

## News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

### Pattonville cuts budget by \$1.2 million due to unexpected drop in revenues for 2004-05

**B**ased on a consistent history of growth in Pattonville School District, Pattonville officials built a budget for the coming school year anticipating a 2 percent growth in the assessed value of real estate and personal property in the district. When it received projections from the county assessor's office recently, officials learned that the assessed value of property in Pattonville had actually declined by 2 percent, resulting in a \$2.1 million budget shortfall for the 2004-05 school year (or a 4 percent decrease in budgeted local revenue). The greatest losses in value came in the personal property (cars, computers, etc.) and commercial real estate categories.

On Aug. 24, the Pattonville Board of Education unanimously approved taking a two-prong approach to solving this new financial dilemma – trimming the budget by \$1.2 million and raising its tax levy to offset some of the remaining losses. State law allows school districts to raise their real estate property tax levies to offset lost assessed valuation as long as the new rates do not exceed limits already approved by local voters.

In the past, school districts levied one tax rate for all classes of real estate and personal property. Recent changes in state law mandated that districts levy different tax rates for each of the different categories of property (personal property, residential real estate, agricultural real estate and commercial real estate). Under state laws, which govern how these tax levies are set and the formulas used to determine them, the losses Pattonville experienced in assessed valuation can only be recaptured by increasing the levy for residential and commercial real estate.

Pattonville could levy up to an additional 22 cents in its residential real estate levy. Instead, it will levy only an additional 13 cents and trim \$1.2 million in expenses in order to maintain a balanced budget for the 2004-05 school year. Commercial real estate taxes will increase by 11 cents. Overall, Pattonville's average tax levy will increase by 9 cents. The increases in the tax levies will enable Pattonville to recoup \$900,000 lost to the drop in assessed valuation.

The tax levies approved by the Board of Education on Aug. 24 will be as follows: \$4.0341 for residential real estate; \$4.0493 for agricultural real estate; \$4.1656 for commercial real estate; and \$4.2122 for personal property. The district's average tax levy for 2004-05 will be \$4.1402, which is still 27 cents below the 2003-04 St. Louis County average school district tax levy (before other districts set their 2004-05 rates).

The following items are among those being deleted from the 2004-05 budget to address the revenue shortfall: \$250,000 in insurance costs due to changes in insurance options offered to staff; \$282,000 in capital projects that will be covered with residual bond issue funds; \$230,000 in reduced staffing needs; \$340,000 in expenditures covered with state aid and grant funds (for programs such as gifted and English as a Second Language); \$43,000 in departmental cuts; \$40,000 savings from eliminating a phone maintenance agreement and servicing repairs internally; and \$15,000 in savings from early technology purchases.



## Good news...communications program successful

Pattonville's communications program is getting high marks from staff, parents and the community, according to an evaluation recently conducted. A report based on the evaluation was presented to the Board of Education on Aug. 24. The goals of the Pattonville school-community relations program are:

1. To support the district's comprehensive school improvement program efforts and the district's mission, "That All Will Learn" by facilitating communication that supports the district's goals for student achievement.
2. To build relationships and maintain Pattonville's high level of community support by providing opportunities for two-way communication, encouraging community involvement in decision-making and publicizing honors, recognitions and special programs and events in Pattonville.



"We surveyed randomly selected residents, staff, parents and senior citizens and reviewed statistical data we've tracked over the years along with other surveys to measure our effectiveness," said Mickey Schoonover, director of school-community relations. "We were pleased to find that the majority of residents and staff were aware of the district's goals and feel informed about district issues and events."

