

Over the FENCE

Board Treasurer **Ron DeVillano Retires**

Board of Education Treasurer Ron DeVillano announced his retirement at the October 18 special meeting, after more than 11 years of service.



Mr. DeVillano joined the board in 2009, serving as trustee before moving to the role of treasurer.

"The Fraser community is built around our schools and all the volunteer parents who support it," he said. "I encourage everyone to help out in the classrooms, attend PTO meetings and spend your time and talents with the many school organizations. Help keep the strong sense of community in Fraser by helping out whenever you can."

He said the most unforgettable part of being on the board was attending graduations – shaking the hands of around 4,000 graduates during his tenure.

"Graduation is probably the most memorable," he said. "Seeing each student get to the point of graduation. I got to give my children their diplomas and that has to be a highlight."

He also reflected on the difficult decisions and achievements the board has made in the last decade.

"My biggest accomplishments were helping the district – as Treasurer – recover from the great recession without cutting back on programs for our children," he said. "And also passing two bond proposals in 2011 and 2017 to expand and improve our facilities and give our children

access to technology. These Board actions helped Fraser continue to be a desirable school district."

Board President Jim Birko presented Mr. DeVillano with a plaque commemorating his years of service and shared a few words at the meeting.

"You have been a major contributor to this team over the years," Mr. Birko said. "And you have always been absolutely dedicated to the community in Fraser, to our families and mostly to the students in Fraser Public Schools."

Superintendent Carrie Wozniak echoed his sentiments.

"The first word that came to my mind was steadfast. You have always been so level-headed and so thoughtful about looking at both sides of a situation and I've always been grateful for that. Your passion to Fraser and dedication to the community is just remarkable," she said.

The remaining Board members voted to elect Trustee Todd Koch to be the interim treasurer. The other positions will remain the same. The vacant trustee position is now posted on our [website](#), and a new member will be appointed in November.

BOARD OFFICERS

President Jim Birko	Treasurer Todd Koch
Vice President Scott Wallace	Trustee Dan Stawinski
Secretary Linda Corbat	Trustee Robyn Norbeck

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fraser Families,

This school year continues to show how our Fraser Family never stops coming together. During the past month, we have continued to be a community that believes in our schools and values the relationships that are cultivated through their experiences at Fraser.



We celebrated the outdoor homecoming pep assembly; a perfect fall evening for the homecoming game (and a win by our Ramblers); fun runs and harvest festivals at our elementary schools; and so many experiences in between. We created new memories while at the same time reminiscing fondly of the past with our Fraser alumni.

This coming month also brings more opportunities to come together. Tuesday, November 2 is Election Day. While our schools will be closed for students, our staff will be in training that focuses on the mental health and social/emotional learning of our students. As we continue in this pandemic, we know this is an area where many of our students need support.

November 2 is also Election Day, and the district has a non-homestead millage proposal on the ballot. If you live in the district, please take time to vote. This millage is not a new tax, and was previously approved by voters in 2014. It is only assessed on commercial and industrial properties and second homes. This means that it will not affect homeowners. For more facts about the election, you can visit our [website](#).

I am also looking forward to a new member joining our Board of Education. As you can read on this page, Mr. Ron DeVillano has retired from the board after more than 11 years. Mr. DeVillano's approach to fiscal responsibility while always keeping what is best for students at the forefront of his decisions will be missed. He was an integral part of our team, and we thank him for his dedication to our Fraser Family.

As always, I am grateful for students, staff, parents and community members who continue to come together to do what is best for our students.

With Fraser Pride,
Ms. Wozniak

WELCOME NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Shannon Holmes, *Assistant Principal at Fraser High School*

Mrs. Holmes joins us from Grosse Pointe Public Schools System, where she served as the transition consultant/program specialist for Grosse Pointe North High School since 2013. Before that, she spent 12 years as an ASD categorical classroom teacher at Brownell Middle School, also in the Grosse Pointe Public Schools System.



“Fraser is an excellent district, providing students with robust and dynamic educational opportunities. I am honored to be part of FHS and look forward to building relationships as I serve in this role,” Mrs. Holmes said.

Mrs. Holmes has a bachelor’s degree in Special Education from Marygrove College and a master’s degree in Public School Administration from Oral Roberts University. She also has certificates in Education Leadership and Special Education Administration.

She lives in Detroit with her husband, Andre. Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Holmes to the Fraser Family.



