Transitions – Phase One

Redistricting Update for the 2012-2013 school year
COMMUNICATION

- Welcome letters from principals to new families
- Welcome messages / links on websites
- District and building newsletters (*Learning*)
- Calendar of transitional events on website
- Skylerts from District and individual principals to new families
- Over 800 individual letters mailed to families
  - Students with a new school
  - 5th graders with feeder pattern choice
  - Maple & Twin Beach Transfer students with choice
  - Special education programs relocation
  - English Language Learners – translated correspondence
Primetime Care, Start times & Summer Programs

► Pilot earlier starts (6:30 am) for Primetime Care at all 12 elementary schools
► Pilot middle school Primetime Care options for Smart and Banks
► Start times adjusted at PLE and Banks
► Summer programs meeting to secure locations and to begin advertisement
Meeting with PTSA Council President Stasie

Work with building presidents to reallocate remaining funds to recipient schools

Discussed need for families to join PTA this year in order to be eligible for leadership roles next year. Principals advertising

Ongoing support of end of year celebrations as well as new family welcome meetings, events, etc.
Elementary Schools

- Principals’ meetings – dedicated time to develop transitional plans with each other and Special Education and E.L.L. staff
- PTA meetings – principal visitations
- Letters / postcards written by current students to new friends
- New families uploaded into database for messenger alerts, announcements, etc.
Elementary Schools (cont.)

- Field Trips to new schools / tours and teambuilding activities (E.L.L. and special education paras and staff included)
- Welcome nights (PTA), Open houses, etc.
- “Spring Fling”, Ice cream socials, Spring Family Picnic, coffee and conversation, etc.
- Special welcoming at Kindergarten round up for new families. Principals attended.
- ALL HAVE BACK TO SCHOOL PLANS
Middle Schools

- March 22nd – Parent Orientations
- Counselors visit elementary schools
- 5th grade building visitations
- Special Services Shadowing Program
- Contact with elementary PTSA presidents
- Open invitations for tours, visits, etc.
- Welcome Back to School events in August
Coping with Change

- School Psychologists and Social Workers
  - Direct contact with children and families throughout transition
  - Consultation with all principals
  - Attendance at PTA meetings, Coffee and Conversation, Meet and Greets, etc. with presentations and handouts on coping with change
  - Participation in SIPP placement process and class list creation
Specialized Programs

- Staff participation in field trips and new building visitations, especially for CI and ASD
- Open houses at Hickory Woods and Walled Lake El for ASD and CI students and families
- Training HWE staff in core characteristics of ASD during staff meetings
- Assisting with training of staff for ELL students
- Analyzing sensory equipment needs for general ed classrooms
- Field Day CI visit to Walled Lake El. T-shirts!
- ECSE visit to Wixom
- Creation of “social stories” for students at HWE to introduce the ASD program
- English Language Learner visits and events
ARTICLES & BOOKS:

► Helping Children Transition to a New School: Tips for Parents in Tough Economic Times. - NASP

► So You’re New Again: How to Succeed when You Change Jobs – Holton E. & Naquin, S.

► Ten tips for adjusting to a new school -Great Schools Staff (provided by Mr. Nolan)

1. Make it a team effort.
2. Keep a positive focus.
3. Encourage school involvement.
4. Get enough z's.
5. Take a trial run. Find out about any special first-day procedures.
6. Stock up on supplies.
7. Prepare the night before. Calmly get ready and get out the door on time.
8. Get a healthy start.
9. Accompany your little one.
10. Introduce yourselves. If possible, before school starts.

► www.nasponline.org – National Association of School Psychologists
► www.parentinformationcenter.org
TRANSFER & SCHOOLS OF CHOICE REQUESTS

- Over 400 total requests received
- Decisions after May 1st
- Class list development process begins
- Staffing can begin to be finalized
- Opportunity for public to inquire as to available space for transfer requests after June 1st
Next steps and Questions?

Transitions Phase Two:
* Inventory and re-allocation of P.E., Art, Music, Media and Technology
* Physical moving of building materials
* Relocation of portables to PLE
* Facility projects related to redistricting
* Bus routes, stops, notifications
* Staffing finalized
* Building disposition options
* Development of quantitative and qualitative surveys and data collection to measure effectiveness of redistricting implementation