Survey results indicate the majority of respondents felt the district does a good or excellent job of involving citizens in the decision-making process and gave "good" or "excellent" ratings on the district's efforts to inform its citizens. Other important findings in the evaluation included:

- Survey data indicates the district is focusing its efforts on the most effective communication tools for various audiences. The survey showed that most people get their information from the district newsletter ("Pattonville Highlights"), 55+ Club "Flash" newsletter (seniors only) and e-mail (for staff only). Eight-five percent of community members (up from 80 percent two years ago) and 82 percent of staff members said they get their information about Pattonville from the district newsletter. This was the number one source of information for these two groups, except for staff, in which e-mail tied for first place. Seniors liked the 55+ Club "Flash" newsletter the best for getting news, followed by the "Pattonville Highlights."
- Pattonville's programs for engaging the public have also been designated by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a strength. In 2003, the state said Pattonville's Board of Education provides numerous opportunities for patrons, parents, students and staff to have input into the programs and policies of the district and that the level of participation of district patrons could serve as a model for other districts.
- The majority of staff members (82 percent) read the district's electronic newsletter, the "Board at Work," which is delivered the day after every regular board meeting to approximately 1,000 staff members through e-mail, 200 members of the district's e-mail subscription list and members of the print media.

Four recommendations were made for the future of the program:

- Continue to improve and expand use of online/electronic communications.
- Conduct attitude survey in 2005 to gauge attitudes of the Pattonville community, including non-parents. Data gathered can help formulate a new facilities plan for the district.
  - Work with the school board and administration to formalize a process for requiring planned communications and/or public engagement whenever the district or a school is considering a new initiative or major change.
  - Continue successful programs already in place.

## Board makes yearly committee appointments

The Board of Education on Aug. 24 approved standing committee appointments for board members for the 2004-05 school year. What follows is a list of board members and the committees to which they are assigned:

- Ron Kuschel - Pattonville Support National Education Association (PSNEA) and facilities;
- Jeff Fitterling - professional studies and technology;
- Randy McArthur - professional studies and board policy review;
- Keith Gillming - Board Student Administration Action Committee (BSAAC) and safety;
- Ruth Petrov - BSAAC, Comprehensive School Improvement Program (CSIP) steering committee, and A+ Steering Committee; and
- Ralph Stahlhut - PSNEA, facilities and board policy review.

## Kinney's Corner

An Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

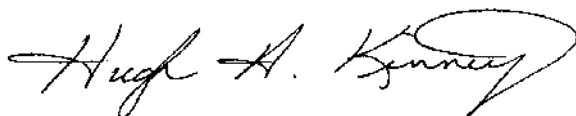
Here's a look at what's going on in Pattonville:

- Congratulations to Amy White, a first-grade teacher at Willow Brook Elementary School, who was named one of six finalists for Missouri Teacher of the Year. Last spring she was named Pattonville's Teacher of the Year. We are proud of Amy and wish her the best in the next step in the process.
- Kudos to the community education department in Pattonville. Enrollment is up in its fall classes and many of the day trips are already booked. We attribute the increased interest in getting information out to our community in August, which is about three weeks earlier than usual. Great job!
- We have wonderful news regarding our students' scores on the ACT college entrance exam. The seniors who took the test last year increased Pattonville's composite score by a significant half point, to 22. This score continues to be above state and national averages. This is a tribute to the increased rigor and addition of higher-level and advanced placement courses at the high school.



*Amy White, finalist for Missouri Teacher of the Year*

Pattonville's preliminary MAP scores are in, and the data shows that Pattonville outperformed students statewide in every grade level and subject area tested. This included moving more students into the top two achievement levels (advanced and proficient) and lowering the number of students scoring in the bottom two levels (Step 1 and progressing). In addition, gains were seen in scores at the elementary and middle school level in communication arts and mathematics over the previous years, while our district's middle school scores remained mostly stable. This is great news. Thanks to everyone involved in making a difference in the lives of our students.





# Calendar of Events

## Wednesday, August 25

Drummond First-Grade Open House, 6:30 p.m.  
Remington First-Grade Parent Meeting, 6:30 p.m.,  
Open House, 7 p.m.  
High School Senior Year College Planning Meeting,  
7 p.m.

## Thursday, August 26

Holman Open House, 6:30 p.m.

## Monday, August 30

Drummond Fifth-Grade Open House, 6:30 p.m.  
Pattonville Heights PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Open  
House, 6:55 p.m.

