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The Review

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Quick Hits

Welcome to our special Hamtramck Public Schools issue.

Every year we team up with the public school district to talk about its achievements and programs it has to offer.

And every year we are amazed at the resources of the district as well as the caliber of students.

As an added bonus we have printed this special issue in the Arabic and Bengali languages in order to reach everyone in our wonderfully diverse community.


For decades the Hamtramck Public School District has served the city well, and often it has been an innovator in education.

We hope you enjoy this special issue, and be sure to come back every week to read what's happening in your community.


*Start
Here,
Stay
Here,
Succeed
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HAMTRAMCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDITION


Your Hamtramck Public School Board Members



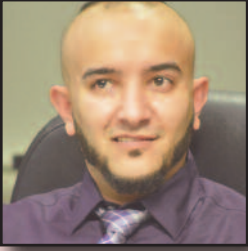
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Thomas Niczay

Superintendent's 2016-2017 Message

The November 8, 2016 election brought about membership changes to the Hamtramck Public Schools Board of Education. Showkat Chowdhury, Salah Hadwan and Moortadha Obaid were elected to seats by the voters of Hamtramck, with terms beginning in January 2017. They joined Magdalena Srodek, Evan Major, Dennis Lukas and Ataur Khan on the Board of Education. The District has not forgotten the service of the former Board members. The District very much appreciates and respects the service of Hedy Shulgon and Jackie Starr who served on the Board through the 2016 calendar year.

The Board of Education exists for the purpose of providing a system of free, public education for children in grades Pre K-12 and Adult Education.

The underlying purpose of the actions and functions of the Board of Education is to create and keep in operation an educational system of the highest quality for the benefit of the students with economy and prudence.

The special interests of groups or individuals will not be considered in the decisions of the Board, where such interests conflict with the proper educational development of the

Continued on page 2 A

Hamtramck High Class of 2017 earned \$5,402,068 in scholarship money

Scholarship Summary

This has been a very successful year for the Class of 2017 regading scholarships and merit/need grants. 81 students out of a class of 178 (46% of the Class of 2017) received scholarships and/or merit and need grants. The total

amount of scholarships is \$3,991,430 among 59 students with the amount of merit and need grants being \$1,410,638. One student received a full scholarship to the University of Chicago valued at \$280,000.

The Class of 2017 received scholarship offers

from the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Dearborn, University of Michigan Flint, University of Chicago, University of Detroit Mercy, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, Lawrence Technological University, Marygrove Col-

lege, Lake Superior State University, Hiram College, Henry Ford Community College, Ferris State University, Eastern Michigan University, Oakland University, Grand Valley State University, Central Michigan University and Albion College.

Meet the top students of HHS


Valedictorian



Linda Ivanovic

Linda Ivanovic is the Class of 2017 Valedictorian, completing her education at Hamtramck High School with a 4.2333 GPA. Linda will be attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in the fall majoring in Business Administration. Her plans after receiving a Bachelor in Business Administration is to attend law school with a possible concentration in corporate law. Linda is involved in many activities at Hamtramck High School by being the

Salutatorian



Una Jakupovic

President of DECA and National Honor Society, Vice President of Student Council and was awarded Peacemaker of the Month. Her advice to current and future students at Hamtramck High School is to take the initiative to challenge yourself with advanced classes and to not procrastinate.

Una Jakupovic is the Class of 2017 Salutatorian, completing her education at Hamtramck High

Continued on page 2 A



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Superintendent’s 2016-2017 Message

Continued from front page

students of the system.

The members of Board of Education are serious and dedicated representatives of the community. During the 2016-2017 school year the Board has developed goals that are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time based.

The Board conducted a “Board self-assessment” which was provided by the Michigan Association of School Board. The information gleaned from the self-assessment will enable the Board to know where they are in terms of Leadership, Academic Performance, Board Responsibilities, and Board Effectiveness, Data-Driven Decision Making, Community Engagement/Advocacy and Board-Superintendent of Relations.

The residents of Hamtramck are very fortunate to have these elected officials who are so very dedicated to doing the right thing for students. The future for Hamtramck Public Schools is very bright under their governance. The Board is ready, willing,

able and courageous to understand their strengths and commit to grow in areas that are not necessarily areas of strength. That is what effective leaders do.

The District is fiscally sound and is focused on making long term improvements for the safety and maintenance of our properties. During 2016-2017 the District made improvements to the Kosciuszko campus which houses Dickinson West Elementary and Kosciuszko Middle School by remodeling the cafeterias, kitchen, bathrooms, flooring and lockers. New security cameras have been installed in all schools, the Community Center as well as at Pulaski Park. Dickinson East had a new roof installed.

Finally, increasing student achievement is the top priority and I am pleased to report that Hamtramck High School has made dramatic improvements on state mandated assessments and was removed from the priority school list in January 2017.

Meet the top students of HHS

Continued from front page

School with a 4.2328 GPA. Una will be attend the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in the fall and is currently undecided regarding her major. Her plans are to take a variety of classes to determine her major and career path. Una is very active at Hamtramck High School by being the Class President of 2017, Vice President of National Honor Society

and LEAP, the high school recycling club. Una is the Treasurer of DECA and the chair of the awards committee. In addition, she recently received the Peacemaker of the Month award. Her advice to current and future students at Hamtramck High School is to take risks by joining clubs and to not be afraid to get out of your comfort zone.

School Board and staff continue improvements

The Hamtramck Board of Education and Superintendent Niczay continue Board of Education Study Sessions to review, discuss and implement “ever-changing” Michigan Rules and Regulations effecting Board of Education school district governance. Superintendent Niczay continues to involve Dr. Leonard Rezmierski, Administrative Advisor to Wayne County Superintendents and Boards of Education. Dr. Rezmierski has over 50 years of experience in Michigan Public Education. He last served for 20 years as Superintendent for the Northville Michigan Public Schools and presently serves at the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (WCRESA).

The Board study sessions are open to the public. They began in January 2015 and remain ongoing. The major issues being discussed by the Board of Education focus on goal setting, governance and team building. The study sessions also concentrate on the future of the Hamtramck Public Schools and the major goal of raising student learning and academic achievement.

The Board of Education 2016-17 adopted District Goals focus on four areas: Increasing the understanding of the financial realities, from all funding sources, “amongst all stakeholders”; Retain and Recruit the highest quality staff; Improve student proficiency in reading and math scores by 3% - 6%; and Increase the “Youth



Dr. Leonard Rezmierski

Voice” in School Improvement and District Improvement Plans.

The Board of Education, Superintendent Niczay and Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency Administrative Advisor Rezmierski, continue their active engagement in implementing systemic changes to positively affect the future of the students, families and staff of the Hamtramck Public Schools.

Students reflect city’s diversity

By Jeannine St. Germaine

National flags from around the globe flutter with pride in the streets of Hamtramck and throughout Hamtramck Public Schools. Enrollment in the Hamtramck school district reflects ever-evolving diversity within the student population.

