



## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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January 13, 2017

*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\**

### **YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Each January, school districts across the state celebrate their School Board Members during School Board Appreciate Month. While this is very deserving work to celebrate, many often don't really know who these people are, what drives them, what inspires them, and what they are actually doing for the community on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.

**Jamie Brodbeck-Krenz.** Mrs. Brodbeck-Krenz is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year serving on the Board of Education. She brings a sense of steady, reflective decision-making abilities to the table and has a unique ability to quickly surmise a situation and bring it down to very basic elements, making challenges often easier to solve. Having young children in the district, Mrs. Brodbeck-Krenz also has a unique perspective as a mother navigating the busy elementary years. She has roots in the community as a graduate of Lakewood Public, and her love of seeing all students succeed is evident in her passion chairing the strategic planning committee, a process that has experienced huge development in the last 14 months. She is a skilled long-range planner and has a firm grasp on the innovations needed to make Lakewood a destination for education. Thank you, Mrs., Brodbeck-Krenz, for your support and leadership for the students and parents of this District!

**Gary Foltz.** Mr. Foltz is in his 10<sup>th</sup> year serving on Board of Education. He brings a no-nonsense, dogmatic approach to problem solving, which is combined with a solid understanding of the school and community's history. Mr. Foltz is a graduate of Lakewood and has raised several children in the system whom were very involved in athletics and other extracurricular activities. This really gives him a great perspective of student life and community needs. Mr. Foltz's calm demeanor and reasonable approach is a great balancing skill set at the Board table. Thank you, Mr. Foltz, for your support and leadership for the students and parents of this District!

**Jeff Gibbs.** Mr. Gibbs is our elder statesman having served on the Board for 12 years. Besides evident dedication to our students, Mr. Gibbs brings a sense of historical perspective to the Board of Education that is a vital component to reflection, planning, and proper navigation into the future. Having graduated his youngest last year, Mr. Gibbs has a good perspective on secondary and post-secondary student life, an essential element when developing programming for these areas within the district. Mr. Gibbs is a graduate of Lakewood, a resident of Sunfield and is extremely involved in the community, bringing this perspective to the Board table. He is a long-time supporter of our athletes as well. Mr. Gibbs serves on our finance committee and is the Board secretary. Thank you, Mr. Gibbs, for your support and leadership for the students and parents of this District!

**Lynn MacKenzie.** Mrs. MacKenzie is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year serving on the Board of Education. Mrs. MacKenzie brings a sense of organization and vision to the Board with a unique perspective having children in elementary and high school. Mrs. MacKenzie has served as Vice-President and is the chair of the policy committee, she has a wonderful working knowledge of the policy-revision process. She is detail-oriented

and her strong, confident presence at the Board table brings stability and a focus on detail. Mrs. MacKenzie also is a supporter of continuing Board professional development in board governance training and has racked up many hours in her short tenure. Mrs. MacKenzie lives in Woodland, and has a love for athletics and arts and has children involved in the band program. Thank you, Mrs. MacKenzie, for your support and leadership for the students and parents of this District!

**Frank Pytlowany.** Mr. Pytlowany is currently in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year serving on the Board of Education. He brings a strong relationship-building capacity to the Board table. He is a driven, balanced individual that is passionate about long-range planning, but has an acute sense of short-term triage needs. Mr. Pytlowany has two high school children and is an avid follower of both the arts and athletics. He has an interest in the skilled trades and brings work experience into this arena within the district. Mr. Pytlowany currently serves as the Board President and sits on most Ad Hoc committees. He has a genuine optimism about him and dreams big when it comes to doing the very best for our students. Thank you, Mr. Pytlowany, for your support and leadership for the students and parents of this District!

**Melissa Schuiling.** Mrs. Schuiling is currently in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year serving in on the Board of Education. She brings a background in finance to the Board table. She currently serves as the chair of the finance committee, is the Board Treasurer, and has made great strides in developing a long-range planning cycle improving fiscal responsibility. She has a great student perspective with a high-schooler attending Lakewood who is involved in athletics. Mrs. Schuiling also brings a strong sensitivity to community and district needs. Thank you, Mrs. Schuiling, for your support and leadership for the students and parents of this District!

**Steve St.Laurent.** Mr. St.Laurent is our newest Board Member serving his first full year. Mr. St.Laurent is a Sunfield resident and has a keen eye for the details in numbers and policy. His connections in Lansing bring a watchful eye and listening ear, providing great insight and feedback with what is happening at the state level. One of Mr. St.Laurent's skills is his ability to maintain a process-oriented approach to problem solving. He has a good grasp on systems analysis and a real passion for seeing expanded opportunities for all students, especially in technology application. Thank you, Mr. St.Laurent, for your support and leadership for the students and parents of this District!

Please join me in showing gratitude to these tireless, selfless, servant-leaders who are so deeply committed to our children's safety and success. As Teddy Roosevelt once said in his *Citizen in a Republic* speech, that "the credit belongs to the man [and woman] actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust, sweat, and blood, who strives valiantly....who spends himself [or herself] in a worthy cause...." Truly, Board of Education work is a worthy cause. And for this, Lakewood Board of Education, we say thank you.

