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*Serving Baraga, Houghton
& Keweenaw Counties*

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CCISD Begins Search for a New Superintendent— Public Comment Solicited

The Copper Country Intermediate School Board of Education took action at their January board meeting to accept a letter of retirement resignation from long time Superintendent Dennis Harbour. At the same time the board entered into a consulting contract with the Michigan Association of School Boards who will guide the board through the search process.

Harbour has been the district superintendent since 2004. Prior to that he served as the Superintendent of the Houghton-Portage Schools for 19 years. At the recent board meeting, Harbour commented that he has spent 39 years in education, beginning his career as a teacher in Pembine, Wisconsin, and then assumed his first administrative job with the Chassell Township Schools in 1977 as a K-12 Principal. "All total, I have spent 29 of 39 years as a Superintendent; that is a full career and it is time to retire." The long time school administrator said he has had a wonderful career and feels fortunate to be able to retire on a positive note. Harbour and his wife Andrea are planning to spend their winters in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Board President Robert Tuomi indicated that the board elected to retain the Michigan Association of School Boards as consultants during the search process, largely to ensure that the district followed approved procedures and to have professional search consultants at their disposal. Tuomi commented that the School Board Association is currently doing 13 searches across the state, which hopefully will give the CCISD more exposure to potential candidates.

Donna Oser, Director of Executive Search Services with MASB, plans to be at the Intermediate School District on February 20th to

hold stakeholder meetings with various groups, in order to gather information for the board to establish a new superintendent profile. Oser indicated that it is imperative that the board establish a profile in order to define what characteristics they would like to see in the new leader. Additionally, an on-line survey will be available in order to gain additional information from area board members, superintendents, parents and ISD staff members.

Interviews are expected to be held in early April and the new Superintendent will begin duties on July 1st.

Article by Peggy Myllyoja,
Executive Secretary to the Superintendent



Blended Learning in the Classroom (BLiC)

Regional Educational Media Center (REMC) 1 is pleased to announce the launch of the Blended Learning in the Classroom (BLiC) program. The program is led by REMC 1's Educational Technologist, Steve Kass. This program assists participants with incorporating online elements into their existing classrooms.

The program was opened up for teachers in the Copper Country ISD and Gogebic- Ontonagon ISD and runs from January 22 through May 9, 2014. Additional information about the course can be obtained by visiting <http://www.remc.org/projects/blendedlearning/>. 61 SCECHs are available upon successful completion of the course. Questions can be directed to Steve Kass at steve@remc1.org.

Article by Mike Richardson,
Director, REMC 1



Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative (LSSI) News

The Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative (LSSI) is part of the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (GLSI), a larger statewide effort launched by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust in 2006, with major support from the Wege Foundation. LSSI was one of first GLSI hubs. LSSI brings together innovative and dedicated teachers, their students and community partners in the design and implementation of environmental stewardship and community service projects that address needs in local communities. Since 2007, LSSI has provided \$237,400 in mini-grant funds to 16 school-community teams to conduct a wide range of projects that benefit students, teachers, schools, communities, and the Lake Superior watershed.

During the 2012-13 school year, there were sixteen school-community teams composed of 75 educators, 40 community partners, and 2,250 students. These teams are active in stewardship activities in the Houghton, Baraga, and Keweenaw Counties of Michigan located within the Lake Superior watershed. LSSI school-community teams are comprised of teachers, administrators, students and community partners that work collaboratively to design and implement stewardship projects in their community to address a need. Administrators are an integral part of the LSSI team, as they provide support to the teachers as they work to make LSSI student activities part of the school's culture and curriculum. The community partners provide the connection to resources available in the community for stewardship efforts. Because the community is impacted positively, community partners benefit from the partnership with the school. The schools benefit because students learn how to become productive citizens in the community and the stewardship work provides relevant learning experiences.

The sixteen LSSI partner school-community teams are located in ten school districts:

- Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium and Keweenaw: CLK Elementary and Washington Middle School
- L'Anse Area Schools: C.J. Sullivan Elementary and L'Anse High School

- Baraga Area Schools: Pelkie School and Baraga High School
- Stanton Township Public Schools: E.B Holman School
- Lake Linden-Hubbell Public Schools: Lake Linden-Hubbell Middle School
- Hancock Public Schools: Barkell Elementary, Hancock Middle School and High School
- Chassell Township Schools: Chassell High School
- Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Area Schools: Dollar Bay Elementary and High School
- Adams Township School District: Jeffers High School
- Houghton-Portage Township School District: Houghton Elementary and High School

The current school-community teams do important stewardship work in their community and engage their students in relevant learning experiences that address the Michigan Content Standards and School Improvement Goals. CLK Elementary, Barkell Elementary and Pelkie Elementary teams have created community gardens that enhance their community, involve students in composting school food waste, encourage use of local foods and native species, and provide garden plots for community members. Lake Linden-Hubbell Middle School has created a disc golf course to promote low-cost outdoor family recreation and interpretative nature trails on the former Superfund Site on Torch Lake. C.J. Sullivan Elementary has created a three-mile nature trail adjacent to the school that is used as an outdoor classroom and recreational trail for the community. Jeffers High School, EB Holman School, Hancock High School, Hancock Middle School, Chassell High School, Houghton High School and Washington Middle School teams have worked with their local townships, Michigan Nature Association, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Keweenaw Land Trust to steward and improve natural areas in the Lake Superior Watershed. The specific work they do is based on the needs in the natural area, such as trail maintenance, construction of interpretative signage, and stream monitoring. On annual basis, these

LSSI News, *continued*

teams conduct beach cleanups using the Adopt A Beach Protocol. Teachers and students have been trained in how to remove invasive species from these natural areas and they are focusing part of their stewardship work on removing invasive species, such as the Spotted Knapweed and Purple Loosestrife from these natural areas. Dollar Bay High School is working with Isle Royale National Park to design and use a Remotely-Operated-Vehicle (ROV) that can gather underwater data. The ROV is used to monitor boats entering the park for evidence of Zebra or Quagga Mussels.

