



June 16, 2010

Dear Lakeview Families,

I write today to share reflections on the 2009-10 school year and provide you a snapshot of what you can expect from Lakeview in 2010-11. Please read on and feel free to share this information with neighbors, friends, and anyone else you feel could benefit from it.

### **School District Finances**

The past few years have been trying times in our Michigan economy, and these economic troubles have a direct impact on our schools. Revenue we receive from Lansing has been stagnant and we have had to become more efficient to stave off program reductions or teacher layoffs. The revenue we receive is based on our headcount audits that are performed three times per year, and as the District has grown in students, we have grown our revenue. This is the only way to accomplish the many good things that have happened in our schools during the past couple of years. Last year, I proposed a Budget to our Board of Education for 2009-10 that included several program improvements and enhancements (major technology purchase, elementary music change, new textbooks, etc.). We successfully negotiated responsible employee contracts with all five of our employee groups that last through summer 2011. **Ultimately, Lakeview's Budget for 2009-10 included no program cuts or layoffs.** Lakeview was unique in the tri-county area in this financial stability; everyone around us went through a round of cuts last year that directly impacted their programs.

The budgeting process for next year is no less difficult with State finances still in disarray. However, I am happy to report that Lakeview's administration proposed a Budget for 2010-11 on June 15, 2010 that has **no program cuts or layoffs. This is unheard of for 2010-11 in the Metro Detroit area.** Prudent financial planning, continued growth in student enrollment, and efficiencies in all areas are allowing us to propose a Budget that continues to put the most money on instruction of any of our neighboring districts. Implementation of our long-term Strategic Plan with teaching and learning as the number one priority continues to be our focus. Lakeview families can be proud of our District's financial health because this fact has a direct correlation to student success and opportunities.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Our principals and teachers have developed a **culture of continuous improvement** with a commitment to refining practices and making improvement to instructional delivery and systems. Below are a few highlights that outline *some* of the practices that have resulted in academic achievement gains for 2009-10 and that will impact 2010-11:

- K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade universal screening in reading helped teachers provide targeted, data driven instructional delivery at the child's individual level of understanding-this is a direct result of implementing our Response to Intervention framework
- K-5<sup>th</sup> Daily 5 reading strategy was implemented to increase student reading achievement and stamina
- All middle school teachers are implementing consistent reading strategies to improve reading through the teaching of content areas (impacts both language arts and the content areas)
- Opportunities for honors/gifted were expanded to allow high achieving students to accelerate their learning in areas of mathematics and language arts, particularly at the middle school
- Opportunities for struggling students are available before, during, and after the school day at all levels
- Implemented 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> assessment tools for collection of data to assist in making decisions about individual student learning and about improving programs, departments, and delivery systems at the high school
- High school teachers are utilizing writing prompts to provide students common experiences in expository writing skills to improve outcomes on the Michigan Merit Exam and ACT

- All high school content area teachers are providing students “ACT-like” test questions throughout the year to provide students experience in high stakes testing skills (this change will impact 2010-11)

A District-wide, on-line assessment tool, called NWEA, will be utilized next fall to further refine practice and provide individual data on students for families. Additional **technology hardware and new textbook purchases** are also planned for in the 2010-11 Budget. Once again, Lakeview is unique in continuing to replace aging materials and equipment during a time when State finances are scarce. Additional extra-curricular opportunities are being implemented to provide more students chances to grow on the social and emotional side. Lakeview is committed to providing extra-curricular opportunities because we know they help develop well rounded, responsible citizens. All of the improvements and expanded opportunities will allow our students the chance at a 21<sup>st</sup> century education while those around us are cutting. Lastly because of the recent State Retirement Incentive, we will be hiring approximately 16 NEW teachers to handle the retirements (remember, we had no one on layoff!).

### Facilities/Equipment

The Board supported administration’s recommendation to purchase over **\$800,000 worth of new technology** equipment for use in all buildings in February. Netbook laptops, student desktops and teacher laptops were all part of our district-wide technology replacement program. Also, bond improvements continued throughout the year, with new copiers, additional technology infrastructure and other smaller items. The highlight event during 2009-10 was the Grand Opening of the new auxiliary gym and cafeteria at the high school. New lunch menu options will be coming in 2010-11 as a result of some surveys of students and parents this year. This summer, energy efficient lighting improvements and playfield site improvements have already begun. New classroom computer projectors are expected to be purchased as teachers begin utilizing the new laptops provided to them. Our buildings have had more than **\$50 Million worth of work completed since 2002**, bringing Lakeview to the “cutting edge”, providing safe, secure, and up-to-date facilities for student use.

### Headlee Millage Vote-August 3, 2010 (Tuesday)

Five years ago, the District sought support of the voters to approve the local 18 mills allowable for non-homestead and business property. This millage question will be **ON THE BALLOT August 3, 2010**. I am asking all registered voters to make sure to get out and vote in the upcoming primary election where Lakeview will be asking voters to **RENEW this millage**. In other words, we do not need to raise taxes, just renew what has been in place for the past 5 years. To save cost for elections, and because this was supported by an overwhelming margin in 2005, Lakeview’s Board is asking the community to support this measure for 10 years (which is common). Lakeview’s Board approved a resolution (7-0) to this effect at their Regular Board of Education Meeting on May 18, 2010. The last day to **REGISTER** to vote for the August 3 primary election is **July 6, 2010**. Mark your calendar and please tell your friends and neighbors to get out and vote in the primary election. A question and answer document is available on our website ([www.lakeview.misd.net](http://www.lakeview.misd.net)), or feel free to call the administration building if you have any questions.

As you can tell, I am **VERY PROUD** to be your superintendent and am humbled by the Board’s appreciation and support of our efforts. Your Board and I have put together a team of administrators, teachers and support staff that I believe is the best in the Metro Detroit area. The improvements we have planned for 2010-11 will continue to position us as **The Best Choice For Your Child’s Pursuit of Excellence**. As always, my door, email, and phone are always open to your comments, questions, and encouragement. Enjoy your summer, I look forward to seeing your children next year.

With Warmest Regards,



Karl D. Paulson  
Superintendent