The official spring student count for 2017 tallied 3,139 students, an increase of over 150 students since the previous school year. Both Yemeni and Bengali student populations have increased throughout the past year. Overall, Hamtramck Public Schools has not had enrollment at these levels since the 2009-2010 school year when there were 3,168 students enrolled in the district.

With the increase of student enrollment comes some exciting programs through the English



Jeannine St. Germaine

and Curriculum departments. Fresh new ideas are percolating every day to meet the needs of every student. For example; expanding staff, ELL programs for students and parents, and engaging subject area content.

These are exciting times to start here, stay here, and succeed here in Hamtramck public schools. Visit us at <http://www.hamtramck.k12.mi.us> or call 313-892-2035.

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This week at the library...

ESL Class – Monday, June 12, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Wayne Metro’s Free Tax Program – Free prior year tax services, Mondays, June 19 and 26, 10 a.m-3 p.m. The service offers accessible services throughout Wayne County, with different times and locations. While appointments are encouraged, walk-ins are also accepted.

ESL Class – Wednesday, June 14, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class – Friday, June 16, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes

are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

To make an appointment, please call (313) 388-9799 or 1 (734) 284-6999.

Michigan Activity Pass – The pass will enable Library card holders to obtain a one-time free entry into any Michigan State park or recreation area, and free entry into over 100 participating cultural institutions. Ask at the circulation desk for more details.

For more information about events at the library call (313) 733-6822, or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access the online catalog.

Early Childhood Elementary 2016-2017



Colleen Stevens

The Early Childhood Elementary School provides quality education for preschoolers through second graders. The school is proud to say that they have a high quality Great Start Readiness Preschool Program in their building for four year olds. The program has a four star rating from The Michigan Department of Education, thanks to such activities as Science Night, Star Lab, live animal programs.

The elementary school has had a strong focus on reading and writing this year. They had several book give-a-ways, which are always a hit with the students.

During reading month, the students celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday and invited community members in to read. The Hamtramck Police Chief, Anne Moise, Hamtramck Fire Chief, Danny Hagen and Hamtramck Mayor, Karen Majewski, as well as Allyson Martinek from WNIC radio were just a few of the many people who came to read to the students during March.

Mrs. Stevens, the principal, made a commitment to hear all of the elementary students read individually to her. This is her fourth year doing this. Each child added a link to the reading chain in the office. She is proud to say that she heard all willing participants. The reading chain is on display in the office.

Each student kept a writing journal and was given interesting writing prompts. One of the favorite prompts asked students to write about their visit to The Detroit Institute of Arts. After writing



Students disguised as the Dr. Seuss's Lorax.



Second graders and Mr. Helminiak cleaning up yard for Earth Day.



Mayor Karen Majewski reading to students.



Ms. Rakoczy, WNIC's Allyson, Mrs. Stevens and students.



Annual Snowball Fight (Paper wads of course!) with staff and students. Ms. Liz in the middle.

about the DIA, each class came back and created art in the style of a particular artist.

In May the school had an art show in conjunction with a concert. All grades performed including the preschoolers. Families were encouraged to enjoy the art work before and after the concert.

The school is into hands-on science. They have had Jupiter Jaye visit them several times this year. She is from High-Touch/HighTech Science. The students love it when Jaye visits. They always go home with a special project they have created. The elementary students love working in the computer lab. The school has a program called Lexia which helps build reading skills. Each student works at his or her own level. They can earn certificates for each level they pass.

Finally, the school is big on awards. Students and staff are awarded weekly with Star Awards. Star Awards are for academic and other achievements. They also have award assemblies after each quarter. Students can earn awards for behavior, attendance and achievement.

The Early Childhood Elementary is a great place for students and families.

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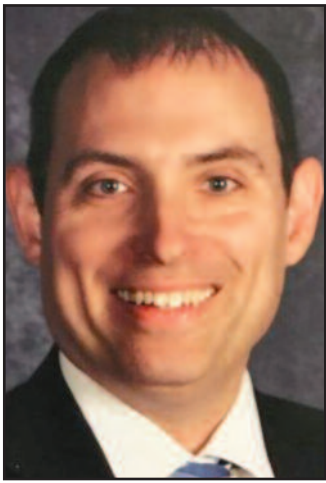
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Hamtramck High School - A great year for all

We are proud to report that Hamtramck High had an exceptionally successful 2016/17 school year. We attribute our success to many things, some of which are the new programs we implemented or expanded, thanks to the intelligence, talents, and dedication of our students and staff. These new programs include Saturday School, Extending Hand of Service (ETHOS) community service program, College Ambition Program, Michigan Department of Ed African-American Student Initiative, Youth Voice, Positive Behavior

Intervention and Supports (PBIS), Principal-Parent Forums, and others. In addition, we had STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) events which were made possible through partnerships with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, General Motors, and Henry Ford Community College. This year we also expanded the scope of the past programs, such as ACCESS tutoring, SAT Prep through Princeton Review, science labs and projects, restorative practice circles, new School Improvement

Team committees, field trips for extended learning, and importantly, dual enrollment courses at colleges to include College Arabic. In addition, we brought back events that have been absent for years, such as the Sports Banquet honoring HHS athletes, a multi-cultural talent/fashion show, and finally a multi-cultural dress day to celebrate the diversity of the school. Because good communication and collaboration with parents is a critical element to any success in school, we sent a monthly calendar of events to parents,



Tim Constant

made daily positive phone calls, conducted Principal Parent Forums, invited parents to join our School Improvement Committee, and routinely kept parents informed of all upcoming

events through emails and calls. The 2016/17 school year brought many honors to our students their families and our school. Among those honors include our DECA Business Team's first place win at the national competition in Anaheim, California, 2) our English Language Learner students 2nd and 3rd place awards at Henry Ford Community College's Engineering Competition, 3) our journalism students' first place win in the Michigan Inter-scholastic Press Association Awards for newspaper and broad-

cast excellence. Along with these state and national awards, there were many other honors and points of pride this past year. All of these activities and achievement took hard work, but it was all worthwhile because we saw great gains in academics and in the social-emotional growth of our young adults. Congratulations to the staff, students, parents and board members for a fantastic school year.

Dickinson West Elementary School Passport to Learning

Passport to Learning

The students of Dickinson West Elementary School took their parents on an adventure in education. Each year the staff and students of Dickinson West present the many academic experiences they have participated in to their parents in an end of the year celebration of academic achievement. The ticket to this wonderful celebration is a Passport to Learning.

Parents are led by their child through the school where they participate, as a family, in different educational activities. Each station focuses on a different country or region of the world. The activities for each station represent that country's academic contribution to the world.

The Dickinson West and Kosciuszko Middle School Campus had a renovation to the cafeteria and bathrooms during the summer of 2016. The parents were treated to a tour of the new cafe-

teria and were able to have supper with their child.