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– **Mrs. Shannon Holmes**,
Assistant Principal at Fraser High School

FRASER PUBLIC SCHOOLS SEEKS NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE REPLACEMENT AND RESTORATION

Our Request

On November 2, voters in the Fraser Public Schools District will be asked to approve a proposal regarding the 18-mill non-homestead renewal property tax levy. This vote allows the district to continue to collect approximately \$5.7 million (9.5 percent) in operating funds that are vital to preserving district programs.

- ▲ If you own and reside in a home within the district, you do not pay this tax
- ▲ Fraser voters previously approved this millage in 2014, 2009, 2005 and 1995
- ▲ The replacement and restoration is for a period of 20 years
- ▲ This is a tax assessed against businesses and second homes, NOT homeowners
- ▲ All residents in the Fraser Public Schools District vote on the restoration and renewal
- ▲ This money cannot be replaced by other funding sources

How Much Will It Cost?

A YES vote will result in NO tax increase to families who own and reside in a home in the Fraser School District.

A YES vote will result in a vital restoration and replacement of 18 mills on non-homestead properties. Non-homestead properties are generally limited to industrial, commercial, business, rental and second homes.

Why Is the District Asking for 21 Mills if It Can Only Assess 18 Mills?

Legally, Fraser Public Schools is only allowed to levy a maximum of 18 mills. Due to the Headlee amendment, the 18-mill levy is rolled back each year. Currently, the district can only assess 17.4682 mills on non-homestead property.

The district is seeking a replacement of the currently authorized 17.4682 mills, which would otherwise expire on June 30, 2025, and a restoration of the 0.5318 mills lost due to Headlee rollbacks.

The remaining 3 mills would serve to protect against future Headlee rollbacks. By approving more than 18 mills, voters can help guarantee a more stable budget for the district by ensuring the district is able to collect taxes on non-homestead property at the full 18 mills for well into the future.

DISTRICT COMMENDED FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Fraser Public Schools received the highest rating possible on its annual audit for financial accountability. A representative from the accounting firm Buss & Company presented the completed audit at a workshop before the October 11 Board of Education meeting. The district received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest rating an organization can earn.

The audit showed that the district finished the 2020–2021 year with \$58.4 million in expenditures. Of that, 74 percent, or about \$43.2 million, was spent on classroom instruction and student support.

The district ended the year with \$6.2 million in the rainy day fund, which is about 10.3% of budgeted expenditures for 2022. The auditors commented that the district is in a strong financial position.

Fraser Shout-Out



Fraser Shout-Out recognizes staff members who go above and beyond for their students, colleagues and the community. As a principal or administrator becomes aware of an extra effort by a staff member, he or she will submit that member for a Fraser Shout-Out.



Kelly Mahoney

Kelly is one of the unsung heroes in the Special Education Department. Much of her work is behind the scenes, but it certainly does not go unnoticed! In fact, we could not function without her and the sense of calm she brings to our team. Kelly is always ready and willing to step up and help in whatever capacity we need that day. We greatly appreciate all she does to keep things running smoothly in the department. Thank you, Kelly, for taking such great care of us! *Submitted by Jane Sturgell.*



Sarah Rattee

Mrs. Sarah Rattee has done an excellent job stepping in as a new kindergarten teacher. She has also worked the SACC program at the same time! She is an asset to Salk Elementary and has done admirable work getting our spirited kindergartners learning the ways of Seahawk students. *Submitted by Adam Fichter.*



Shannon Schubeck

Shannon is the newest member of the Business Office team. She started in March and hit the ground running. Shannon has been instrumental as we transitioned to the new ELEYO billing system that is used for our childcare programs. She has supported our staff and families during this transition and has worked hard to ensure families were placed in our SACC program for the start of the school year. She is dedicated, she is positive, and she is very patient. It truly shows how much she cares about our district and our families! She's been a great addition to the Business Office team and the Fraser Family! *Submitted by Andrea Agrusa.*

PLANNING AHEAD

OCTOBER 29

All Levels Early Release

NOVEMBER 2

No School All Levels – Election Day

NOVEMBER 5

RMS End of First Card Marking

NOVEMBER 8

RMS First Day of Second Card Marking

NOVEMBER 18

FHS Half Day – Afternoon (1 – 4 p.m.) and Evening (5 – 8 p.m.) Conferences

NOVEMBER 24-26

Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER 29

School Resumes

PREPARED TO LEARN

Students at Disney Elementary learn about different themes each month through the PBIS program. They kicked off the school year with the theme “Prepared to Learn.” Staff members recognized students for demonstrating preparedness throughout the school.

