



# Board Notes

Shaker Heights City School District

April 15, 2009

At the regular meeting of the Shaker Heights Board of Education on April 14, 2009, the Superintendent reported the following:

- Forty-eight Shaker Heights High School students will advance to the state competition for National History Day after winning high honors at the district level on March 21. Shaker students were honored in a number of categories including *Historical Papers* - **Aaron Goodman**, first place; **Emily Nosse-Leirer**, second place; **Rose Egelhoff**, third place; *Websites (Individual & Group)* - **Anirudh Jayanti** and **Ayush Sood**, first place; *Individual Performances* - **David Wemer**, first place; **Laura Wadsworth**, second place; **Elizabeth Shick**, third place; **Brandon Patterson**, finalist; *Group Performances* - **Hannah Carlson**, **Ellen Jackson**, **Isabella McKnight**, and **Austin Murray**, first place; **Robin Meiksins** and **Harper Sutherland**, second place; *Individual Documentaries* - **Danielle Swales**, first place; **Brian Plautz**, second place; **Brendan Ryan**, third place; **Zofia Prochoroff**, finalist; *Group Documentaries* - **Nathaniel Henry**, **Isaac Hoffman**, **Leo Katz**, **Jacob Miller**, and **Jack O'Halloran**, first place; **Rita Bole** and **Julia Kim**, second place; **Tamar Kodish** and **Rachel Licina**, third place; **Gabe Gordon** and **Kayla Pincus**, finalist; *Individual Exhibits* - **Carol Hundert**, first place; **Julie Kogan**, second place; **Heidi Reis**, third place; **Annabel Wang**, finalist; **Nicole Niehoff**, finalist; and *Group Exhibits* - **Alyssa Binczyk** and **Emily Longman**, first place; **Brienne Einstein** and **Lisa Setrakian**, second place; **David Gabriel**, **David Neary**, and **Matthew Neary**, third place; **Cecelia Mercer** and **Natalie Vicchio**, finalist; **Ilana Polster** and **Michelle Scharfstein**, finalist; **Dana Finley** and **Victoria Fydrych**, finalist.

A number of students earned special awards for their research achievements. They are: **Nicole Blatchford**, **Cassandra Chin**, **Noah Collin**, **Rob Gleisser**, **Nat Henry**, **Arlin Hill**, **Isaac Hoffman**, **Cora Jackson**, **Anirudh Jayanti**, **Leo Katz**, **Tamar Kodish**, **Rachel Licina**, **Kathy Lin**, **Sarah McGill**, **Jacob Miller**, **Kortney Morrow**, **Jack O'Halloran**, **Miriam Rabinowitz**, **Ayush Sood**, **Marisa Vavruska**, and **Annabel Wang**.

National History Day was created in 1974 by David Van Tassel, a professor at Case Western Reserve University. Initially intended as a local competition, it grew to become a national program with about 700,000 participants each year. Top entries at the state-level competition in late April will proceed to the national finals at the University of Maryland in June.

- Shaker Heights Middle School and High School students made a number of outstanding contributions at the Junior Ohio Model United Nations (OMUN) competition held in Columbus in March.

**Shelli Reeves** served as the Vice-President of the General Assembly and was one of six officers who helped run all of the events. **Ana Sinicariello** was elected to serve as a Council Vice-President for the 2010 OMUN competition. **Isabel Robertson** won first place in the World Problem Solving essay contest while **Rachel McKinzie** won first place on the Agenda Issues essay contest. In the Current Events contest, **Evan Seballos** won first place, **Ezra Zigmund** won second place, and **Alex**

**Friedman** won third place. **Paul Goetze, Conor Matthews, Evan Seballos, Sam Stager,** and **Emmett Sweeney** represented Sudan, and their resolution, *Cleanup of Landmines*, earned an Excellent rating. It was one of only 29 resolutions out of 132 submitted that was selected for presentation on the floor of the General Assembly.