Spring Concert

The Dickinson West family had an evening of fine arts with the annual Spring Concert. Director Spayde and the students of Dickinson West presented an array of songs dating back to the 1960's and represented numerous countries. The parents were treated to a special night of entertainment. The parents and students were all smiles during the concert.

This beautiful night of



Corey Pitts

entertainment is a treasured tradition for Dickinson West Elementary School.



District Goals for 2016-2017

All students will successfully complete each grade level and/or course taken, demonstrating proficiency on local, state and national assessments.

1. Increase understanding of the Hamtramck Public Schools revenue and cost structure amongst all stakeholders, allocate financial resources to meet District's educational goals and community recreational needs.
 - a. The recreation committee will conduct a review/study of Districts' Recreation Department with emphasis on eliminating deficit spending by implementing a comprehensive evaluation and goal setting system for revenue, expenditure, staffing, supplies and programming during 2016-2017.
 - b. Maintain District Fund Balance 10% from 2015-2016 as adopted by the Board of Education on May 12, 2016. Further support the parameters of a 12%-15% fund balance for the next five years.
 - c. Develop and implement an overall facility plan that incorporates Sinking Funds; Cafeteria Funds; Capital Funds; and General Funds; with emphasis towards potential or projected continued student growth with increased capacity options in the plan.
2. Recommend and implement strategies to retain and recruit the highest quality staff members for Hamtramck Public Schools.
 - a. Establish a committee to review "best practices" to retain quality staff, while attracting candidates to fill vacated positions through District Teacher Job Fairs, Wayne RESA Aspiring Administrators Academy and a local University partner.
3. Improve reading and math scores by 3%-6% on the District assessments.
 - a. Increase reading and math proficiency on State assessments by the average percent of statewide increase.
 - b. For EL students increase speaking, listening, reading, and writing scores on the WIDA and other local assessments by 3%-6%.
4. Youth voice will be included in School Improvement Plans and the District Improvement Plan.

Special Services continues to serve students and families

The 2016-2017 school year has been the busiest yet for the Hamtramck Public Schools' Special Services Department. We have had staff from Dickinson East Elementary School present at prominent conferences within the county and state sharing her expertise on best practices for teaching math and English Language Arts concepts. Our School Psychologists and Speech Pathologists worked hard to educate parents and staff about the various disabilities and their functions of students, throughout various district meetings. Additionally, our Social Workers have assisted with the ongoing districtwide implementation of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) and MTSS (Multi-Tiered Support System) at all HPS schools. Our department has really



Shalika Robie

helped to enhance the program offerings at all buildings and we are always working to increase the continuum of services offered for Hamtramck Public Schools' students with disabilities. The Special Services Department is full of teachers, paraprofessionals and support staff that work hard to maintain a level of care, compassion, and services that are unforgettable for the students and families

of Hamtramck Public Schools and it is our mission to improve and enhance with every passing year!

Our department's highlights for this year focused on our students with disabilities being able to experience increased academic success with more project based learning such as partnering with the Michigan Department of Career Development and Rehabilitation Services (MRS) to conduct Café' Friday's at Hamtramck High School; and having a student inducted into the Honor's Society at Hamtramck High School. Overall, the Special Services Department continues to reflect and adjust how we can continue to best service the students and families of Hamtramck Public Schools for our students to be the finest they can be and beyond!

School district's financial picture is in stable shape

As the end of the 2016/2017 school year approaches, Hamtramck Public Schools has a great deal to be proud of. We have a district fund balance of 26.62%, which far exceeds the 10% adopted by the Board of Education on May 12, 2016. As projected by our CFO Sherry Lynem, our general fund revenues have exceeded our expenses this budget year. Sources attributed to the increase in revenues include: additional \$2.44 million due to increased student enrollment; approximately \$886,529 from the passing of the Wayne County Enhancement Millage has been received to date; and our Title funding produced an additional \$866,346.

Nevertheless, along with additional revenues came additional expenses: increased staffing – two new administrator positions (district EL Director and Assistant Principal at Dickinson East) and two



Sherry Lynem

additional custodians; added one additional bus for in-district bussing; absorbed Title funding shortcomings when Holbrook emerged from Priority School status; added \$100,000 to maintenance budget for general repairs; and added \$160,000 to the technology budget.

We were able to make considerable facility improvements due largely in part to sinking fund and cafeteria fund dollars. This

past year we expended \$1,816,570 sinking fund millage dollars to replace the roof at Dickinson East, remodel the bathrooms and walkways at Kosciuszko, install surveillance cameras throughout the district, and replace the boilers at Holbrook and Kosciuszko. A total of \$940,228 cafeteria fund dollars were spent fully renovating the cafeteria at Kosciuszko, including state of the art kitchen equipment. Our structural improvements are far from over, we have additional facility improvements planned for the 2017/2018 school year and beyond.

We appreciate the support of our community and will continue to be fiscally responsible stewards of the funds we receive. We will keep the residents of Hamtramck informed as we reinvent and revitalize Hamtramck Public Schools for the students, staff, and parents of our district.

Holbrook Elementary School – Year in Review 2016-2017

Holbrook has had an eventful school year. Below is my team’s take on the 2016-2017 school year. This year was productive; however, I’m looking forward to even more productive work for the upcoming school year.

Grades Kindergarten – 2nd

Mrs. Ashcraft, Ms. Ahad, and Mrs. Lamerato K-2 students went on a field trip to the Veterans Memorial Park to clean up for Earth Day on April 21, 2017. The students experienced the joy of giving back to others.

On March 28, 2017 the National Honor Society members from the high school came to Holbrook to read to all the students for March is Reading Month. The members went to each class and read to all the students. Holbrook students loved having them come.

Firefighters came to Holbrook to read to the students for March is Reading Month. After the Firefighters read to the students, the students were able to explore the fire truck. It was an exciting day for all of us.

To finish off the year, we went to the Detroit Zoo on May 24, 2017. In June we also have two more field trips: Detroit Institute of Arts and Kensington Metro Park.

Grades 3 – 5

Mrs. O’Dell, Mr. Schneider, and Ms. Clemente Third graders enjoyed field trips to Lansing, Belle Isle and the Arab American Museum. Students worked hard in Daily 6 activities and showed what they know on the NWEA tests.

Fourth graders worked hard to build a classroom community. We learned to respect and support one another in our continued learning. We also enjoyed our learning opportunities outside the classroom at the DIA, Gleaners, Schoolcraft College, the Henry Ford Museum and the Belle Isle

	2015-2016	2016-2017
Referrals	193	137
Suspensions	111	53
Highest Infraction	Disruptive Behavior	Disruptive Behavior
Highest Suspension Month	October	February

Aquarium. Fifth graders learned together, made mistakes together, improved together, and achieved together! We also were able to have great out-of-classroom experiences at the DIA, Schoolcraft College, Hamtramck Tiny Farms, and the Henry Ford Museum. Onward to 6th grade!

