
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:

2013 Presidential Scholar and most influential teacher – Raghav Tripathi and Bradley Helsel

Raghav Tripathi, senior at Westview High School has been named a 2013 Presidential Scholar by the U.S. Department of Education. Raghav is one of 141 high school seniors selected from schools across the country to be named a 2013 Presidential Scholar, an honor that places him in the top rank of high school students nationwide. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars appointed by President Obama selected the scholars based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership, and demonstrated commitment to high ideals.

Raghav will be honored for his accomplishments during an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June where he will be a guest of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. Accompanying him will be his most influential and challenging teacher to be honored with a Teacher Recognition Award. Raghav chose Bradley Helsel, Westview High School Science teacher.

Congratulations, Raghav on receiving this distinguished award, and good luck in your future endeavors. Congratulations, Bradley for inspiring and challenging this dedicated and ambitious future leader.

Oregon State Geography Bee Winner – Harish Palani

Harish Palani, a seventh-grader at Stoller Middle School won first place at the Oregon Geographic Bee in April and represented the state of Oregon at the 25th annual National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C. with a fifth place finish last month.

Harish was just one of 54 students participating in the national competition, down from more than five million fourth to eighth grade students. This is the second time Harish has represented Oregon at the national competition.

Congratulations, Harish.

Village Baptist Church – Donna Thomas, Director of Children and their families; Sarah Meeds, Children's Ministry Assistant

Village Baptist Church continues to be a generous and accommodating partner with the Beaverton School District, hosting and supporting meetings, workshops, and trainings all free of charge. The pastoral and support staff is always welcoming and helpful with scheduling, set up, room configuration and equipment use. Because of this collaboration, District resources may be directed to supporting Beaverton students.

As in past years, Village Baptist has also helped with school projects, including the weekend backpack program and grounds maintenance at Barnes Elementary School, Meadow Park Middle School, and other area schools. Village Baptists' dedication to partnering with the Beaverton School District sets a wonderful example for our staff, students and community.

We commend you for your commitment to supporting local schools and for making a positive difference in the quality of life in the Beaverton community!

Intel International Science and Engineering Fair Best of Category Winner – Naomi Shah

Naomi Shah, a senior at Sunset High School was named the Best of Category winner for the Environmental Science Category at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair for her research in developing a novel, cost-effective, and sustainable bio filter that relies on plant species to filter out harmful chemicals from indoor air streams.

Naomi was awarded a \$5,000 prize. Additionally, the Intel Foundation awarded a \$1,000 grant each to Sunset High School and the Beaverton-Hillsboro Science Expo.

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), the world's largest international pre-college science competition, provides an annual forum for more than 1,500 high school students from over 70 countries, regions, and territories to showcase their independent research as they compete for more than \$3 million annually. The Intel ISEF is the premier global science competition for students in grades 9–12.

Congratulations, Naomi, and good luck in all of your future endeavors.

Intel laptop computer donation program – Kevin Fraczek, Kathy Oace

In the past year, Intel has donated 561 laptops rotated out of their computer replacement cycle to the Beaverton School District to support STEM classrooms at the five comprehensive high schools and four secondary options schools. These computers are used to teach students inquiry, engineering, computational thinking and modeling, all of which are scientific practices on which the newly released Next Generation Science Standards are based.

Students are using these computers as tools of analysis as opposed to word processing tools. The ability for students to graphically represent data using Vernier Logger Pro, data and pattern analysis, data mining, simulations, virtual labs, modeling, and Excel programming is helping to transform current Chemistry and Biology classes to STEM courses.

Intel's generous donation has been instrumental in the implementation of the new Freshman Physics course. The District could have not implemented this transformational change and move our science departments ahead into the 21st century without these laptops. The high school Science Departments are deeply grateful to have reliable computers that are solely for instructional use.

Our schools are strengthened by the strong partnership we share with Intel, and we look forward to building on this collaboration for many years to come.