## Tuesday, August 31

Drummond Fourth-Grade Open House, 6:30 p.m.  
Willow Brook Open House, 6:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, September 1

Drummond Second-Grade Open House, 6:15 p.m.  
Briar Crest Back to School Open House (Grades 3-  
5), 6:30 p.m.  
Rose Acres Parent Back to School Night (early  
childhood/kindergarten/first grade), 6:30 p.m.

## Thursday, September 2

Board Coffee, 4 p.m., Bridgeway  
Parkwood PTA, 6 p.m.  
Beginning Band and Orchestra Demonstration Night,  
7 p.m., Pattonville Community Auditorium  
Pattonville Alumni Association, 7 p.m., Learning  
Center

## Friday, September 3

No School - Staff Development Day  
Bridgeway Skate Night, 5:45 p.m., Coachlite

## Monday, September 6

No School - Labor Day

## Tuesday, September 7

Bridgeway Open House, 6:30 p.m.  
Rose Acres Parent Back to School Night (Grades 2-  
3), 6:30 p.m.  
Willow Brook Room Parent Meeting, 7 p.m.

## Wednesday, September 8

Briar Crest Back to School Open House (Grades K-2),  
6:30 p.m.  
Rose Acres Parent Back to School Night (Grades 4-  
5), 6:30 p.m.

## Thursday, September 9

Parkwood Skate Party, 6:30 p.m.  
Bridgeway PTA, 6:30 p.m.  
Parents As Teachers, "Discipline," 6:30 p.m.  
High School Open House, 7 p.m.

## Friday, September 10

Pattonville Heights Back to School Dance, 7 p.m.  
Public Astronomy Night, 7:30 p.m., planetarium/  
observatory at Pattonville Heights

## Monday, September 13

PAGE PTA, 6:30 p.m., Holman  
High School PTO, 6:30 p.m.  
Pattonville Heights PTA, 6:30 p.m.  
High School Band Boosters, 7 p.m.

## Tuesday, September 14

Parents As Teachers, "Messy Play," 6:30 p.m.,  
Learning Center  
Board of Education, 7 p.m., Learning Center



## Business Bits

### Paying the Bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on Aug. 24 approved paying:

- \$4,008.26 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum for legal services.

### Policies/Procedures

The Pattonville Board of Education on Aug. 24 voted to:

- Rescind **Policy JGDA (Academic Probation)**; and
- Lodge for action updates to **Policy JECA (Admission of Resident Students)**; the proposed revisions would change the number of days during which a hearing would be held on a residency issue from three to five days; in addition, the title of assistant superintendent for pupil services would be changed to executive director for special services. The board is expected to vote on the changes on Sept. 14.

### Other

The Pattonville Board of Education on Aug. 24 approved:

- A transportation handbook for the 2004-05 school year;
- A contract between Pattonville and the Special School District for the provision of homebound general education services for the 2004-05 school year; and
- A trip by the Pattonville High School varsity drill team to Orlando, Fla., in February 2005 to participate in national competition.

### New Hires

- **Lisa Fiquette**, paraprofessional, early childhood special education
- **Catherine Lobser**, paraprofessional, early childhood special education
- **Sara Stevens**, paraprofessional, early childhood special education
- **Amie Myers**, paraprofessional, Briar Crest
- **Tammy Overstreet**, paraprofessional, Briar Crest
- **Anne Schoenfeld**, paraprofessional, Rose Acres
- **Vanessa Divine**, paraprofessional, Remington
- **Jason Major**, paraprofessional, Remington
- **Lisa Brougham**, English Language Learner paraprofessional, Pattonville Heights
- **Janice Welch**, cook, Pattonville Heights
- **Megan Hoyer**, in-school suspension supervisor, Holman
- **Emily Harris**, library paraprofessional, High School
- **Jaime Hoff**, academic intervention MAP teacher, Holman
- **Andrea Mills**, student achievement intervention English teacher, High School

### Your Board of Education

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