Grades 6 - 8

This year flew by at Holbrook in the 6th-8th grades. We started the year with a virtual field trip to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO). We were fortunate that patrons of the orchestra could join us in



Mr. Miller

our auditorium for the field trip. Then some of the members that performed for us on the virtual field trip visited our school for an informal conference about their performance. Mrs. Conwell started a go-fund-me for the sixth through eighth grades and she was able to raise the money to take the whole middle school including the fifth grade to the DSO. In the spring we celebrated one more time with another virtual field trip to the DSO

Music is not all we did this year, Mrs. Conwell lead the First Tech Challenge Robotics team 9352 the Holbrook Hawks, which won an award for Simplicity in Design for their robot in December. When we came back from winter break we were quickly into the science fair.

We are very proud of one of our students Arwa Homran who placed third in her division at the Science Fair in Detroit.

In addition to this, Mrs. King led the students in Nano-Ramo, a writing project for the students. We ended our year with two fun and interesting Field Trips: the sixth and seventh grade learned to ice skate and bowl. The eighth grade spent their last field trip together at CJ Barrymores.

Reading Specialist and ELL

Dr. Larkins, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Czarnik

This year at Holbrook we have been focusing on

During our instructional time with our students, we discuss the importance of reading and being able to carry on conversations about what we read with others. During March is Reading Month, we had many visitors who came to Holbrook to read to our students as well as discuss why reading is important in their daily jobs. We also had our student’s do some buddy reading with students in different grades as well as providing a pizza party to the 5th graders for reading 1900+ books during reading month.

Throughout the year, we have been able to send new books home with our students for them to read and add to their home libraries. We are very proud of the way our students are growing as readers and are beginning to present a passion for learning and reading.

Restorative Practices Facilitator

Mrs. Flowers

The Restorative Practices Initiative made a comeback in April, 2015 at Holbrook Elementary School. During the 2015-2016 school year, Holbrook Elementary acknowledged and received a new administrator, Mr. Myron Miller. Mr. Miller is not only the instructional leader of our building; but also a leader in Restorative Practices.

We are well on our way to an even better academic, instructional and behavioral environment. The following table shows our improvements—

The first step in improving our educational environment is PBIS. We are involved with Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) which is mandated by the school district. Currently, we are in the planning stage of PBIS. With the team meetings, teacher buy-in, supplemental support staff, office personnel, kitchen employees and custodian, Holbrook will progress. Holbrook stu-

dents and staff will exceed our normal expectations!

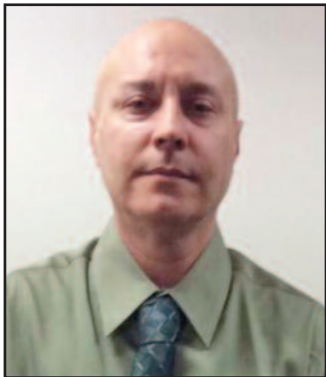


Holbrook students had a busy schedule this past year.

Hamtramck Public Schools Building and Grounds Department

Summer break is right around the corner; our maintenance and custodial crews are prepared to begin work on our buildings for the arrival of students and staff in the fall. This summer will be very busy around the district. We will be replacing the roof at Hamtramck High School and will begin the Dickinson East Elementary Kitchen Upgrade Project. Have a great summer everyone!

While students are enjoying their summer break, district maintenance crews will be upgrading buildings in time for the new school year in the fall.



Richard Wawrzynski



Another successful year for district’s Recreation Department

The Hamtramck Recreation Department ended their winter season with a blast! The WinterGlow held in December was a success as we brought back the iceless ice rink for the second year in a row! The Junior Basketball League featured five teams this year with the Cavaliers and the Suns, both from Kosciuszko/Dickinson West, making it to the championship. The Suns took home the win 33-24. The Daddy/Daughter Dance hosted 60 dads and daughters for a 3 course dinner, games, crafts, and ended the night with a dad hula hoop contest! We can’t wait for what the Spring/Summer season brings.



Craig Daniels



The Recreation Department celebrated another busy year, which included the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance (top) and the Winter Blast (above).

This year at Dickinson East Elementary

The 2016-2017 school year saw much success in many different forms at Dickinson East Elementary: academics, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Academically, the Dolphin students proved that their hard work in the classroom paid off as the preliminary M-Step results increases in reading and math scores. The continued academic success can be attributed to the hard work of the outstanding group of students coupled with the most dedicated, and one of the most experienced, staff of teachers that can be found anywhere around.

Dolphin students had extracurricular opportunities this school year that few students in the area get to experience. Beyond their weekly studies in physical education, music, art and visits to the extensive library, students had the opportunity to perform in front of hundreds of community members in two building-wide concerts, and also left the building for enrichment activities at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the



Christopher Vraniak

Cranbrook Science Center, as well as the Belle Isle Conservatory and Aquarium. Close to 100 students also enjoyed the afterschool HOPE program every day after school.



Students at Dickinson East keep busy academically and also have a lot of fun.

In the greater community, Dickinson East students shined in the National Elementary Honors Society and by earning top awards at the Michigan Science Fair, the Michigan Oratorical Contest and the Ford Freedom Essay Contest.

Both students and staff are already looking forward to continuing the Dickinson East tradition in the 2017-2018 school year. Students can expect the same dedicated, experienced staff that has kept Dickinson East tradition alive, well, and producing community and academic leaders for 105 years come next September.

Meet the 2017 graduates of Horizon High



Not Pictured: Sarah Aamer, Masum Ahamed, Nasir Ahmed, Rayhan Ahmod, Mohammed Al Masmari, Karar Al Washah, Muntaha Al Washah, Tarek Algaheim, Reem Aljalal, Mohamed AlReyashi, Zoni Bhowmik, Jasmine Brown, De'Asia Chambers, Drequone Cofer, Makayla Colvin, Damir Dedic, Sumaya Elghazali, George Estmond, Ty'reke Ford, Abdulrahman Gobah, Syed Haque, Aladdin Hasan, Alanis Hill, Kamryn Hill, Tanvir Islam, Eddie Kellom, Maleek Lane, Hasnath Lashkar, Ali Mazab, Talisa Pearson, Deshawn Pippen-Ray, Cynthia Platt, Martin Prenaj, Mahfuz Qureshi, Abdulrahman Rageh, Shehab Saleh, Lejla Salkic, Charles Shannon, Zarreya Washington

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উভবনের তেতরে ডাক্
উব্যায়ামাগার

উ ২৪ ঘন্টা নিরাপত্তা পাহাড়া
উ বিনোদন কেন্দ্র
উ শীততাপ নিয়ন্ত্রিত
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২৬২০ হলব্রুক স্ট্রীট, হ্যামট্রামিক উ ৩১৩ ৮৭৩ ৭৭৮৭

