



Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians
From: Bill Husfelt, Superintendent
Date: January 31, 2021

No one gets into education for the money but the rewards for those who answer this calling are MUCH more valuable than dollars and cents! Former President George H.W. Bush once noted “there can be no definition of a successful life that does not include service to others” and now, more than ever, our educators are serving their communities and their students.

While we may take their contributions for granted from time to time as a society, we should never underestimate the impact that educators have on the lives of our children and the opportunity they have to truly mold young minds, young hearts and young lives. As the grandfather of 11, this was reinforced for me recently when my young grandson excitedly told me about receiving a thank you note from his teacher for a Christmas gift he got her. I know, without a doubt, he will remember that note and will treasure that experience. I also know, without a doubt, those sorts of things are happening daily in our classrooms and we must not forget to value and honor them and the men and women who have invested their lives into the successes of our children. As Mark Twain once said, “the two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.” Most educators find their “why” in the classroom and in the faces and hearts of our students.

Last weekend, we had a chance to celebrate some of the educators in our community who have dedicated their lives to our students during our annual Excellence in Education Awards. This event, which recognizes the school-based nominees for Teacher and Support Employee of the Year, culminates in the naming of our district winners. This year, as always, the competition was very difficult because we had amazing nominees but I am proud to recognize Vicki Reding from West Bay Elementary School as the BDS 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year and Adrianna Hill from Bay High School as the BDS 2020-2021 Support Employee of the Year. We will also be honoring Principal of the Year Chris Coan from Parker Elementary School, Assistant Principal of the Year Christie West from Deane Bozeman School and Assistant Administrator of the Year Kristi Denery Page from A. Crawford Mosley High School.

Additionally, this ceremony gives us time to honor people we call “Teachers of a Lifetime.” This award was borne five years ago out of conversations between community leaders who had a desire to recognize those teachers who, literally, had a lifetime impact. Previous winners include Dauhrice Gibson, Bernice McSpadden, Yvette Griffin and Julia House.

This year, for the first time ever, we honored TWO teachers by recognizing Ed and Beth Deluzain as our Teachers of a Lifetime. If you've been around education in our community for any length of time, chances are you've heard about Ed and Beth Deluzain and their incredible love for children and commitment to public education.

Ed served our community for more than 18 years as a high school English teacher and went on to become a published author, contributing to several textbooks and other documents. Beth, who finished her illustrious career with us as the Director of Bay Education Foundation, got her start as a teacher at Rutherford in 1968. During the next 34 years, she also worked at Mowat Middle School, A. Crawford Mosley High School and the district office.

Although they were unable to attend our event in person, due to Covid-19 concerns, we were so very grateful to be able to honor them and their contributions to our children in such a meaningful manner.

We will never be able to appropriately honor and recognize ALL of the educators who have made such significant contributions to the lives of our children but I hope you will take the time to appropriately thank and appreciate the ones in your lives. Whether it's a school custodian (more next week on the incredible role played by our support personnel), paraprofessional, maintenance employee, ChartwellsK12 employee in the lunchroom, bus driver, classroom teacher, coach or administrator who has invested in the life of your child, each is deserving of your gratitude and each would be genuinely touched to hear a "thank you" or a "great job."

As always, stay safe and God Bless!