

ISD board honored for school board recognition month

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MANISTEE — The Manistee Intermediate School District honored the members of its board of education during Monday's board meeting as part of school board recognition month.

Board members Margaret Cloutier, Carver Edwards, Douglas Parkes, Lynda O'Shea and Mary Becker-Witt were presented with tokens of appreciation by the staff and administration in recognition of school board recognition month in January.

"January is the time we recognize our board and rightfully so," said superinten-



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SUPERINTENDENT, MANISTEE ISD

dent Scott Crosby. "You guys come to these meetings and listen to our stories. You give us general direction on which way to go and this board in particular does an outstanding job of giving us some latitude, but also some general direction."

Crosby also delivered his regular monthly report to the board about the activities taking place in the ISD. He said that the general education staff has been working with local principals who are leading instructional practice in their buildings.

"They essentially prepared the principals to present to staff groups, by grade level," said Crosby.

The superintendent also said that the Human Services Collaborative board executive committee met Jan. 21 to consider a leadership role in the new Great Start Collaborative that is being formed between the Manistee ISD and the Wexford-Missaukee ISD.

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Members of the Manistee Intermediate School District Board of Education were honored Monday for School Board Recognition Month by the staff and administrators. Shown (left to right) are Doug Parkes, Mary Becker-Witt, Lynda O'Shea and Margaret Cloutier. Ken Grabowski/News Advocate

The executive committee on the Human Service Collaborative Board took action to recommend this action and the issue will be going to its full board early in February, and we are looking at October to start making the change."

Crosby praised the efforts of special education director Jim Scranton and general education director Kay Salyer for their roles in helping to educate the area schools on the Individuals with Disabilities Act and the federal No Child Left Behind legislation. He added that finance director Kris Mauntler has been helping schools with best practices legislation information to make sure they obtain the additional funding for meeting that criteria.

The ISD superintendent pointed out that declining enrollment continues to be a major issue across the county and state.

"This fall our ISD public school enrollment was 3,167 students and five years ago in the fall of 2007 the count was 3,468 students," said Crosby. "That is a decline of 301 students and approximately \$2,096,766 less in base funding than 2007 for 2012."

It is something he said has impacted all the area schools in terms of reductions in staff, programs and wage and benefits. However, what he said is even more alarming is the

projected numbers for the future.

"Using live birth data we can somewhat accurately project that in the fall of 2017 Manistee ISD will have only 2,728 students," said Crosby. "That would be another drop of 436 students and a loss of \$3,037,176 in funding.

That would mean fiscal challenges are likely to compound in the next five years."

Crosby said that the loss of those students through declining enrollment will call upon the need for even more cooperative efforts between the school districts to save money.