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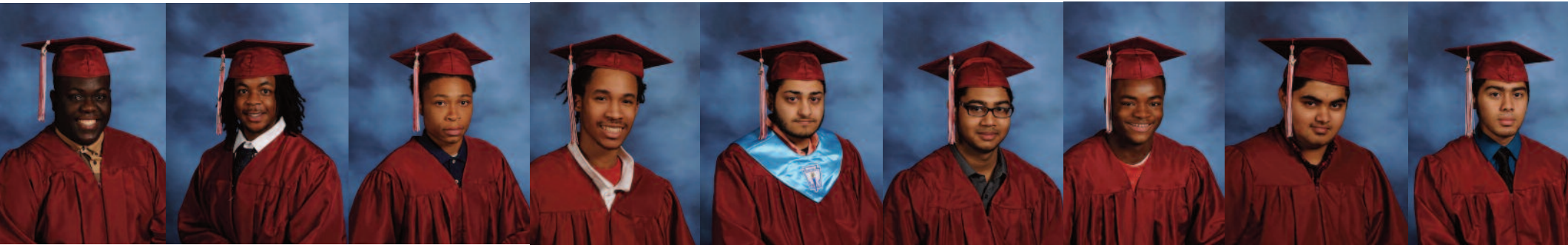
Meet the 2017 graduates of Hamtramck High



Shiekh Abir Nasim Ahmed Rafi Ahmed Ali Al-Masmari Sad Al-Nahari Ahmed Al-Refaei Tareq Al-Sanabani Joseph Al-Shame Rafeul Alam



Adel Alawdi Al-Azi Alhalmi Mohamed Ali Abdoaziz Allwasy Abdulrahmn Alqablani Monear Alzendani Nagib Ashabi Amjed Babaker Shalul Begum



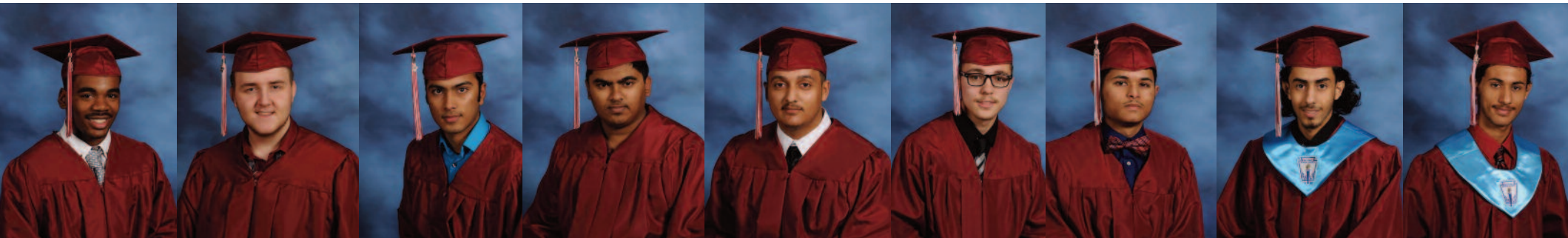
Michael Belcher Devin Blount Julius Bowlson Alexander Brooks Ali Butt Mitun Das Jerrice Duhart Syed Elahi Mohammed Faysal



Donald Frame Amjed Haddash Esmail Haidan Shakil Hamid Abdul Hasib Damon Holmes MD Hoque MD Obaidul Hoque MD Hossain



Mohammed Hussain Fuad Islamovic Ousama Ismail Mumen Jesan Sadat Jibon Ali Kaïd Kassem Kassem Mohamed Korin Rashed Mahmood



Stahj McCoy Amel Mesic Fayek Miah Muzakkir Miah Amer Mohamed Jusuf Muhic Fahim Murshed Muath Muthana Wisam Muthana



Khalil Nasher Al-Bara Obahi Mohamed Quteibi Iftiar Rahim MD Rahman Jaylin Reid Jamal Saleh Djonibek Sattarov Tahmim Siddiquee



Jessie Skicko Amar Tabakovic Abdulrazzag Thabet Ishtiaq Uddin MD Azher Uddin Mohammed Uddin Ohid Uddin Denis Velic Aaron Walker



Abdulla Zokari

Not pictured: Ayham Al-Jaradi, Ali Anakeeb, Tanvi Chowdhury, Anthony Daka, Asmir Fetic, Sayem Haque, Ekram Hussain, Danijel Jaksic, Colton Krause, Manuel Palmer, Rihat Rahman, Mohamed Said, Asim Saleh, Abu Shakil, Juduas Simmons, Miah Tuhin, Michael Young, Khaja Zaman



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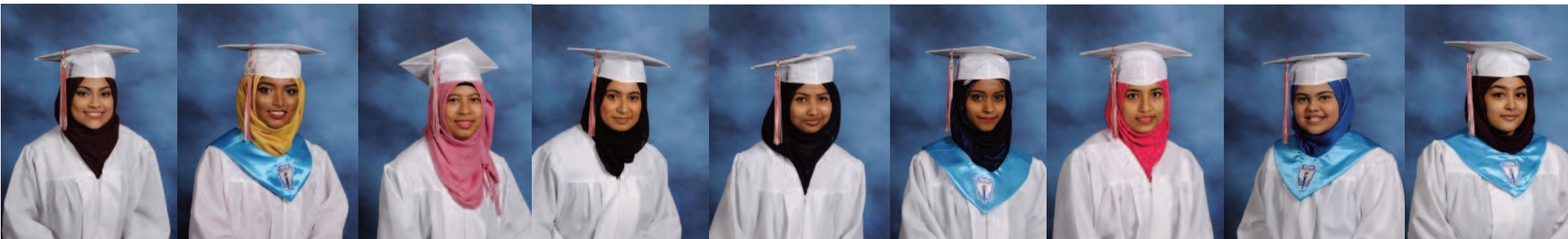
Meet the 2017 graduates of Hamtramck High



Tiara Adair Tanzima Ahad Nahida Ahmed Rahab Ahmed Sayeda Ahmed Imrana Akhter Amina Aktar Arjana Aktar Farjana Aktar



Shajada Akthar Huda Al-Qusaimi Abeer Al-Shauweyh Amani Aldais Norelhuda Almahadi Wreod Alrohani Rifa Bakth Mukti Barua Bilkiss Begum



