent agenda as follows: Consideration of May 11, Regular meeting minutes, Consideration of June 1, Special meeting minutes, Consideration of bills and financial reports presented, Consideration of MHSAA membership for 2009-10, Consideration of Public Library Budget, Consideration of approval of new handbook for coaches, Consideration of MS secretary Nancy Weeks resignation, Consideration to hire Connie Wilkinson for MS secretary in 11 month position, Consideration of Coaching appointments (list available at Central Office).

**TRUTH-IN-TAXATION HEARING** The Superintendent Myers led the Truth-in-Taxation hearing at 7:30 p.m. She reviewed the Truth-in-Taxation statement provided with the Board and community present. There were no questions. The Board approved the taxable value component of the 2009-10 general fund budget.

**08-09 FS & ATHLETIC FUND REVISIONS** The Board unanimously approved the 2008-09 Food Service & Athletic Fund revisions.

**2009-10 BUDGETS** The Board unanimously approved the 2009-10 General Fund, FS & Athletic Fund budgets.

**BORROWING** The Board unanimously approved the resolution for borrowing funds through Michigan Municipal Bond Authority.

**BOND EXTENSION** The Board unanimously agreed to proceed with an election to request a bond extension.

**CLOCK** The Board unanimously approved the clock system purchase.

## **July**

**Regular Meeting** called to order by President Palmer.

**CONSENT AGENDA** The Board unanimously approved the consent agenda as follows, after removal of the hire of a volleyball coach: Consideration of June 8, Regular meeting minutes, Consideration of bills and financial reports presented, Consideration of resignation of Barbara Peacock – Alternative Education, Consideration of Bread and Milk Bids – Cedar Crest Dairy \$34,411.50, Aunt Millie's \$6,235.00

**COACH** The Board unanimously agreed to table the hire Samantha Nestell as JV and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball coach until the next Board meeting. They requested more information on

the hiring process and back ground of the individual chosen to fill the position and would like to see the background checks performed before they approve the candidate.

**SCHOOL BOND LOAN** The Board unanimously approved the resolution to authorize payment of School Bond Loan (see attached resolution).

**08-09 BUDGET RESOLUTION CORRECTION** The Board unanimously approved a revision to the 08-09 budget revisions approved at the June 1, 2009 Board meeting.

**ATHLETIC FEE** The Board unanimously agreed to table consideration of the changes to the athletic fee until it is determined whether the changed fee also included middle school students.

**ENERGY AMENDMENT** The Board unanimously approve the amendment to the Michigan Schools Energy Cooperative Interlocal Agreement.

**GROUNDS BIDS** The Board unanimously agreed to reject the bids presented and continue using our staff to complete the lawn work on MSCS campuses. They may request bids again at a later date.

**NMSLA DINNER** Superintendent Rosen asked if any Board members were considering attending the NMSLA Dinner on July 31st in Traverse City. The board did not indicate interest in attending. Superintendent Rosen advised he would attend.

## **August**

**AUDIT:** Scott Hunter of Baird, Cotter and Bishop PC presented the annual school audit.

**CONSENT AGENDA** The Board unanimously approved the consent agenda as follows: Consideration of July 13, Regular meeting minutes, Consideration of July 27, Special meeting minutes

**Audit** The Board voted unanimously to accept the 2008-09 Audit as presented by Scott Hunter of Baird, Cotter and Bishop, P.C.

**Recall** The Board unanimously agreed to recall all nine teachers from lay-off: Greg VanStrien, Bryan Bohn, Erin Kangas, Ruth Symmes, Jake Wing, April Szymanski, Julie Darden, Jessica Kolenda and Kristin Jenkins.

**Homeless Liaison** The Board unanimously voted to appoint Karen Wing as the District Homeless Liaison.

**Elementary Handbooks** The Board unanimously voted to approve the changes to the Elementary handbooks (see attached).

**Transportation Handbook** The Board unanimously voted to approve the changes to the Transportation handbook (see attached).

**MASB Appointments** The Board unanimously approved appointing Cyndy Marek to represent our Board as delegate at the October MASB meeting.

**ESG** The Board requested Superintendent Rosen look into the next step and costs to pursue the recommendations of the Feasibility Study presented by the Energy Systems Group and advise them at the September meeting.

**Bond Extension** The Board voted unanimously to cancel the November election to extend the Bond until the whole project could be re-evaluated. The Board directed Superintendent Rosen to call Terry Blanchard from GMB to let him know of their decision.