



June 9, 2004

Board at Work



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

Board approves tight, but balanced budget for 04-05

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 8 approved a balanced - but tight - budget for the 2004-05 school year.

The budget was created taking into several factors that are facing many area school districts: a flat level of funding from the state after already losing some state revenues this year; and reduced revenues from the desegregation program as Pattonville accepts fewer students and receives less than full-funding for the first time next year.

“We will continue to focus our budget on expenses that impact student achievement while looking at areas where costs can be contained or trimmed,” said Ron Orr, Pattonville’s chief financial officer.

The 2004-05 budget contains approximately \$69 million in revenues and expenditures and was based on projections that the assessed valuation of property in Pattonville will grow by 2 percent.

“The biggest unknown for next year is our assessed valuation,” Orr said. “We’re projecting a 2 percent increase and that’s based on history. We’ll be down \$1 million in revenues if that does not hold true.”

Other factors included in the budget were:

- A salary and fringe benefit package of 3.41 percent increase for teachers and 3.75 percent for all others (as agreed to by certified and support staff negotiating organizations);
- The rising cost of health insurance, which is expected to increase by 21 percent next year;
- State funding held constant;
- A reduction in reimbursements for voluntary transfer students from the current \$9,800 per child to \$7,000; and
- Staff reductions through retirements and attrition (no one being laid off) of two support staff and 10 teachers. The reductions were due to a drop in student enrollment.



Program assists students with limited English

A growing number of students who are new to this country are now calling Pattonville home as well. The Board of Education on June 8 heard an update and an evaluation of a program that helps students with very limited or no English-speaking abilities learn the language and the culture of their new homes.

The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program served 96 students in 1998 with slightly more than two teachers. Now, six full-time teachers and three aides are serving 167 students. Students in the program attend one of the following “center” schools to receive services: Bridgeway, Parkwood and Drummond elementary schools, Pattonville Heights Middle School and Pattonville High School. The goal of the program is to ensure that all students demonstrate significant improvement in their understanding of state academic standards, including becoming proficient readers and fluent speakers of the English language, as



measured by a test called the Language Assessment Scale (LAS).

Educators have been successful in applying several recommendations that were made in a previous evaluation of the program, including creating a district-wide database of ESOL students, providing additional staff development, researching the best practices available for meeting the needs of ESOL students, providing summer school instruction for students, monitoring enrollment trends and tracking attendance rates.

Several recommendations were made for the program for the future:

- Identify strategies to administer the LAS test in more timely manner for students who are identified as program candidates;
- Identify strategies to provide more effective support for language minority students at non-ESOL center schools who are involved in care team referrals;
- Identify structures and instructional best practices that better support student mastery of the core curriculum;
- Change the name of Pattonville’s ESOL program to English Language Learner (ELL) to bring the program name in line with the new designation being used by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;
- Provide professional development for staff at schools that “feed” students into ESOL center schools on how to identify and support the learning needs of language minority students; and
- Monitor enrollment trends to ensure Pattonville is providing appropriate services, especially at the middle school levels.



Calendar of Events

Monday, June 14

K-8 summer school begins (ends July 2)

Thursday, June 17

Parents As Teachers’ Moms and Muffins, 6:30 p.m., Pattonville Learning Center

Tuesday, June 22

Board of Education, 7 p.m., Pattonville Learning Center

Friday, July 2

End of K-12 Summer School

Monday, July 12

Pattonville Surplus Sale, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Holman Middle School

Tuesday, July 13

Pattonville Surplus Sale, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Holman Middle School

Board of Education, 7 p.m., Pattonville Learning Center



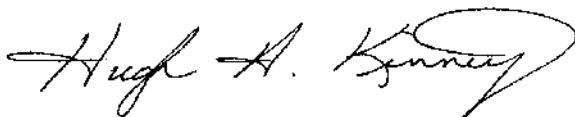
Kinney's Corner

An Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

Here's a look at what's going on in Pattonville:

- We had a great end of the school year and have had a smooth transition into summer school. Yesterday, our high school summer school began. You'll also notice an abundance of activity at several schools as we work on construction projects in Phase III of our bond issue.
- Kudos to Jan Schweiss, a parent educator in the Pattonville Parents As Teachers Program, who has been named president of the Pattonville Education Foundation. Mike Stein, a parent, was named vice president. Re-elected to office during the Foundation's recent annual meeting were: Debbie Bell Saelte of Satellite Outdoor Services, Inc., secretary; and Jodi Harris of Vantage Credit Union, treasurer. The Foundation also recently welcomed two new trustees to its board: Penny Wagner of the Hal Wagner Portrait Group and Cheryl Sprengel, a parent volunteer. Many thanks to the Foundation for 10 great years of providing resources and service to Pattonville educators and children.
- Congratulations to Dr. John Heskett, who is retiring this month from serving as assistant superintendent for pupil services. John was recently recognized by the Missouri Baptist Children's Home (MBCH) with a Distinguished Service Award for his work on behalf of Pattonville with MBCH. John's long-standing belief that there are no "throw-away" kids has led to some outstanding partnerships to provide an educational program for children who may have otherwise had nowhere else to turn. Thanks to John for his caring attitude for all kids.
- We just received word that we have been granted a \$50,000 Career-Technical Education Enhancement Grant from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This grant will be used to purchase student computer workstations, printers, projectors, cameras and other technology, as well as software, for Pattonville High School.
- It's official. Our newest board member, Ruth Petrov, has achieved her certified board member status, having completed her 16 hours of required board member training in a mere two months. Great job, Ruth!

As we close out another year, I found it interesting to note how our library circulation increased dramatically this year. District-wide our circulation increased by TWO books per student to an average of 47 books checked out per student. This is the eighth year that circulation has increased and reflects increases at all levels (elementary, middle and high school). In addition, at least three elementary schools achieved an average of 100 books circulated per student. This is outstanding! It shows that our focus on reading and literacy is having an impact in the attitudes and actions of our children...a phenomenon that will only improve student learning. Congratulations!



Business Bits

Paying the Bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 8 approved paying:

- \$1,660,767.47 in regular bills; and
- \$75,349.36 in cafeteria bills.

Bid Awards

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 8 approved the following:

- \$3,610 to SBPI and \$18,211 to Datamax for printing equipment maintenance for the 2004-05 school year;
- \$5,000 to Eazy Business Mailers for bulk mailing and First-Class presort mailings for the 2004-05 school year;
- \$16,520.25 to Kenny's Auto Parts; \$9,269.40 to Reliance Auto Parts; \$5,822 to School Bus Parts Company; \$4,438 to Bridgeton Auto Parts; \$1,650 to Handy Auto Parts; \$1,200 to Bus Parts Warehouse; and \$1,080 to Auto-Jet Muffler for automotive parts and supplies for the 2004-05 school year; and
- \$13,423 to Collins & Hermann, Inc., for chain link fencing at Pattonville High School and Parkwood Elementary School.

Other

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 8:

- Approved the May 2004 transportation route miles for the 2003-04 school year;
- Heard a brief report from Jeff Fitterling about the upcoming Missouri School Boards Association delegate assembly; Fitterling is the district's representative to the assembly; and
- Approved the exclusive soda vending agreement renewal with Pepsi America for the 2004-05 school year for a placement fee from Pepsi of \$65,000 plus incentives.

Policy/Procedures

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 8 approved the following procedure/policy updates:

- **Policy GDBB (Overtime/Extra Time Compensation for Support Staff)** – Minor word changes were made, and the following sentence was deleted: “The district recognizes that the Equal Pay Act as an amendment to the FLSA prohibits discrimination between employees on the basis of sex for the compensation received for work performed under similar working conditions that require equal skill, effort and responsibility.”
- **Policy GDJ (Work Schedules)** – Minor wording changes were made, and a section defining student employees was added.
- **Policy GDQ (Employment and Re-employment of Paraprofessionals without Teacher Certification)** – The words “teacher assistant” have been changed to “paraprofessional,” and other minor wording changes were made.
- **Procedure GDQ-R-1 (Employment and Re-employment of Paraprofessionals without Teacher Certification)** – The words “teacher assistant” were changed to “paraprofessional,” and other minor wording changes were approved. References to the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction were changed to refer to the assistant superintendent for human resources.
- **Policy JHCD (Administering Medicines to Students)** – The following sentences were added to the policy: “Short-term medications may be given with an original prescription bottle and a parent/guardian note. Example: Antibiotic therapy for 2-4 weeks. Long-term medications may be given on a daily basis for the duration of the school year as long as the district policy is followed.”

New Hire

- **Cindy Temm**, clerical assistant, Parkwood
- **Amy Bauer**, vocal music, Bridgeway
- **Shannon Wattler**, first grade, Parkwood
- **Amy Seward**, kindergarten, Rose Acres
- **Teisha Ashford**, seventh-grade science, Holman
- **Christine Kent**, early childhood special education, Rose Acres

Your Board of Education

- Pat Bryant, President
- Ron Kuschel, Vice President
- Jeff Fitterling, Secretary
- Keith Gillming, Treasurer
- Randy McArthur, Director
- Ruth Petrov, Director
- Ralph Stahlhut, Director