The following teams all earned Very Good ratings on their written resolutions and their oral presentations: Team Peru - **Zaylon Green, Shane McKeon, Kerstin Niedermaier, Tyler Rosner,** and **Ezra Zigmond**, *AIDS Education*; Team Belgium - **Meryl Becker, Leo Izen, Sara Martin, Kiki Merriman,** and **Mark Seymore**, *Illegal Exportation of Opium*; Team Uganda - **Naomi Hill, Kathleen Kalafatis, Clara Kao, Rachel McKinzie,** and **Isabel Robertson**, *Deforestation*; and Team Tajikistan - **Alex Friedman, Kate Friedman, Teja Kasturi, Jake Polster, Ana Sinicariello, Parker Smith,** and **Nathan Steinberg**, *United Nations International Conservation Organization on Water (UNICOW)*.

**Matt Goldenberg** and **Kristofer Jackson** also won an award for their fundraising efforts for I-OPEN, the International Outreach Program for Education in Nigeria. The project provides money for schools in the town of Jos to purchase books, desks, and buses.

Social studies teacher **Michael Sears** is the Model UN club's sponsor.

- Shaker Heights Middle School's Science Olympiad team finished second out of twenty-three teams at the regional Science Olympiad competition held on March 14 at the University of Akron. The group earned a trip to the state tournament to be held on April 18 at The Ohio State University, and twenty-one students won medals in various events at the competition. Team members included **Leighton Albrecht, Clayton Elliott, Linda Fan, Gray Flint-Vrettos, Adam Friedman, Sam Gao, Nick Haubrich, Anna Hundert, Leo Izen, Kathleen Kalafatis, Clara Kao, Teja Kasturi, Grace Li, Sarah Jane Lorenzo, Kerstin Niedermaier, Marc Reis, Isabel Robertson, Josh Schultheiss, Evan Seballos, LJ Shelven, Kai Smith, Emma Snape, Mia Wang, AJ Yule, Colin Yule, Yixuan Wang,** and **Nik Weder**. Middle School faculty members **Laurie Freeman, Chris Oryl, Paul Repasy, Mike Schwenn,** and **Dave Strauch** coached the team.
- Twenty-four Shaker Heights Middle School and High School students competed against 200 other players in the 2009 Ohio High School/Middle School Chess Championship at Wooster High School on March 21 and 22. The High School's team of **Bharat Gupta, Jiawei He, Trey Modlin,** and **Robin Steiner-Malumphy** earned second place in the high school team competition, while the Middle School's team of **Zane Eisen, Nick Haubrich, Rohit Kumar,** and **Donald Peyton Turner** captured second place for the second year in the middle school team competition. In individual competition, High School students Jiawei He and Trey Modlin finished third and fifth respectively. Middle School student Zane Eisen also earned an individual seventh place ranking. **Christopher Combs, Zoe Curtis, Jake Lacks, James Maye, Nia Morgan, Aaron Peterson, Jasmine Pollard, William Pollard, Shelli Reeves, Allie Roman, Lawrence Shelven, Juwan Smith, Jonathan Spiegler, Kevin Taylor, Jaleel Wen,** and **Oscar Yang** also skillfully represented the Middle School and High School at the competition.
- Shaker Heights High School senior **Adria Kinney** has been named a National Achievement \$2500 Scholarship winner. She is among approximately 800 students who have won Achievement Scholarship awards for college undergraduate study this year. More than 150,000 students entered the 2009 National Achievement Scholarship Competition by requesting consideration when they took the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) as high school juniors. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation and more than 40 corporate organizations and professional associations finance these awards. Additional announcements are expected in the coming weeks.

