

Board at Work

News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

March 19, 2003

Climate survey nets positive feedback

The majority of students, parents and staff in the Pattonville School District report that their school are good places to learn and grow according to a climate survey conducted in the fall of 2002. The survey results were shared with the Pattonville Board of Education on March 18. Climate surveys are given to all staff and parents, as well as all students in grades three through 12, every other year.

When given the statement, “my school (or my child’s school) is a good place to learn,” the majority of parents and students agreed: 93 percent of elementary students, 69 percent of high school and middle school students and 90 percent of parents.

Parents and students also agreed, “My teachers/(my child’s teachers) are good teachers.” Eighty-seven percent of parents agreed with this statement, while 96 percent of elementary students and 73 percent of secondary students agreed.

Other highlights of the survey:

- Seventy-nine percent of parents felt the school board has high expectations for student learning, up from 75 percent in 2000.
- Ninety percent of parents felt welcome to discuss their child’s educational needs with the school.
- Ninety-four percent of staff agreed that professional development activities are related to district-wide instructional improvement.
- Ninety percent of teachers also felt technology is considered an integral part of the instructional program, up from 76 percent in 2000. In addition, 88 percent felt they received adequate training in using computers and other technology to support the curriculum, up from 63 percent two years earlier.
- Ninety-eight percent of teachers agreed that their school is a good place to learn, and 95 percent said they knew what they were expected to do to improve student achievement as outlined in the district’s Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.

Pattonville staff will use data from these questionnaires to evaluate programs throughout the district. In addition, the data will be disaggregated by building and given to principals and school improvement teams for planning purposes. Another survey will be administered in the fall of 2004.

Finance office pinpoints loss in assessed value

A study conducted of a database of real estate and personal property in the Pattonville School District has shed some light on why Pattonville saw a decline in 2002 in the assessed value of property in its boundaries for the first time in recent memory.

Ron Orr, director of business services, conducted the analysis using a database provided by the St. Louis County assessor's office. Orr, along with Chief Financial Officer Ron Mastin, provided an overview of their findings to the Pattonville Board of Education on March 18.

Last year, Pattonville built its budget based on a projected growth in assessed valuation of 3 percent, despite a recent history of seeing growth in the range of 6 or 7 percent. When the numbers were finalized in the county assessor's office, however, the assessed value of property in the Pattonville School District actually declined by \$20 million, or nearly 2 percent, and Pattonville faced a revenue shortfall of \$2.1 million. Pattonville dealt with the shortfall using a provision in state law that allows districts to increase their levies to offset such losses and by making nearly \$1 million in budget revisions.

To aide in future planning, the district conducted the analysis and found that the biggest part of the drop – an estimated \$12.2 million - came from the loss of real and personal property due to the Lambert airport buyout. Another \$9.1 million came from decreasing values of personal property owned in the district, especially in the area of manufacturing equipment.

Pattonville can anticipate the airport buyout to continue impacting its revenues in the near future. Of the 2,018 properties in the buyout area, 1,531 are in Pattonville and amount to a total assessed value of \$49 million. The 896 properties purchased in 2001 and the years prior have already cost the district over \$1 million in tax revenues. The 202 properties bought in 2002 resulted in a loss of \$420,116 in tax revenue, and the remaining 433 future purchases are expected to result in a loss of another \$544,070 in revenue.

“The results of this study only reinforce the conservative nature we use when building our budget,” Mastin said. “We’ll continue to look at efficiencies in our day to day operations and make budget decisions that have the least impact on children in the classroom.”

Board reviews proposed financial goals

The Pattonville Board of Education on March 18 reviewed a list of proposed financial goals for the coming school year. Financial goals are set annually to serve as guidelines for developing an annual budget. The board is expected to vote on the goals during its April 8 meeting.

The proposed goals are as follows:

- To maintain a balanced budget;
- To maintain a beginning fund balance sufficient to avoid short-term borrowing, loss in desegregation funding and to address future changes to the state foundation formula (Missouri's formula for determining state funding to local districts);
- To provide competitive salaries for the employees of the Pattonville School District;
- To maintain a level of staffing for classrooms that meets or exceeds desirable standards established by the Missouri School Improvement Program;
- To provide funding to address the recommendations of the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan Committees;
- To provide adequate funding for the maintenance of district facilities; and
- To provide funding for the replacement of district technology.

