



# **MACOMB INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WELCOME!**

The Macomb Intermediate School District's (MISD) Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is a group comprised of parents of special needs children, volunteers and educators. The PAC is available to parents of special needs children to:

- assist parents with the special education process by answering questions about special education rules and regulations;
- mentor and educate parents;
- build positive relationships with schools;
- provide input relating to legislative issues;
- network with other PACs throughout the state, and
- the PAC meets monthly at the MISD, and parents and visitors are welcome to attend the meetings (***meeting schedule attached***).

PAC has been successful in their goal to involve more parents in the past year and hopes to continue that effort this year. Your involvement in the PAC is crucial to our success! Below is a short biography for each PAC Leadership Team Member:

**Deborah Yoho** is the representative for Romeo Community Schools. She has been married to her husband Dean for 20 years and has two wonderful children. Her eldest son Dean, Jr. graduated from Romeo High School in 2009 and will be attending Oakland University in the fall. Her younger son, Darren, is a sophomore at Romeo High School and is doing extremely well mainstreamed in all of his classes. Darren has Autism and is the one who brought Deb to the Parent Advisory Committee in 2001. Deb Co-chaired the PAC in the 2004-2005 year and plans to continue helping educate parents who have special needs children. She is looking forward to continuing her work with the PAC Leadership Team this year and her main responsibility is to facilitate each monthly meeting.

**Charisse Cossu-Kowalski** is the representative for Fraser Public Schools. She and her husband have four children. Two receive special education services. One has attachment challenges, probable pre-natal exposure to alcohol and learning disabilities; another has fetal alcohol syndrome and cognitive delays. Charisse joined the PAC in 2002 and is also involved with the MCFARES (Macomb County Fetal Alcohol Resource Education and Support) Coalition, the LICC (Local Interagency Coordinating Council), and activities at her church. She was formerly a program supervisor working with mentally ill adults living in adult foster care homes but currently is a stay-at-home mom. Charisse is responsible for internet communications for the PAC.

**Sharon Hartwick** is the representative for Fitzgerald Public Schools. She is married with three children. Two of Sharon's children receive special education services. Her oldest is going into the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and has a variety of problems all of which have made diagnosis difficult. Among them are ADHD, Dyspraxia, Anxiety Disorder and being on the mild end of the Autism/Asperger's Spectrum. Her youngest, a preschooler, receives speech and occupational therapy services. Sharon has been a PAC member since 2005. She is a former teacher and is currently a stay-at-home mom. Sharon is responsible for keeping minutes at each meeting and assisting in other areas as needed.

**Miriam Broome** is the PAC's newest member. Miriam is the representative for the Chippewa Valley School District. Miriam has been married to Darryll for 22 years. They have two wonderful sons. The eldest, Dylan, will be a senior at Chippewa Valley High School this fall. He has been getting assistance for reading, speech and math through IEPs since the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; however, he no longer requires special services. Their youngest son, Dante, attends Wyandot Middle School. He has been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. Miriam is excited about her new role on the PAC Leadership Team and looks forward to continuing the work that is so important for our children. Miriam's main role with the PAC is to oversee the sub-committees.

The MISD-PAC strives to make the educational experiences of all children the best they can be and hopes to make this year even better than the last. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the PAC. Hope to see you at a meeting soon!

Sincerely,

**Your PAC Leadership Team**

*Deb, Charisse, Sharon and Miriam*