- High School sophomore **Jack O'Halloran** is the recipient of a prestigious Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program scholarship to study abroad in Germany during his junior year. As a scholarship winner, Jack will have the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC for orientation programs, meet with German and American government officials, attend a German high school, live with a German host family, receive intensive German language instruction, and participate in travel within Germany. The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program, which is jointly funded by the German Bundestag and the U.S. Congress through the U.S. Department of State, has been helping prepare ambitious young people for life in a global society since 1983. Only 250 scholarships are available to American high school students each year.
- 2009 is shaping up to be another strong year for college admissions. Thus far, members of the senior class have been admitted to a diverse group of nearly 200 colleges, including Ohio State, Yale, Rice, Juilliard, Miami of Ohio, Michigan, Brown, Kenyon, Ohio University, Harvard, Spelman, Notre Dame, Williams, Stanford, and many more. A list of acceptances to date may be found at [www.shaker.org/news](http://www.shaker.org/news). Notifications will continue through the spring.
- Some 120 members of the High School's choir and orchestra spent spring break on a performance tour in Italy, accompanied by 20 adult chaperones. Despite the poor state of the economy, the students were able to pay for their trip through fundraising and family contributions. Included in the tour were sightseeing visits to Pompeii, Sorrento, Amalfi, Orvieto, and several sites in Rome, such as the Forum and the Vatican Museum, and performances in four cities.
- High School Music Department Chair **Robert Schneider** is one of just 50 recipients this year of the Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award and has been invited to participate in the Yale School of Music's Symposium on Music in Schools. The symposium, which will be held in June, will provide attendees the opportunity to explore the role of music in the general classroom, learn about *El Sistema*, Venezuela's unique music education system, and attend workshops led by past symposium honorees.
- **Linda Hile**, work-study coordinator at the High School, received the 2009 Coordinator of the Year award from the Ohio Association of Supervisors and Coordinators for Exceptional Students. Ms. Hile helps graduating students who have special needs make a successful transition from school to adult activity centers and also connects students to jobs that help with their fine motor skills development.

## SHAKERFEST CELEBRATES LEARNING

The Shaker Heights City Schools are opening their doors to the community as students once again showcase their musical, theatrical, artistic, and academic talents during this year's Shakerfest celebration.

Shakerfest, an annual event, includes such activities as school open houses; student art shows; band, orchestra, and choral concerts; theatre ensemble performances; displays and demonstrations of student projects; and kindergarten welcome activities. Each elementary school will host at least one event, and the Middle School and High School will each sponsor several events. The complete Shakerfest schedule is available at all school offices and online at [www.shaker.org/news](http://www.shaker.org/news).

The Board heard the following:

- A welcome from **Lynn Cowen**, Principal of Onaway Elementary School.
- A presentation on the School District's financial position by **James Rebitzer**, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee.

- An update on accomplishments and plans of the Shaker Schools Foundation by **John Murphy**, President of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.
- Public comments on the re-employment of Superintendent **Mark Freeman**.
- First reading of revisions to Board Policies ACAA and EGAAA and second reading of revisions to Board Policies ACA, AFL, IBCD (LEB), and LEB (IBCD).

The Board approved the following:

- Personnel items, including appointments, changes of rate, substitutes, special assignments, curriculum writing and instructional planning, suspensions, supplemental contracts, leaves of absence, salary classifications, resignations, and changes of assignment.

Included were the following retirements, effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year unless otherwise noted: **Joseph Kubit** (Assistant Treasurer/Administration, 8 years of service, effective July 1, 2009); **Copeland Lauder** (Science/Middle School, 15 years of service, effective April 1, 2009); **Gwendolyn Mullins** (Intervention Specialist/Woodbury, 29 years); and **Robert Sylak** (Science/High School, 33 years).

Also included were awards of tenure for the following faculty members: **Heather Baird** (English/High School); **Brian Berger** (Social Studies/High School); **Shana Black** (Intervention Specialist Teacher/High School); **Deanna Clemente-Milne** (Art/Woodbury); **Sara Cole** (Intervention Specialist Teacher/Woodbury); **Donna Dehn** (Music/Middle School and High School); **Valerie Doersen** (English/High School); **Bradley Gillette** (Grade 3/Onaway); **Erik Johnson** (Theatre/High School); **Kristin Koenigsberger** (Pre-K Special Education/Onaway); **Pamela Luksenburg** (Intervention Specialist Teacher/Fernway); **Carolyn Miller** (Special Education Teacher/Mercer); **Jewel Reid** (English/High School); **Jonathan Rice** (Science/High School); **Georgeta Schwartz** (Intervention Specialist Teacher/Middle School); **Katherine Settle** (Grade 4/Fernway); **Sylvia Sheppard** (Social Studies/High School); **Stacey Steggert** (Intervention Specialist Teacher/High School); **Aaron Taylor** (Science/High School); **Judith Wells** (Grade 6/Woodbury); and **Helen (Eileen) Willis** (French/High School).

- A change order related to window replacements at Mercer Elementary School.
- Authorization to seek bids for 8 school buses through the Ohio Schools Council.
- Financial statements and interim investments for March 2009.
- A supplemental appropriation to accommodate a state grant.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will take place  
at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2009,  
at the Administration Building.**