
RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY

POLICY ISSUE/SITUATION

Tonight, the Board recognizes the following individuals for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the Beaverton School District and the community.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Competition top 10 finalist – Naren Gaurav

Naren Gaurav, a soon to be 7th grader at Summa Meadow Park, has been selected as one of the top 10 finalists in the 14th annual Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge.

The Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge is the nation's premier science competition for students in grades 5-8. The Young Scientist Challenge is designed to encourage the exploration of science and innovation among America's youth and to promote the importance of science communication. Over the last 13 years, more than 600,000 middle school students have participated in the competition, and winners have gone on to speak in front of members of Congress, work with the nation's top scientists and pursue academic careers in the sciences.

As a finalist, Naren will have the opportunity to work directly with a 3M Scientist during a summer mentorship program. He will also receive a cash prize, a 3M Shoot n' Share Camcorder, and a trip for two to 3M's world headquarters in St. Paul, MN to compete for the ultimate title of "America's Top Young Scientist" on October 15-16, 2012.

Congratulations, Naren, and good luck in St. Paul!

Health Benefits Coordinator – Debbie Johnson

Debbie Johnson joined the Beaverton School District in 1992 and serves as the Health Benefits Resource Coordinator. As a Registered Nurse, Debbie provides a unique perspective on benefits and managed care. Her pro-active work with brokers and outside carriers has saved the District millions of dollars while also achieving the best benefits packages possible for the funds available. Her excellent work has earned her the respect of employees, associations and health care professionals in Beaverton and throughout the State.

As Benefits Coordinator, Debbie assists employees with acute and chronic health care needs from cancer to mental health to high-risk pregnancy. She oversees flu shot clinics, organizes and conducts a variety of employee workshops such as change management, retirement, wellness and welcoming newborns. She advises employee associations on benefits issues, oversees the District Insurance Committee and collaborates with District and County personnel on planning for the safety of the schools and community during pandemics or tragedy.

Debbie has the innate ability to walk the political tight rope. Given the current economic times and the District reductions, she was able to bring all employee groups to consensus on the recent reduction of benefits. Employees trust her guidance and know she will ensure they continue to have reasonable benefits while also reducing the impact to classrooms and the District budget.

Debbie regularly testifies before legislators in Salem on issues related to health care. She is single-handedly responsible for keeping the District out of the Oregon Educators Benefits Board (OEBB), a State employee insurance pool. Earlier this month, she and a team representing non-OEBB districts presented to the OEBB taskforce. Debbie explained how the Beaverton School District is better able to manage employee health care outside of OEBB. While OEBB districts have been pressured to continually increase district insurance caps, Beaverton has had multiple years of no increases.

In addition, Debbie holds legislators feet to the fire and will be testifying before the Senate Education Committee later this year to share how Beaverton has saved more than **\$25.8 million** over the past four years by managing our own health care and remaining out of OEBB. Add to that total \$6 million in premium refund from the Regence contract, and the District has saved **\$31.8 million** by not being in OEBB. This equates to over 318 teachers!

Debbie's immense loyalty to the Beaverton School District does not stop there. She works tirelessly to keep District funds in the classroom. Most recently, Debbie has achieved reimbursement to the District through the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP). Authorized by the Affordable Care Act, this program provides reimbursement to participating employment-based plans for a portion of the costs of health benefits for early retirees' spouses, surviving spouses and dependents. To date, the District has received a first payment of \$48,000 with \$600,000 pending availability.

Debbie's compassionate care of all employees is universally recognized. Her non-judgmental way of handling the largest crisis to the smallest inquiry has earned her the trust, respect and admiration of all with whom she works. Through her work on the employee leaves team, she advises us through our most difficult and personal issues, providing objective and informative guidance through the complex medical system. Many of us owe our health or the health of our loved ones to her excellent guidance.

While we know you will always give the credit to others, we want to thank you, Debbie, for being our District's guardian angel!

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the School Board recognize Naren Gaurav and Debbie Johnson for their contributions to the School District.