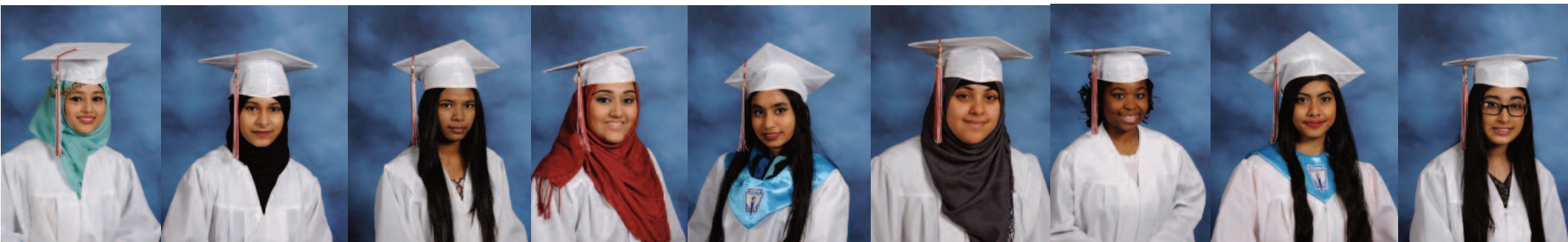
Farhana Begum Jabeda Begum Kamona Begum Marzana Begum Roushanara Begum Rumana Begum Tama Begum Thanjina Begum Nazifa Choudhury



Rakhia Chowdhury Sanjidah Chowdhury Priyanka Das Kaprice Davis Paige Davis Fahifta Gaffar Fataha Gency Syeda Hasan Amina Hatibovic



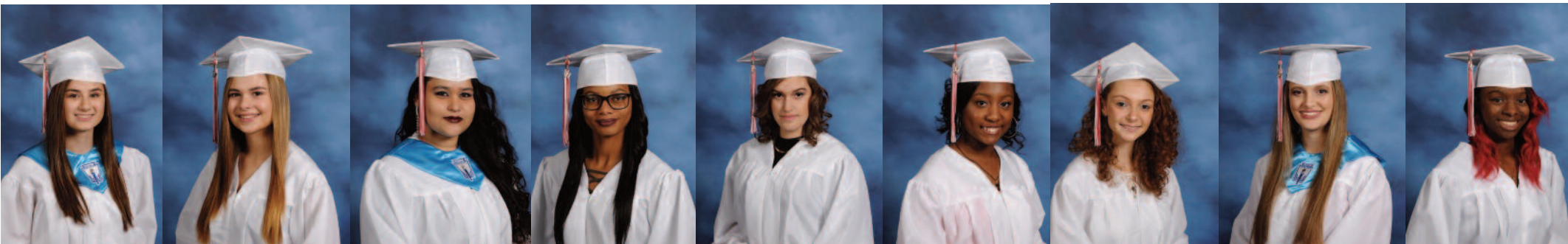
Rashida Hoque Alham Howaig Fariyah Ibrahim Marzana Islam Linda Ivanovic Una Jakupovic Fatimah Jobeh Selma Kaltak Hannah Kelly



Halima Khanom Jannatul Khanom Kaniz Khanom Aisha Khanum Shanjeda Kona Shayma Malek Keara Mapp Nazifa Miah Shakia Mimi



Syeda Mubin Adelisa Music Yasmine Newman Megan Nowakowski Olivia Patel Sanela Pilipovic Jamila Pooi Fahmida Prithi Gida Osaimi



Maida Ribic Naida Ribic Nowshin Saki Autum Simmons Krystal Skicko Imani Smith Weronika Solecka Alyssa Spillman Erika Swinton



Belma Terzic Fharhana Uddin Thuhita Wahid Arianna Woolfolk

Not pictured: Tia Allen, Nipa Begum, Jubilee Shines



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English language learners get a helping hand

I am excited to be a part of the Hamtramck Public School District! The following information has been shared with all stakeholders in August of 2016 and I am proud to say that we are heading in the right direction. Last September, the English language learners (ELLs) made up 50% of the student population in the district. Currently, the ELLs make up 62% of the student population in our district. Since the student numbers continue to grow, it is a goal to ensure that all students receive adequate services to help them be successful as they develop English language proficiency skills. One of the ways to ensure success in the ELL Program is to work closely with administrators, teachers, parents, students and community members/ organizations.

Data Driven Decisions

Data was used to guide conversations and lead many efforts to making well informed decisions. Pahlka states that “our ability to do great things with data will make a real difference in every aspect of our lives”. With this understanding, data is a vital part of the ELL Program. I have reviewed multiple and varied data (state and local assessments) to determine student placement, services for each student, and increase the staff per building/ per need and realign staff in the district. I am proud to share that all ELLs are receiving adequate services through their ESL teachers and additional support through paraprofessionals. Additionally, the data was used:

- to identify ALL ELLs in the district
- to identify levels of support for the ELLs
- to determine priorities in the district goals
- to implement professional development for staff in the focus areas
- to guide instruction

English Language Learners are a Part of the Global Society

Many of the ELLs are entering the United States from war torn countries. Some have left their families, their homes and their belongings. One of the program goals is to help students acculturate which is merging of their native culture with the American culture. Much research supports acculturation that is on a voluntarily level, it isn’t forced upon a student. The administrators and teachers understand that each student is different and respect the students’ individual needs and the students’ ability to maintain their personal identity.



Jaleelah Ahmed

One of the ways to help the ELLs be a part of the school community was through the ELL Youth Voice and Engagement Committee at Hamtramck High School. The committee consists of 25 members who were selected by teachers. I wanted to get a perspective from a variety of students, so I did not make any academic or behavior limitations. I felt it was important to hear from an ELL student who was failing or did not show any academic growth. Also, it was important to hear from a student that may have had many school infractions. The committee meets once monthly.

Students expressed their school’s strengths and its weaknesses during the first session. It was uplifting to see the committee members transform their thoughts and ideas throughout the school year. They addressed the weaknesses and made it a goal to turn them into strengths. Some of the issues the students tackled included improving the lunch procedures and selection as well as improving the restrooms. They met with directors and administrators to address these issues. Their input was shared with the superintendent, Mr. Niczay. I am looking forward to having the ELL Youth Voice and Engagement Committee in more schools next year.

English language learners participated in the Religious Diversity Journeys (RDJ) through The Interfaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit. The RDJ immersed 25 students from each participating school district in the Wayne and Oakland Counties. We had students from Holbrook and Kosciuszko visit a variety of houses of worship and learn about the customs and practices of each faith.

The ELLs in Hamtramck High School were led by ESL Math Teacher, Mrs. Livezey, participated in Henry Ford College Engineering Competition. The students worked in teams to develop a prototype and entered the competition. The students left earning 1st place and 3rd place. The senior in the team also received a HFC schol-

arship. We are looking forward to participating next year. Henry Ford College hosted the students for a field trip to the Engineering Dept. to look at a variety of engineering fields and meet with the professors.

Next year, Mr. Katopodis and I will be working to promote diversity and build tolerance at Hamtramck High School. We have plans for a, Hamtramck Talks, spin off of Ted Talks. Stay tuned for more details to follow.

