

*You and a guest are cordially invited to
New Tech High School:
Empowering Students to Become Creators, Leaders,
& Producers of Tomorrow*

Monday, December 21, 2009

Maas Center, Hope College

Holland, Michigan

7:15 a.m. Breakfast Buffet

7:30-8:30 a.m. An Invitation to Learn & Participate

Please R.S.V.P. by December 16, 2009

616-494-2005

sheerspi@hollandpublicschools.org

HOLLAND
Belong... Achieve... Grow...



Holland Public Schools

Washington Administration Bldg.
Brian Davis, Superintendent

www.hollandpublicschools.org

December 8, 2009

Dear Holland Area Business/Community Member,

Holland Public Schools is more than 160 years old. Our district is rich with tradition, challenge, and opportunity. Our community has historically supported the education of our young people with generosity and foresight, and it will be called upon to do so again.

Consider that we are now one decade into the 21st century. The place and time that we live in have brought before us a host of realities very different from what we knew just a few years ago. And now with a tight grip on our current realities Holland Public Schools must clarify and chart a new course in order to effectively fulfill its educational mission.

The realities we face are significant, as they include rapidly changing demographics, uncertain state revenues, and the commitment to help our students succeed in today's international marketplace. Our district's new course will require new ways. It is a time of business as "unusual." Business and community leaders have stepped up to support Holland Public Schools in the past. I am hopeful business and community leaders will be able to provide their support to our district once again. This is the reason why you have received this letter.

Over the last 18 months, since my appointment as school superintendent, I have been especially mindful of the important roles that knowledge, understanding, service, and wisdom play in leading an organization. To grow in these areas – and to also gain fresh perspective – I have met periodically with the other supporters of this letter. Their wise counsel and consistent encouragement have been invaluable to me, and together, we are inviting you to consider joining us in ensuring the successful launch of a new program in Holland Public Schools.

As you may have read in the newspaper, Holland Public Schools has been approved to be one of four school districts in Michigan to join the national non-profit New Tech Network. What this means is that Holland Public Schools is studying the opening of a leading edge New Tech High School next fall. The HPS New Tech High School would add a beneficial and compelling option in parallel to Holland High (traditional courses) and VR Tech (credit recovery and drop-out prevention courses).

School administration and other district leaders have been evaluating future options since March. The New Tech High School model has an impressive track-record elsewhere. There are forty-one similar schools in the network across the U.S. and the signers of this letter and I invite you to learn more about it. We firmly believe that the New Tech High School model can instill a new dimension of excellence at HPS. New Tech High School has the greatest potential to help Holland students, the school district, and the community.

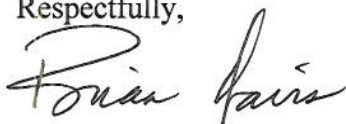
I would be grateful if you would be willing to devote an hour or so of your time to come listen and dialogue about the New Tech opportunity now at our community's doorstep. We can impact student achievement, improve our drop-out rate, build in a strong connection to our economic development resource base, and inject an exciting new dimension of excellence within Holland Public Schools.

Each one of us knows that inspired, achievement oriented young people with strong character and convictions are of profound importance to the future of our community. At Holland Public Schools we are committed to high achievement for all our learners.

Henry David Thoreau said, "All of us are looking for someone who causes us to be better." You are a leader who can cause Holland Public Schools to be a bit better.

If you are unable to personally attend, please feel free to send a representative on your behalf. Please R.S.V.P. to Sandy Heerspink at 616-494-2005 or sheerspi@hollandpublicschools.org by December 16, 2009.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Davis".

Brian Davis

In support,

Jim Bultman
Jane Clark
Tony Castillo
Max De Pree
Steve Grose
Brian Koop
Randy Thelen
Gordon Van Wylen

P.S. We think you'll discover that support for one seemingly small school reform can actually inspire many more!