Community Engagement: Sunset High School Apollo Pride Day – John Huelskamp

The Sunset High School Community Engagement Committee (CEC) hosted Apollo Pride Work Day on Sunday, May 19, 2013.

Hundreds of volunteers descended upon the school to engage in activities including: improving the courtyard, landscaping and beautification of school grounds, trimming, weeding, planting, creating a student lounge, and pressure washing the softball and track and field bleachers.

School and community came together to make Sunset Pride Day a success; breakfast for volunteers was provided by Solid Rock Church, Columbia Sportswear donated Employee Store passes to all volunteers and five backpacks for raffle prizes, Reser's Fine Foods and the Sunset High School Parent Teacher Organization provided lunch, Home Depot donated rental equipment and tools, the Sunset Kiwanis partnered with the Sunset High School Key Club to coordinate volunteers from: Sunset Youth Lacrosse, SHS Track & Field, and numerous parents and community volunteers.

Congratulations, John and the Sunset High School Community for engaging to work together to make a difference! Community volunteers in schools enrich the educational programs and strengthen the schools' relationships with families, businesses, public agencies and private institutions. Sunset Pride Day is a shining example of excellence in collaboration.

School Partnership Network – Larry Whittlesey and Kevin Palau

As an initiative of the Luis Palau Association's Season of Service, the School Partnership Network was created to connect and cultivate relationships between local area schools and the faith community.

The School Partnership Network fosters and supports partnerships between schools and churches by researching and documenting all partnerships between churches and schools, through a centralized database and connecting the resources of local ministries with school programs, teachers, administrators, and others who know the school's needs. In addition, they facilitate training opportunities that enhance existing partnerships and encourage additional relationships between churches and schools using blogs, newsletters, and other forms of communication to share stories, ideas, and best practices.

The Beaverton School District greatly appreciates the collaborative relationship it shares with the School Partnership Network and the many faith organizations in our community. The long list of service projects, and volunteer efforts in our schools is truly commendable, and we look forward to continuing to partner in the future to make our schools and community the best they can be for all Beaverton families.

Flag of Learning and Liberty – Verna Bailey

Verna Bailey is being awarded The Flag of Learning and Liberty, which symbolizes the fundamental interdependency of public education and the democratic way of life enjoyed in the United States of America, in honor of her 39 years of dedication to the children of the Beaverton School District.

Verna, the first African American woman to attend the University of Mississippi, and daughter of a civil rights activist began her career in the Beaverton School District in 1974 as the Director of Human Resources. Verna has worked as the Assistant Principal at Five Oaks Middle School, Principal of Cedar Park Middle School, and currently serves in the dual role as Principal of Montclair Elementary School and K-12 Administrator for Diversity. Montclair Elementary School has been named an exceptional/outstanding school by the Oregon State Department of Education for the past ten years.

Verna is a visiting lecturer at colleges, universities, K-12 public and private schools across the United States. She is a recipient of the Educator of Excellence Award, the Ellen Stevens Memorial Award for Commitment to Equity, Justice and Diversity; National Endowment for the Humanities and Honored as Mississippi's Firsts. She is a trustee with the Portland Women's Foundation, which grants financial assistance to agencies in the Portland metropolitan area that address the needs of women for housing, health, education and respite care.

Verna broke down racial barriers at the University of Mississippi and eventually graduated in three years with a bachelor's degree in sociology. She obtained her master's degree from Lewis and Clark College and pursued a doctorate in education at Portland State University. Verna

turned her educational experience into a successful teaching, counseling and school administration career, earning several civic and professional awards along the way. She has gone back to her alma mater several times to deliver speeches on her unique experience and in 2006 was inducted in the University of Mississippi Hall of Fame.

Thank you, Verna, for 39 years of dedication and service to the students of the Beaverton School District.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the School Board recognize Raghav Tripathi, Harish Palani, Village Baptist Church, Naomi Shah, Intel, the Sunset High School Community, Kevin Palau, Larry Whittlesey, and Verna Bailey for their contributions to the School District.