ESL Teachers are Bridging the Gap

Michigan Department of Education requires that a certified teacher or a teacher willing to obtain an ESL endorsement are highly qualified to work with the ELLs. Since there is a shortage of ESL endorsed teachers in our district, I worked with Wayne State University to study the options for teachers to obtain their ESL endorsement. Dr. Hopkins from Wayne State University held an informational meeting for district employees seeking the ESL endorsement. Soon after, the district team and I worked together for a plan to support the interested teachers. The district is supporting teachers by covering 75% of the total costs. The ESL Cohort is growing and they have shared positive feedback after concluding their first course. Some have suggested sharing their experience and information with their colleagues.

ESL Teachers and I meet monthly except during the administration of WIDA. During our first meeting, we worked on an activity identifying the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOTs) in our district. This activity helped me understand much about the district and the program to develop a strategic approach to addressing the issues in a timely manner. It was important to understand where we were, where we want to be and how to get there. Best practices, program expectations, and compliance issues are a part of our monthly discussions.

The ESL Teachers have a lot on their plate from providing instruction to the ELLs, to working with the general education teachers, to working with the parents. It is important to know each building’s ESL Teacher. Some teachers are testing coordinators since they must administer the WIDA Screener and lead the efforts for the annual WIDA assessment which are both language proficiency assessments. Some teachers are parent

Continued on page 4 B

KMS Celebrates the richness of diversity that Hamtramck has to offer



Nuo Ivezaj

Hamtramck is a beautiful city with such rich diversity and KMS has tried to celebrate the uniqueness of this community throughout the year. This school year we were honored to add Ms. Walter to our staff who has kick started multiple cultural celebrations throughout the year. She, along with other staff at KMS, would like to expand on these celebrations next year to include more cultures that are present at KMS.

On February 21st, 2017, Ms. Walter, the newest member to the KMS staff, coordinated a celebration for Bangladesh Language Day. Parents and students brought in traditional Bangla food for students, teachers, and community to try. Students also wore traditional dress. Teachers and community members had the opportunity to try on traditional sarees.

According to Ms. Walter, the “Mother Language Day” in Bangladesh is celebrated on the 21st of February.

February 21st, often called Ekushey (which means 21st), is a national holiday in Bangladesh. People wear clothing colored black, white, and red, and printed with letters and words, to honor the language. Children place wreaths in honor of the martyrs. Book fairs and poetry readings are held throughout the month of February.

In 1999, at the suggestion of the Bangladeshi delegation, the United Nations declared February 21st International Mother Tongue Language Day. This day celebrates the importance of recognizing, honoring and preserving the mother languages of all the people in the world.

A month later, Ms. Walter also coordinated a cultural celebration day for the students to honor the

cultures of Yemen, Bosnia, and Lebanon. The students created slideshows of pictures of their native lands. They also performed the Yemen National Anthem, “United Republic” and sang to the students in staff in Arabic.

We are extremely blessed to live in a community that values diversity and embraces the different cultures that are present. Knowledge is power in the world and the more we know about the customs and traditions of



Kosciuszko Middle School students and staff celebrated the school’s many cultures.

Students dressed in traditional clothes and made traditional dishes for the staff to try. Parents donated their time and skills to make the celebration as authentic as possible.

people from other cultures, the more we can celebrate together, live in unity, and work together to make the world a better place for all of our children.

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English language learners get a helping hand

Continued from page 3 B

coordinators and are responsible for working more closely with the parents. Since our ELLs are growing, the ELL staff is growing too. I have added the English Language Development Specialist (ELDS) to our team. Currently, we have one in each school level. One of their responsibilities will be to monitor the Formally Limited English Proficient (FLEP) students, which is per Every Student Succeeds Act, for four years. Also, the ELDS will be working more closely with the general education teachers to help the ELLs become more successful in the general education classes. Family-School Partnerships are Better Together There is much research that indicates that parents involved in their children's learning is linked to an increase in: student achievement, self-regulations, less discipline issues and more positive attitudes. With this understanding and the results of the qualitative data that I collected in the beginning of the school year, I knew that many efforts must be on creating stronger partnerships between the families and schools. This was an expectation of me from the board and the superintendent. I am looking to get parent liaisons in some schools and a parent coordinator to support parents and students for next school year. I worked with administrators to establish the "Principal Forums" which occurs monthly and relevant information is shared with parents while addressing school related issues. I started to work with some principals and then the principals soared. I was happy with the parent turn out in all the buildings. Next, many families have sought out Adult ESL Programs at their child's school so I created the Family Literacy Program. It is running in Dickinson East, Dickinson West and Kosciuszko from 3:30-5:30 on Mondays-Wednesdays with Thursday as a planning day for teachers

and paraprofessionals. The program has a teacher that works with adults while the paraprofessional provides child care. The goal behind the Family Literacy Program is to teach life skills to the adults and to share strategies with the parents to help them work with their children on literacy. We have embedded PACT in the program, the Parent and Child Time, empowers parents to be an active parent in their child's education. This program has been very successful and I am looking at the data from this year's program to determine the growth for next year. Welcoming Hamtramck Families was a successful event that the committee members, Mrs. Robie, Mrs. St. Germaine and Ms. Lisiski and I worked hard to make a success. The goal of this event was to bring families together to become familiar with the educators, receive health services, learn about community organizations and have fun with their children. The ELL Youth Voice and Engagement Committee did and outstanding leading in a variety of roles and responsibilities. Indeed, it was a proud moment to see the educators at Hamtramck Public Schools, student leaders, and families and community organizations come together with the joint cause. Mr. Niczay would like to have this event again in the fall so be sure to join us! This is my home away from home, I appreciate the administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, families and students. I strive for excellence in everything that I do and I appreciate the continuous support of my colleagues, Mr. Niczay and the board members. There is still much ahead as I continue to refine the program, improve systems, and develop stronger relationships and partnerships with all stakeholders. I am grateful to be a part of Hamtramck Public Schools and look forward to continued success.

Horizon stars shine brightly

The 2016/2017 school year at Horizon High School was a year of 'First's'. This year was the first time 100% of our graduating class submitted the FAFSA and 100% of those who applied to a local college were accepted! Way to go Seniors! This year marked the first year a school wide Positive Behavior Support System was put in place following the initiative of the Hamtramck Public Schools and Horizon students really put these words into practice daily. Over 60 students were recognized for outstanding achievement and citizenship at our Spring Honors Ceremony! Miss Amber Billinglea also made history by being the first female 'Cosmo' to play on the Varsity Football Team.



Kristen Hurt

She played on the line, one of the toughest positions in the sport. She definitely gave it all she had and is a role model for all student athletes! Speaking of stars on the field, we also have stars on the silver screen! The Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition, along with Hamtramck Public Schools, Hamtramck Police Department and Hamtramck Firefighters filmed a mock car crash, pointing out the dangers of drinking and driving. Horizon students, Karar Al Washah, Maleek



George Estmond



Amber Billingslea



(from left to right) Mrs. Susan Wright, Jazmine Copeland, De'Asia Chambers, Charles Shannon, Ty'reke Ford, Maleek Abuhamra, Ismael Shammakh

Abuhamra, Jazmine Copeland, Ty'reke Ford, Ismael Shammakh, Charles Shannon and Tiffany Simmons starred in the production. Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcOrqmEU-uRw&feature=youtu.be> As this year draws to a close, Seniors still have much to look forward to, including enjoying the first Senior Breakfast offered offsite, at Maine Street.

