



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Arlene Silveira, President Lawrie Kobza, Vice President Johnny Winston, Jr., Clerk Carol Carstensen, Treasurer Maya Cole, Member Lucy Mathiak, Member Beth Moss, Member

October, 2007

Dear Community Members,

The Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) values the arts as an integral component of a quality education for all students. Research has shown that involvement in the arts teaches children many important academic skills as well as enriches personal growth and development. Tight budgets, however, have increasingly affected the arts education we offer our children. Further, the District has monitored a downward trend in participation in arts offerings among low-income students and students of color for a number of years.

The Madison Board of Education formed the Community Fine Arts Task Force to gather information from the community and provide recommendations to the Board on MMSD's arts education program. Specifically, the Board asked the Task Force to:

- Identify community goals for MMSD K-12 arts education including curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular;
- Recommend approaches for increasing participation in arts education for low-income students and students of color; and
- Recommend priorities for District funding of fine arts education.

October through December, the Task Force will be distributing surveys and conducting community conversations to gather information from the community on its goals for fine arts education. Your input is very important and will help inform and strengthen the Task Force's work. The result of this work will be completed and presented to the School Board next spring.

We appreciate your participation in this important effort. To take the online survey and to learn more about the Community Fine Arts Task Force, go to www.mmsd.org/boe/finearts/.

Sincerely,

Arlene M. Silveira, President