**JUNE STAR AWARDS FOR TOWN HALL ON JUNE 10**

**STEVE BRUNO (Facilities):** I would like to nominate Steve Bruno of Facilities for going above and beyond!! I had three large Rifton chairs delivered to my house since they could not be delivered to the school. Steve came by my house, picked up all three chairs, and delivered them to the school. These were very large and heavy boxes and I could not have done it by myself. I appreciate Steve going above and beyond to come to my house and deliver these chairs to the school. Thank you Steve!!

**Nominated by: Jeff Macek**

**MDB Team:** First of all our leadership starts with Miss Phyllis Simmons and keeping our team together from the beginning. Throughout the years the MDB team has shown continued continuity of learning as outlined by MSDE. Collaboration has been across the board from classrooms to families and from school Administration to our communities. Even through these challenging times, the entire MDB family has shown that learning and most importantly, compassion can continue even though we are not physically together. Not only the MDB team but our entire School should be proud of what we have accomplished together. Staying together is a procress, and working together is a success. Teamwork is the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward the organization and objectives that allows people to achieve uncommon results. But we are not uncommon people, we have amazing talent on all teams. We have interpreters, and tech people that are excellent with computers; we have people that come from other countries that speak multiple languages; we have team members that run marathons for special causes, team members that step up to help out with committees  (prom, graduation, staff appreciation, sports, etc.). We help each other out when classrooms are short of staff. Other classrooms take a student or two so that when the staff is short it gives them a break. When taking field trips and a student cannot attend the other rooms will keep that student while the class is on a field trip. When there is a shortage in classrooms, staff will help other classrooms to transport the students to and from lunch, music, gym, Health Center, and to and from the bus destinations. This is why our team is essential personnel. Way to go MDB team!
**Nominated by: Robin McDuffie and Sandy Wellman**

**EVELYN DANIELS, JENE’ KESLER, AND MARQUITA MOORE:** I would like to nominate Evelyn Daniels, Jene Kesler, and Marquita Moore.  They have been very supportive and have had my back since the beginning of the school year.  With distance learning, they have been even more supportive in helping our classroom be successful.  This is Ms. Marquita's first year and she jumped right in with working with our students and being there for the classroom with no hesitation.  Ms. Jene has been amazing through this closure.  She has come to school to copy books, pick up materials and deliver those materials to my students whenever I needed her.  Ms. Evelyn has been amazing as well.  She works very well with our students and has created materials to assist in their learning.  If it was not for my staff, I do not know if I would have survived my first year of teaching at MSB.  Thank you Ms. Marquita, Ms. Jene and Ms. Evelyn for all that you have done to make our classroom work!!​

**Nominated by: Geri Savage**

**RUTH ANN HYNSON:**

\*Ruth remembers the important details of almost every student who has been admitted to MSB, has a relationship with most of the TVI’s in Maryland Counties and has an intimate knowledge of the needs of each county.

\*She listens- anytime, to your ideas, to your plans, to your hopes, to families, to teachers, if you are having a bad day, frustrated, or just need to vent she is always willing to meet and make you feel heard.

\*She cares- it’s obvious from her late night emails or return texts (at all hours of the day) that your work and time matter.

\*She supports - your ideas, your convictions, your work - she is willing to let us try new things, go against the flow, and dream big dreams in order to make things happen for our students.

\*Ruth is astoundingly well organized and manages that balance between being sensitive to the needs of MSB staff and (because she’s so involved with the local school systems) also responsive to the needs of local school systems, those students and their families.

\*She knows the secret to motivating each person on the Outreach team….she gives great feedback and makes everyone feel valued.

\*Ruth does more than start the day with a smile. She keeps a positive attitude throughout the day, no matter what happens. When a staff member goes to her with a big problem or what seems like a dead end, Ruth doesn’t say how disappointed she is…. She says, "Let’s see how we can fix this." She demonstrates her passion for the work she does (for the students and their families) and it reflects onto the Outreach team.

\*Ruth guides with encouragement. She gives our team confidence to think beyond traditional approaches and helps develop our fullest potential with her unwavering support.

\*She values the knowledge, experience and unique qualities that everyone on the team brings to do their jobs.

\*Ruth leads by example and is unafraid to admit when she has made a mistake or needs to improve upon her own skills.