Teachers and community partners participated in a professional learning community on both the initiative and team level. Professional learning focuses on how to engage students in relevant learning experiences through stewardship projects that address Grade Level Content Expectations. Scientists from Michigan Tech, professionals from community partner organizations and teachers served as workshop facilitators. Topics of professional development offered at the initiative level were management of invasive species, global climate change, creation of interpretative signs, Great Lakes research, schoolyard ecology, assessing student stewardship behaviors and attitudes, and conducting oral histories. At the team level, members participated in professional learning community activities or worked on a consistent basis with practicing research scientists through the Global Watershed Program. This program places graduate fellows with LSSI school-community teams for two years to engage students in scientific research concerning the Great Lakes watershed,



work with teachers to develop teaching units and assist with the teams with their stewardship project.

LSSI provided many community activities at the initiative and local level to foster stewardship attitudes in the local communities. At the initiative level, LSSI partners with Keweenaw Land Trust, Copper Country League of Women Voters, MTU Center for Water and Society and Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to provide the Green Film Series, which consisted of six events that provide a forum for community members to watch a film concerning an environmental issue and then participate in a facilitated discussion focused on positive actions that can be taken. LSSI hosts the Water Festival, Lake Superior Celebration and Lake Superior Youth Symposium. At the local level, each school community team conducted a community event to highlight the stewardship work in their community.

If you are interested in finding out more about LSSI or how you can contribute to LSSI, please visit <http://lakesuperiorstewardship.org>.

Article by Shawn Oppliger, Member of the Leadership Team of the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, & Director of the Western UP Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education

MACUL 2014



The MACUL (Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning) 2014 Conference is quickly approaching! The conference will be held at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids on March 12-14. Registration for the conference can be completed at: https://register.macul.org/default.aspx?conference=2014_MACUL_Conference

REMC1 will be chartering and subsidizing a bus again for local educators that are interested in attending. The cost per person last year was only \$60 for those in the Copper Country ISD and Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD (\$120 for those outside REMC 1), but will depend on the number of participants. If you would like to take the bus, please take a moment to complete the following survey: <http://sl.remcl.org/maculbusreservation>

The teachers that are participating in the 22i TRIG (Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant) Classroom Readiness program as coaches will be

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staying at the Ramada Plaza Hotel at 3333 28th Street, Grand Rapids, MI 40546. The phone number is 616-949-9222. We would recommend making reservations at or near this hotel, as a large number of the bus riders will be staying there. Bus transportation will be available between the hotel and the conference center.

Questions can be directed to Steve Kass at steve@remc1.org.

Article by Mike Richardson,
Director, REMC 1

Copper Country Connections is published twice per year by the Copper Country Intermediate School District as a means of informing the educational community and the public of programs and services offered by the district. This publication is provided free of charge and is available for download in the "About Us" section of our website. To be added to our mailing list to receive printed copies of this newsletter, please contact:

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CLK, Chassell and Dollar Bay-TC Schools Named Academic State Champions

A ranking system by the online Bridge Magazine has put three Copper Country school districts in the top 10 percent of 540 districts ranked in the state. They are the Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium and Keweenaw; Chassell Township Schools and Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Area Schools. Only 54 school districts in the state received this recognition. The Houghton-Portage Township School District also fared well, with a ranking of 65th.

According to CCISD Superintendent Dennis Harbour, Bridge Magazine provides information and analysis of various facets of government and business in the state, including education, quality of life, successes and economic and competitive positions. The Bridge rankings use a system created by Public Sector Consultants of Lansing. The purpose of the rankings is to examine how schools are or are not exceeding predicted proficiency in the school curriculum. The rankings are designed to compare student proficiency on standardized tests at the school district level, across grades, and over time, relative to socioeconomic status.

To determine the winners, Bridge uses a value-added ranking system which measures a school's test scores adjusted for student family income, which is often a predictor of academic achievement. Essentially, Bridge's Academic State Champions are being recognized for over-achievement, rather than achieve-

ment.

During recent interviews with representatives from the three schools who are being recognized, each stress the fact that their district works year around on school improvement in an effort to try and move each student forward academically.



Each district also concentrates on utilizing and improving technology for student use. Superintendent George Stockero, from Chassell Township Schools, commented that his district has been ranked in the top 10% by Bridge Magazine since the analysis began three years ago.

A free online magazine, Bridge publishes in-depth stories about the most important

issues and challenges facing Michigan written and edited by veteran, award-winning journalists. You can read more about the Academic State Champions at <http://www.bridgemi.com>.

"From big cities to farming communities, quality education is occurring in every corner of Michigan," said John Bebow, President of the Center for Michigan, which publishes Bridge. "Our Academic State Champions series takes a close look at what these schools are doing right, in the hopes that their success can be reproduced throughout the state."

Article by Dennis Harbour,
CCISD Superintendent