Students were entered into a drawing for going above and beyond. Five winners were then selected and won coupons for a Dairy Queen treat. Congratulations to Mason S., Kaitlyn A., Hazelle G., Liliana W., and Benjamin R.!



CONSTITUTION DAY AT EMERSON ELEMENTARY

As a way of celebrating Constitution Day, fifth-grade students at Emerson Elementary created their own classroom constitutions this year. Students participated in the entire process, from discussing what would happen if there was no government to why we have rules.

Students determined that without a government, there would be more crime, people might not be able to get the things they need or want, and our country might not have a president. The students decided that we need rules to keep everyone safe and protect everyone's rights.

Students then began suggesting ideas for their classroom constitution. Suggestions included being respectful, cleaning up after yourself and not to be a bully. Finally, students voted on which suggestions they could combine and should include.

The lesson concluded on Constitution Day with students signing their Classroom Constitutions. Students also received a pocket US Constitution and Declaration of Independence from the Fraser Lions Club.



FHS Students Participate in Manufacturing Day

The first Friday in October is known as Manufacturing Day in Michigan. It is a day for high school students to visit manufacturing businesses and see firsthand how the skills they learn in career technical education classes can apply to careers after high school.

Since Manufacturing Day fell on October 1 – the same day as many homecoming festivities – two business partners welcomed more than 100 Fraser High School students the day before.

Eighty students visited Dominion Technologies locations in Roseville and Madison Heights to see various aspects of the automotive supplier's business.

“Dominion staff helped students understand the process of ‘Art to Part’ within manufacturing and how they could fit into this setting,” said Career Technical Education Director Mr. Brent Brasure. “Between the two locations, most available jobs in manufacturing were represented, which helped students see themselves in these roles over time.”

An additional 25 students from the Fashion Design program visited the GM Design Center to help them see the career opportunities that exist within this local automotive powerhouse. These students have been working daily with



GM staff at FHS, so having the opportunity to visit their workspace really helped students see themselves as part of the GM team.

When students entered the Tech Center, they saw a 10-foot-tall poster highlighting the work being done in the Creation Station at FHS.

“This really ignited excitement, as the poster was hung when GM CEO Mary Barra visited the Tech Center,” Brasure said. “Students really loved seeing themselves, their friends and family members highlighted on the display.”

Overall, Manufacturing Day helped students make meaningful connections with local industries and see future career paths.



Learning in Style and Comfort

Third-grade students at Mark Twain Elementary are enjoying their new flexible furniture. The new furniture is part of the district's commitment to Universal Design for Learning.



Teachers are strategically designing their classrooms around students, so all students can be engaged and succeed. Students use the whiteboard tables to participate during math lessons. Another added benefit is that students feel more confident to step out of their comfort zone and try something tricky when they can simply wipe away their mistakes and try again. These fun tables have helped provide an enthusiastic introduction to third-grade math.

The students are also enjoying the new reading storage and cushions. The cushions can be used on the floor for seating, and they are also firm enough to use as a writing surface.

BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AT EISENHOWER

Pastor Arthur Werry, from New Life Baptist Church of Fraser, delivered 60 backpacks to Eisenhower Elementary. Parishioners collected funds during the summer to purchase backpacks and school supplies for students who needed them.



Each bag contained items such as pencil bags, headphones, crayons, Kleenex and even disinfecting wipes. Our students were very grateful for the supplies, and we appreciate the ongoing support of Pastor Werry and his congregation!

SALK SEAHAWKS SOAR

Salk Elementary started the school year focusing on teamwork and respect. The staff wants students to feel welcome, safe and have a renewed sense of community.

Collaboration with each other and respect are at the forefront of the social and emotional learning that is happening every day at Salk.

Students are working in small groups, rotating through centers, participating in training day, creating academic and social goals, and joining morning circle time as they work toward learning expectations and routines.

These activities offer great opportunities for teachers to check in with students, which fosters relationship building as well as for making sure Seahawks are forming healthy and happy habits for social interactions.



The Fraser Performing Arts Center
presents



An Improbable Farce in Three Acts
By Noël Coward

Friday, Nov. 12th – 7 PM
Saturday, Nov. 13th – 2 PM & 7 PM

Ticket information:
www.frasertheater.org
(586) 439-7312

Fraser Performing Arts Center
Fraser High School
34270 Garfield Rd.
Fraser, MI