\*She sees her staff as people first and employees second.

We all feel very fortunate to be part of the Outreach Team and working with such a supportive leader!!!!!!!! Thank you Ruth for all that you do!!

**Nominated by: The Outreach Team**

**EARLY LEARNING TEAM:** The Early Learning team is the definition of One Team. I have the privilege of being a mom of one of their students. I have seen all members of the team participate in my daughter’s education or day-to-day needs in one way or another. I have seen great communication and support of all the students, parents and other staff. They have great patience to deal with parents like me who were very nervous sending there nonverbal 3 year old to school. Ren’s direct teachers and therapist have helped her grow so much in the last school year. I have no doubt that we made the right choice to put her in school so early. I do not believe she would have improved this much if she was home with us. I am grateful for the support and hard work that each teacher, para-educator, therapist and others give to each student and their families.   As a fellow staff member, I have seen the Early Learning teamwork together and even in challenging times like our monthly fire drills. I am always amazed how they get all the kids out to the proper place and manage to keep them still and quiet. This can be a hard task with one 4 year old, but they do it with a large group of 3-5 year old kids. Many of the traits I see as a mom I see as a co-worker as well.  I am proud to work alongside this team at MSB. Thank you for all you do.

**Nominated by: Melissa Sheeder**

**KATHY FINCKEL:** I can think of so many who are deserving of this award. The dedication of our staff working together (while apart!) to continue our mission during these changing times is truly remarkable. Today I would like to recognize Kathy Finckel for all she is doing to help the Finance office. Kathy has been helping Cathy with the payables by sorting and scanning incoming invoices so that we can process them from home. She has been letting us know when we receive checks so that we can come on campus to make the deposits. More recently, she has been helping Mark with the mail distribution, providing guidance and suggestions. Kathy keeps an eye on what goes on at our campus and keeps us informed so that we can continue to work from home without skipping a beat. Kathy your good disposition, initiative and positive attitude means so much, thank you for going above and beyond for us!

**Nominated by: Kibian Vazquez**

**JILL EIDELMAN: We would like to nominate a person who we not only look to as a supervisor but also as a friend. Through this COVID crisis, and even before, she has always been our advocate - not only professionally but personally.**

**She makes sure we have what we need to be successful at our jobs.  And while work is a top priority she encourages and supports us in taking care of ourselves and our families first.  ​She inspires us to think outside of the box.  She supports our therapeutic ideas and is open to any creative suggestions.**

**Her wisdom encourages us to face our challenges - with a good attitude!​  Her open door policy allows us to complain, cry, and communicate any positive or negative situations or emotions. Whenever we are going through 'something,' we know she has a story for it.  When she doesn't know the answers to problems, she often states, "Do what you can and do your best."  And, she is humble enough to come to us for solutions as well - she frequently says, "I learn something new everyday."**

**She respects our opinions and follows through with our professional suggestions. She is tremendously gifted at creating calm and order in chaos.  At the beginning of each school year, she starts off with a positive quote that is carried throughout the year.**

**She has a passion for and is superb with our students who are on the Spectrum. We are better speech therapists because of her. She most certainly has made a difference!**

**Nominated by: The Speech Department**

**TRAVIS LAWRENCE:** Travis Lawrence came to us from MSB Outreach after serving one year in Frederick County as an itinerant TVI.  He also co-coached 180 Optimum during that time.

In his first year serving on campus at MSB, Travis has fully embraced a job that comes with constant challenges.  Travis met the learning curve of IEP meetings and related service management while also handling multiple classes, as well as co-coaching for both DOT5UDOGS and 180 Optimum.  Travis is always willing to jump in and help with tasks whether they are complex, simple, “other duties as assigned,” or “‘above and beyond the call of duty.”  He is professional, humble, and hardworking, which helps the rest of us do our jobs as well, especially me! ;)

**Nominated by: Gina Fugate**

**DOTTY RAYNOR:** Dotty’s resilience in an ever changing workplace is astounding. Dotty has learned more new technologies, platforms, and online resources and tools in the last few months than any of us imagined possible. Dotty is quick to offer a hand to anyone who needs it and is great at keeping a sense of humor in the most impossible situations. I am so thankful to have Dotty on my team and I think that the staff at MSB would agree that Dotty is a true gem.

**Nominated: Marlo Jacobson**