

## *NEWS RELEASE*

Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 5, 2007

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### **Mayor Hieftje and City Council endorse proclamation supporting the mission and vision of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation**

In recognition of the many elements of excellence in the Ann Arbor Public Schools and the mission of the Educational Foundation to provide support to continue this excellence, and in recognition of the interdependence of a strong public school system to attracting and retaining citizens and businesses in our community, the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation is pleased to announce Mayor John Hieftje's endorsement at the City Council meeting on Monday, March 5, 2007, via a proclamation.

There are more than 4800 Educational Foundations in the United States. A public school foundation, at it's best, is an example of school boards, school administrators and community members joining together to develop private resources to support programs and activities related to students. Over the past ten years, the AAPSEF has contributed more than \$300,000 to the Ann Arbor Public Schools for programs that have added to the excellence of the schools. The endorsement of the mission of the AAPSEF by the Mayor and City Council is an acknowledgement of strong public schools as an essential component of the economic vitality in Ann Arbor.

Ann Arbor has a history of supporting excellence in our public schools by levying tax increases. The passage of Proposal A in 1993 has made that impossible to continue. The citizens of Ann Arbor have limited ability to impact the quality of education that they want for their youngest citizens. Property tax dollars designated for education now go directly to Lansing. When education funds are redistributed back to

Ann Arbor, only about 60% of the dollars contributed by Ann Arbor residents return to our community, the remaining funds are allocated to other districts across the state. All funds contributed to the AAPSEF are used for students in the Ann Arbor Public Schools district.

Ann Arbor Public Schools are an investment in our community and our future. The Ed Foundation gratefully acknowledges the Mayor and City Council for their endorsement.

The AAPSEF is committed to helping all Ann Arbor Public Schools students achieve their highest potential by providing community support for innovative and excellent educational opportunities within the Ann Arbor Public Schools. The AAPSEF was founded in 1990 by a group of concerned citizens to enhance the quality of education in the Ann Arbor Public Schools. The Ed Foundation, an autonomous not-for-profit corporation with its own bylaws and a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, is separate and distinct from the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

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