Master Facilities Planning Committee: Helping Design District’s Future

On September 24, the CFCSD held an Educational Visioning Session that included approximately 100 community and District members working together to identify where the District is regarding educational delivery and the pros and cons of our current buildings. Following the Visioning Session, the CFCSD established the Master Facilities Planning Committee (MFPC), an input group, comprised of individuals invited by the BOE, as well as the five BOE members, five central office administrators, and a number of school staff and administrators. The MFPC has been tasked with helping develop the Master Facilities plans that will aid in shaping the future of the District. ThenDesign Architecture (TDA), along with Jeff Tuckerman from Hammond Construction and regional consultant from the OFCC have been facilitating the MFPC bi-weekly meetings. One of the initial tasks of the MFPC is to identify the priorities for the District based on the Educational Visioning Session that took place earlier this year.

Initially, this group of approximately 50 individuals were broken up into smaller discussion groups and asked to come to a consensus on five major challenges facing the District. A couple of the challenges that were, for the most part, consistent across the groups were age and condition of buildings, safety and security, and technology. A full list of the challenges discussed can be found on the District’s website under the Master Facilities Plan tab in the navigation.

Currently, the committee is reviewing the building assessments that were developed collaboratively by TDA, the OFCC, and Hammond Construction. Tours of the different buildings have been taken with more scheduled in the coming weeks. These are being led by District maintenance employees to identify what has been improved, future needs, and overall condition of the current facilities.

The ultimate goal of the MFPC is to reach a consensus on a Master Facilities Plan that could include complete rebuild, renovation, or possibly a combination of the two. Once the plan has been agreed upon by the committee, it will be submitted to and approved by the BOE. From there, it needs to be submitted to the OFCC by April 19, 2019 for approval. Once that occurs, the BOE will establish the financial ask and develop the language to be on the ballot in November of 2019.

To follow along with the meetings and the committee discussions, go to the District’s website (cfalls.org) under the Master Facilities Plan tab in the navigation.

October Top Tigers Announced

At the November 7th Board of Education meeting, two students from each of the schools in the District were recognized as October’s Top Tigers.

Each month, with support from the Cuyahoga Falls Schools Foundation & Alumni Association, the BOE recognizes students from across the District. Although the BOE introduced this program in 2007, it has now become a part of the BOE’s participation in the recent Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative.

Top Tigers are sponsored by Dietz Falls Florist, Donato’s Pizza, and Young’s Screenprinting.

This month’s Top Tigers are (Names and grade):

- DeWitt Elementary: Silver Lake Elementary
  - Zoe Capaldi, 5
  - Emma Huetich, 5
  - Gabriella Mollica, 5
- Lincoln Elementary: Bolich Middle
  - Lilli Plovic, 5
  - Delaney Dalman, 6
  - Tanner Vann, 6
- Preston Elementary: Roberts Middle
  - Madison Wilhelm, 4
  - Nathaniel Russell, 4
  - Andrew Wegner, 7
- Price Elementary: Cuyahoga Falls High
  - Lily Bagnato, 4
  - Haley Ikey, 12
  - Nicholas Carrell, 12
- Richardson Elementary
  - Emily Collins, 3
  - Landon Orwig, 3

Show Your Black Tiger Pride!

As a part of the CFCSD’s goal to embrace all newly enrolled students to the District, Black Tiger Pride signs are free and available to kindergarten parents and students who register at central office. A limited number of these signs are also available at the main office of each of the schools throughout the District.
Late spring, the Instrumental Music Patron (IMP) board became aware that the Akron Symphony Orchestra (ASO) was taking nominations for their Music Educator of the Year award. As a board, IMP felt that the CFSD had the perfect and only logical candidate for this award; Mr. Dustin Harris. The IMP nominated CFHS Band Director, Mr. Harris, via the ASO’s application process and submitted many letters of recommendation from students and parents alike. According to Kalli Alvis, IMP President, “Mr Harris is a wonderful and dedicated educator and continues to strive to maintain and exceed the level of excellence that is the instrumental music program in the Cuyahoga Falls City School District.”

Harris will be honored at the Akron Symphony’s Verdi and Valkyries performance at The University of Akron’s E.J. Thomas Hall on Nov. 16. In addition, a $500 prize, sponsored by the Trillium Schools of Music, will be awarded to the Cuyahoga Falls High School music program in Harris’ name.

The Music Educator of the Year Award promotes a greater understanding of and appreciation for the value of music education in schools. The award honors those music teachers who make a real difference through their dedication and involvement to the stability and growth of music education in their communities.

The award is open to any certified/licensed music teacher in a public, private, or parochial classroom setting in Grades K-12. Nominees must teach in Cuyahoga, Medina, Portage, Stark, or Summit counties.

Congratulations Mr. Harris!

Mrs. Kimberly Rawson: Receives Lifetime Educator Award

On Tuesday, October 23, 2018, the Summit County ESC hosted the annual Summit Education Celebration event to recognize outstanding educators throughout Summit County.

This year, there were three nominations representing the CFSD. For the Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Janet Rhodes, kindergarten teacher from Richardson was one of the 20 nominees from the county. For Rookie of the Year, Mr. Thomas Williams, an English teacher at CFHS was one of the 19 nominees from the county. Finally, Mrs. Kimberly Rawson, retired teacher from Richardson, was not only nominated, but was awarded the Lifetime Educator Award!

Rawson taught for 35 years with the CFCSD and always put her students first. On her classroom door, Rawson had the quote, “Every child is gifted. They just open their packages at different times.”

Congratulations to all of our amazing educators!

Roberts Middle School: Science Teacher Receives Award

Amanda Bonds, science teacher at Roberts Middle School, received the Governor’s Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research. The criteria for the Thomas Edison Award for Excellence are: (1) to conduct a local science fair with twelve or more students, (2) qualify two or more of these students for one of the Academy’s 17 district science days, (3) have students participate in at least one or more youth science opportunities beyond the classroom such as State Science Day, Buckeye Science & Engineering Fair, Science Olympiad, B-Wiser, visits to museums, mentorship programs, and extended field trips and other structured STEM-related youth activities, (4) convince external STEM professionals how and to what extent the school’s program met the Academy’s definition of STEM education.

First established in 1985, the Governor’s Thomas Edison Awards recognizes Ohio schools and teachers who stimulate scientific student research and technological design and extend opportunities beyond traditional classroom activities.

For more information, visit www.ohiosci.org.