Continued on page 5 B



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1,900 sq ft., 30231 E. Jefferson Ave., facing lake, red brick (former dental) single level, 5 BR, 3 baths, great room w counter, FP. \$1,550/mo 313-354-2495.

Hamtramck, 3 br., Lumpkin St., living, dining, kitchen, basement, move-in ready, \$825/mo. + sec. dep., includes fridge, stove, washer and dryer, no access to garage, no pets, tenant pays water, gas, light, \$25 non-refundable application fee, 248-579-3872. ^{6/16}

HOUSE
FOR SALE

For Sale, 30231 E. Jefferson, Brick, 5 br, 1, 2 half baths, great room, FP reception counter, foster care, medical, senior assisted, 1900 sq ft, 2 lots. Johnksells@gmail.com, \$151,700. 586-771-1211.

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HOUSE
FOR SALE

2954 Goodson, 4 br., living, dining rm., kitchen, full basement, 2 car garage, turn-key house, \$125,000, 248-879-2521, ask for Pete.

HELP WANTED

All positions chef, cook, dishwasher, driver, Maine Street Restaurant ask for Mario 313-368-0500.

Ivanhoe Café, cook position, apply in person (please call for hours), 5249 Joseph Campau, 313-925-5335. ^{6/30}

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WANTED

Handyman, must be reliable, on call as needed, call Piast institute, 313-733-4535, ask for Christie. ^{6/16}

CAR
FOR SALE

2003 Chevy Venture 141,000 miles, good condition. \$1,500 or best offer, 313-645-6002. ^{6/9}

Deadline for classifieds
for next week is
Thursday at Noon
(313) 874-2100

Horizon stars shine brightly

Cont. from page 4 B

Special thanks to Mario and Nick for hosting 80 plus Seniors, our biggest graduating class in the history of Horizon High!

Our staff and students are proud to be members of the Horizon High School community, the HPS family and the Hamtramck community. Being an eyewitness as our students crossed the stage with diploma in hand is

heartwarming knowing the accomplishments they have achieved. Thank you to the HPS faculty and to all of the families in the Hamtramck community that have inspired our children's academic success and have helped ignite their dreams for the future. Good Luck to our graduating Cosmos, continue to shine bright!

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Coming events

SATURDAY, June 10, 9-3 p.m. – Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

SATURDAY, June 10, 2-4 p.m. – Soup Kitchen, Holy Cross Parish, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming, all are welcome.

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Courses prepare students for challenges ahead

Hamtramck Public Schools has formed a new district Curriculum Leadership Council (CLC) to establish a K-12 curriculum that will enable ALL our students to experience a relevant and rigorous educational experience, one that prepares them for life, citizenship, and careers. This 21st century curriculum will be aligned to the highest state and national standards and include the best practices in instruction. Our sophisticated assessment program will enable us to understand the needs of each student. From that knowledge, we can customize educational programs to the needs of our diverse learners.

The District began this process in February 2017 with a deep study of literacy involving reading and writing. From that research and collaboration with expert teachers, we



District staff is developing a new curriculum to better prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century.

expect to have a 21st literacy curriculum in place soon that will accelerate the literacy of our students to an even higher level. Because change does not happen without an infrastructure to support it, we are also developing a comprehensive plan to provide professional development, coaching, and resources for our teachers and staff. Our curriculum work is being guided by the Ham-

tramck Public Schools' Mission:

The Mission of Hamtramck Public Schools, in partnership with the families and the community, is to be a model center of lifelong learning and recreation, while serving its multicultural population by achieving excellence in education, maximizing each individual's potential in a safe nurturing environment.

Greetings Residents of Hamtramck

By Marc Wilkinson


I truly appreciate the warm welcome by both my district coworkers and you the residents of Hamtramck. As I complete my first year in the Hamtramck Public School District, I find myself both reflecting on what we have achieved as well as what we will achieve moving forward. Missions of the Technology Department this year have centered on creating a team environment and increasing our level of support to our hardworking staff members. We in Technology have facilitated or assisted the facilitation of new infrastructure upgrades district wide. In mention, of some of these upgrades that merit attention are as follows:



Marc Wilkinson



- District Wide Camera systems in a joint venture between Technology and Buildings and Grounds.
- Cut over to a new value based phone carrier district wide
- Wireless network upgrades at Kosciuszko Middle School, Early Childhood, Holbrook Elementary, and Dickinson East Elementary.
- Website Design Re-


- fresh
- Network switching and UPS Battery backup systems.
 - Board Servers and associated storage.
 - District wide phone system.
- In the short term, forward this summer, we have some exciting repairs and upgrades to complete in the exterior fiber network infrastructure that interconnects our district together as well as, additional upgrades to the speed of our network!
- I look forward to a long successful career in The School District of the City of Hamtramck.




Wayne County Treasurer
Eric R. Sabree
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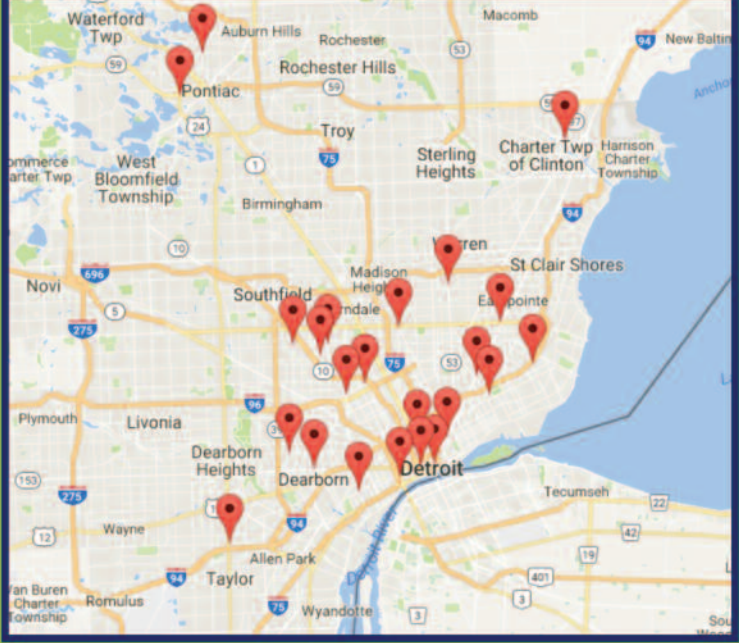
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Eric R. Sabree,
Wayne County Treasurer



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