

Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System  
Statement to WOOD TV8  
September 22, 2022

Like most school districts, charter schools, and businesses across the country, Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System is currently experiencing a staffing shortage. New Paradigm for Education was hired on a compressed timeline and a number of teachers left the System for other opportunities prior to New Paradigm's onboarding. With respect to special education, the System and New Paradigm are currently searching for special education teachers and have contracted for a stop-gap solution with a virtual provider to ensure that all special education students are receiving the services they need and are entitled to under law.

Despite these challenges, we are working with New Paradigm for Education and have staffed nearly all of our teaching positions are filled with teachers with valid certificates or permits in compliance with Michigan law, and no student is in a classroom without a teacher. We are committed to our students' education and are working aggressively to fill any vacancies with qualified, competent teachers and staff as soon as possible.

Our leadership team is in the process of procuring our curriculum materials for the school year. Much of those curriculum materials have already been provided to the teachers, either physically or electronically, and the remainder is being secured for distribution.

We recognize the concerns of parents, many of us having been parents in or students of Muskegon Heights Public Schools or the System. Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System and New Paradigm for Education have always encouraged communication and have done our best to share information in a timely and efficient manner. The hiring of New Paradigm for Education was done on a compressed timeline and there are logistical issues still being worked out during the transition to New Paradigm. However, both the System and New Paradigm are working to constantly improve all our processes, including the sharing of information and communication, and we will continue to do so.