

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hazelwood School District wraps up first community forum



Photo courtesy Hazelwood School

Panel members included (from left) Superintendent Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart, Board President Mark Behlmann, Board Secretary Margo McNeil and Board Vice President Dr. Brenda Youngblood.

The Hazelwood School District Board of Education held its first Community Forum of the 2018-2019 school year Oct. 4 at Hazelwood East High School.

The purpose of the forum was to create a constructive dialogue between community members, the board of education and the superintendent.

Dozens of parents, community members and district staff were in attendance and submitted questions which were answered by a panel consisting of three board members and Superintendent Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart.

Two main topics of discussion included the district's plans to open a thematic school geared

toward talented and gifted students in 2019 and updates on redistricting presented at the district's most recent Board of Education meeting.

"What we saw tonight was a great example of a community coming together to support our students and our schools," Board President Mark Behlmann said. "I invite the community to engage the district and find out how you can get involved. We always welcome parents and community members to join a district committee; there are several committees that need your participation."

The next Community Forum will take place Feb. 21, 2019 at Hazelwood West High School.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Two Hazelwood educators receive excellence in education awards

The St. Louis American Foundation recognized two Hazelwood School District educators, Dr. Chauncey Granger and Dr. Tamara Wells, during the 2018 Salute to Excellence in Education Scholarship and Awards Gala on Sept. 29.

Granger was recently promoted to principal at Hazelwood East High School. Prior to this, he served as principal of Hazelwood Southeast Middle School. He will be recognized for his innovative work with student achievement and commitment to increasing parent and community involvement.

Wells was recently promoted to a curriculum coach after serving as an instructional specialist at Twillman Elementary school. She will be recognized for empowering students to take an active role in their own learning.

“We value a diverse staff that is caring, culturally component, well trained, and highly effective in their roles,” said Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart, superintendent of schools. “This is a tremendous honor. Congratulations to Dr. Granger and Dr. Wells on the prestigious award recognition.”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hazelwood helps lead the way at MSBA Annual Conference



Photo Courtesy Hazelwood School District

The Hazelwood East High School Girls' Choir joined by HSD Superintendent Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart and district leadership at the MSBA Annual Conference Sept. 28

The Hazelwood School District was well-represented at the Missouri School Board Association Annual Conference Sept. 27-30 in Osage Beach.

The nationally-recognized Hazelwood East Girls' Choir, under the direction of Robert Swingler, helped kick off the second day of the conference with a performance on Sept. 28.

District leaders including Superintendent Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Natasha Baker, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bruce Green, and the HSD Board of Education were in attendance for the weekend full of professional workshops and growth opportunities.

Dr. Collins-Hart, Board President Mark Behlmann, Board Treasurer Cheryl Latham, and Board Director Diane Livingston led a presentation at the conference titled "The Board's Role in Strategic Goal Setting" on Sept 29.

Educational leaders from across Missouri

learned from HSD about its strategies in establishing a clear purpose and direction for a school district.

"This conference and the professional growth it fostered were wonderful for our district," Dr. Collins-Hart said. "Our board of education had a chance to educate other school boards and I hope Hazelwood leadership and our schools can continue to serve as a model for other districts throughout the state."

Jeffery Cohn, an educational consultant with Brave Dialogue, presented alongside HSD administration; Cohn played a pivotal role in guiding Hazelwood School District in the development of its Hazelwood NOW Strategic Plan.

Keynote speakers at the conference included former U.S. Senator from New Jersey Bill Bradley and award-winning children's author Carmen Agra Deedy.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Oct. 25: Fall family festival

The Hazelwood School District will host its Annual Fall Family Festival from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at Hazelwood Central High School, located at 15875 New Halls Ferry Road in Florissant. The Fall Family Festival is free and open to all HSD families. The festi-

<https://mycnews.com/st-louis-county/>

St. Louis County Community News
St. Charles County
O'Fallon, MO
Circulation: 30,000
Frequency: Weekly
October 24, 2018

Horseplay locks down elementary school

BY CHRISTINE BYERS
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St. Louis Post-Dispatch

SPANISH LAKE • The horses at the Division Cavalry Brigade barn knew the grass was greener at Larimore Elementary's playground — just a few hundred yards from their fence.

And on Tuesday, when they saw an opportunity to make a break for it, about half of them did. The sight of loose horses on the campus prompted school officials there to keep children and staff inside the building for about an hour. No one was hurt.

The horses have previously visited the children, and dined on the grass near their playground, while teaching them about Civil War history. It's part of the mission of the nonprofit they belong



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A few horses escaped from their pasture near Larimore Elementary on Tuesday. The horses returned after police arrived.

to, which also serves special needs children and veterans, according to their owner, Terry Crowder.

Students and staff spotted six or seven of the nonprofit's herd of 14 wandering near the campus at 1025 Trampe Avenue at about 1 p.m., said

Karen Miller, digital communications specialist.

Crowder, 70, arrived around 2 p.m. He said he got a call from St. Louis County police that his horses were at the school, which is about 300 yards away from his property. By the time arrived,

he said the police had hollered at the horses and they ran back home.

"They still look like they know they did something wrong," he said as a few of the horses filed past him Tuesday afternoon, safely back inside an enclosure.

The leader of Tuesday's pack was Buddy, who is 29, Crowder said. Actor Mel Gibson rode him for one scene in the movie "The Patriot," according to Crowder. (It appears to have been an uncredited role.)

Crowder believes someone accidentally left the gate to one of their pastures open, allowing the horses to escape.

"They know when they do something they're not supposed to," Crowder said.

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St. Louis Post Dispatch
St. Louis City County
St. Louis, MO
Circulation: 178,801
Frequency: Daily
October 24, 2018