



Celebrate with us

Please visit Pioneer High School's new, expanded cafeteria, Dec. 3rd at 6:30 p.m. to see firsthand the improvements made possible with community support and to thank Dr. Todd Roberts for leading this project from a tough beginning to a smooth finish.

Pioneer High School Cafeteria
601 W. Stadium Blvd.
(corner of Main Street
and Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor)

Exceptional Accomplishments

Your tax dollars at work

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

As the recently appointed interim superintendent for the district, I am pleased to continue our successes in the Ann Arbor Public Schools and encourage the forward-thinking approach that brings us to this point. I thank the Board of Education and the community for the opportunity to serve in this role for the 2010-11 school year.

We remain committed to academic excellence and will continue to devote considerable time to updating and implementing the district's 2007-12 Strategic Plan. This guidepost for the future addresses improvements to both our instructional program and infrastructure to create and maintain environments that meet the needs of all students.

It is with pride that I present a progress report on the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. Ann Arbor voters approved a \$255 million bond in 2004 and sinking fund in 2004, allowing us to build Skyline High School, create a new preschool facility, make improvements to all school buildings and improve technology, among other things. The final original building project in this six-year initiative was completed in the fall of 2010 with renovations at Pioneer High School, which included removing unsightly portables and creating a green space for students.

In cooperation with our experienced design/build teams, the district managed projects in multiple locations while maintaining safe educational environments. I invite you to view the many changes the next time you visit one of our schools.

I thank you for your support and also thank those who contributed to the plan's success, specifically former Superintendent Todd Roberts who spearheaded this effort midstream and saw it through to its finish.

Completion of the plan is a powerful demonstration of the commitment our parents and community have to our schools. It is another example of the Ann Arbor Public Schools community coming together to accomplish great things for our students.



Sincerely,

Robert Allen

Interim Superintendent of Schools

For additional information about our school district, visit our website at www.a2schools.org

Highlights from the plan



Following are some of the highlights of improvements made through the voter-approved Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. Major features of the program included:

- Building a third comprehensive high school to alleviate student over-crowding at Pioneer and Huron
- Remodeling Pioneer and Huron high schools in response to lower student enrollment as planned with the opening of Skyline High School, and program upgrades
- Modernizing and improving all K-12 school buildings
- Improving our Early Childhood program including:
 - A new, centralized preschool facility
 - A tuition-based preschool at seven satellite centers*
 - Expanded all-day kindergarten options
- Providing up-to-date technology tools for every student and teacher
- Accomplishing extensive upgrades at Scarlett Middle School to create a community centered, model middle school
- Purchasing new buses
- Replacing musical instruments
- Eliminating all high school portable classrooms
- Creating small learning communities at the comprehensive high schools

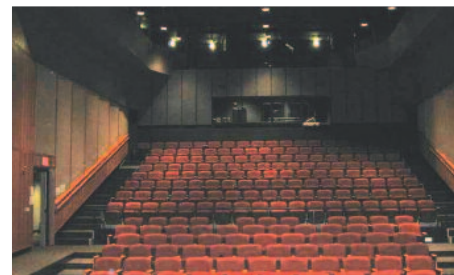
* Note: Four of the seven satellite tuition-based preschool centers were not constructed because the demand for the tuition-based centers was not as strong as anticipated. Money allocated for these satellite projects was used for one of two technology refreshes not in the original plan.

Changes

that benefit the community

"You listened and empowered staff ... Your understanding of the issues and your capable direction of the CSIP project resulted in a very smooth implementation of the renovations, additions and completion of each project."

– Norman Herbert, Ann Arbor community leader and financial consultant, speaking to former Superintendent Todd Roberts about his leadership on the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan and why it was successful



These improvements benefit students, staff and the community by offering customer-friendly service in many areas. Here are just a few highlights:

Academics

Skyline High School – Setting the stage for a “green,” healthy learning environment is Ann Arbor’s newest high school. This project, the nation’s largest LEED silver-certified school, has a geo-exchange heating and cooling system, recycled rubber floors, light and heat sensors that adjust with use and a captured storm water runoff system to irrigate athletic fields and landscaping. The building was designed for specific “magnet” learning areas and for the school’s small learning communities, which operate like neighborhoods within the school.

Performing Arts

Districtwide – New musical instruments were purchased for all schools

Huron High School – Meyers Auditorium was remodeled

Athletics

Huron High School – A new turf field, new gymnasium floor and a new softball field were added

Pioneer High School – Weight-lifting equipment was added

Above & Beyond

Slauson Middle School – Media Center was totally renovated

Clague Middle School – Main office was renovated and is now more student and parent friendly

Districtwide – Two phases of technology upgrades, keeping state-of-the-art computers for students and teachers, bringing equity to the classroom, allowing hardware that will run with the most up-to-date software as well as making maintenance standard and cost-effective. Additional technology purchases of \$7 million have been accomplished due to successful management of the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan funds. The district anticipates being able to do an additional technology upgrade from the final budget reconciliation.

Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements



The Braille signage was part of a broader initiative of the Ann Arbor Public Schools over the past two years to implement changes at buildings and facilities to make them more accessible for students and constituents with disabilities. Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living staff member Carolyn Grawi has served as a consultant to the initiative and provided advice on universal design and disability accessibility. As a result of the work, all public schools in Ann Arbor now have accessible entries at every building, appropriate and accessible parking, at least one accessible men’s and women’s bathroom on every floor and user-assessed ramps and curb cuts. AAPS is also updating its website to provide information on accessible entrances for its users.

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Continuing an exceptional learning environment

While the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan provided resources for significant renovations, our district has 33 school buildings comprising 3.5 million square feet of space and there is always more that needs to be done. The Ann Arbor Public Schools is committed to improving learning environments based on demographic and curriculum needs.

On May 6, 2008, the community approved continuation of 18 mills levied on property within the Ann Arbor Public Schools boundaries. Known as the 2010 Sinking Fund, it will generate about \$7.5 million a year for the next five years.

The 2010 Sinking Fund will be used primarily for pavement and roofing repairs, ADA compliance and other projects designated by the Executive Director of Physical Properties and building principals. Work is prioritized by looking at issues of health and safety, ADA compliance, environmental concerns, protection of the facility or system or preventative maintenance.

During the summer of 2010, the district was able to replace/repair major roof sections at Clague, Forsythe and Slauson middle schools; Mitchell and Northside elementary schools; Pioneer and Huron high schools; and the Ann Arbor Family & Preschool Center. The district also repaired or replaced parking lots at Carpenter, Angell and Thurston elementary schools, as well as Clague, Scarlett and Slauson middle schools.

