

# Board Briefs

*Highlighting Board of Education Action*

*Utica Community Schools*

## Regular Meeting - Monday, January 9, 2012

### **Board recognizes Lego Robotics teams, grant recipients**

Several groups were recognized by the Board of Education for outstanding achievement: Lego Robotics teams and staff members who received mini-grants from Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union. Lego Robotics teams were honored for regional and state honors. Schools represented were: Bemis Junior High School, Shelby Junior High School, Malow Junior High School, Eppler Junior High School, Beck Elementary, Crissman Elementary, Dresden Elementary, Harvey Elementary, Roberts Elementary, and Schuchard Elementary. Staff members honored as grant recipients were: Danielle DiFalco, Dresden Elementary; Laura Laban, Ebeling Elementary; Nicole Nagy, Morgan Elementary; Derek D'Angelo, Eisenhower High School; Lisa O'Green, Eisenhower High School; Lisa Lorincz, Henry Ford II High School; Angela Sikorski, Henry Ford II High School; Andrea Pilatowski, Stevenson High School, and Shirley Bray, Utica High School.

### **Dr. Johns reports on recent achievements and the Academic Blitz**

Superintendent Dr. Christine Johns updated the Board on recent student and staff achievements. She noted that nearly 100 high school students received honors at the recent Michigan Thespian Festival. She further noted that as part of the competition, students received more than \$300,000 in scholarship offers. She also reported that Browning Elementary principal Tricia Hassell is the only Detroit area educator to be selected for the Gerstacker Fellowship, and the first UCS staff member.

Dr. Johns also updated the Board of Education on a recently-announced partnership with the Detroit Zoological Society. The partnership will allow UCS and the Detroit Zoological Society to share resources to enhance the district's Life Science programs.

Dr. Johns closed by updating the Board on plans for the 5th annual Academic Blitz on Thursday, January 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Henry Ford II High School. The Blitz will allow parents the opportunities to learn more about their educational choices in UCS and after graduation.

### **Contract ratified, negotiating teams**

The Board ratified an agreement with Mechanics Local 1664. Negotiating teams were also authorized for the following units: Utica Education Association, Utica Skilled Trades Association, Utica Federation of Teachers, Utica Paraprofessional Association, Food Service, Operations, Grounds and Warehouse, and Technical Office Professionals.

**Utica Community Schools**

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