The proposed goals are unchanged from the goals set for the current school year.

Vocational program evaluated

An evaluation of Pattonville's vocational education program indicates the program's goals are being met. A report was given to the Board of Education on March 18. Several recommendations had been made as part of previous evaluations and are being met. According to the evaluation report, all vocational programs have an articulation agreement with a post-secondary institution. An articulation agreement

allows students in designated high school classes to earn college credit at a cooperating institution. In addition, all business, marketing and family and consumer science teachers at Pattonville High School are vocationally certified. Active participation in career and technical student organizations remains high.

Among the recommendations that have been met are:

- Increase the placement rate of graduates into related education and employment (evidence that the district has met the state's 65 percent placement standard will be based on graduate follow-up information);
- Complete articulation agreements for marketing, accounting and culinary arts at local post-secondary institutions;
- Increase membership and participation in Future Business Leaders of America and in Future Community and Career Leaders of America;
- Collaborate with counselors to present career information to vocational education classes at least once during the year;
- Add proposed vocational program target to the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, which reads, "Vocational education is an integral component of the educational program";
- Monitor and report student mastery of course competencies at the end of each semester or year course as appropriate to increase student mastery of course competencies; and
- Prepare for the Missouri School Improvement Program reaccreditation review to insure that all standards for vocational education are being met.

Recommendations made for the future are:

- Continue to increase the number of vocationally approved programs;
- Continue to increase student enrollment in vocational courses;
- Continue to increase the number of articulation agreements with post-secondary institutions;
- Continue to increase student participation in career and technical student organizations;
- Continue to increase, or to maintain at a high level, post-secondary placement rates; and
- Continue to meet standards for the program as outlined in the state's self-monitoring checklist.

Curriculum updates, adoptions approved

The Pattonville Board of Education on March 18 approved curriculum updates and materials adoptions in various subjects. In addition, an update to the district's technology plan was approved.

Curriculum updates were approved for the middle schools in the areas of industrial technology, modern language and physical education. Instructional materials adoptions were also approved for middle school health and high school communication arts. The health materials adoption will cost \$46,889, while the communication arts adoption will cost \$2,427.64.

Agreement approved with community college

An articulation agreement approved by the Pattonville Board of Education will enable Pattonville High School students to receive college credit at St. Charles County Community College for business courses taken at the high school.

Students who take the following classes at Pattonville High School will be eligible for the college credit: Keyboarding I, Computer Applications I and/or Business Tech, Accounting I and II, Marketing I and II, Introduction to Business and Business Management.

Summer school program gets board OK

During its March 18 meeting, the Pattonville Board of Education approved a summer school program for students in grades kindergarten through 12.

The program will include both enrichment and academic review classes for students at five school sites. Classes for elementary and middle school students will begin June 10 and end July 3. The high school summer school program will run June 9 through July 3. A program for students who will begin kindergarten in August 2003 and are referred by the Parents As Teachers program will also be offered. Classes for all programs will be held Mondays through Fridays.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

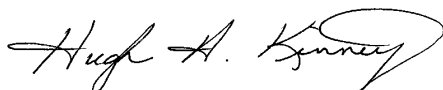
Dear Pattonville family,

Here's a look at what's happening:

- Congratulations to the Pattonville High School Student Council for winning the Gold Award from the Missouri Student Council Association. This confirms what we already know – that we have an outstanding group of students who do great things for their school and community.
- Those of you who attended the annual Pattonville Education Foundation Dinner Dance recently know what I'm talking about when I say it was one of the group's best events yet. The food, the friendliness and the fund-raising were all top notch. It was a fun evening for everyone as we raised money to benefit programs for Pattonville students. Thanks to all our hard-working volunteers who pulled this off.
- The Board of Education recently held its annual brunch with our Pattonville legislators. This was a crucial year for such a meeting, as the majority of our legislators are new and our state is facing a budget crisis. I felt reassured by our legislators in attendance that they will continue to fight to do what's best for our children.
- Last week, the board also hosted its annual board coffee in the city of St. Louis for students attending Pattonville as part of the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation program. We had an outstanding turnout for the event, and I know we all enjoyed watching our students gain recognition for their accomplishments throughout the year. The parents had great questions and dialogue with our board. Thanks to our pupil services department for arranging this wonderful event.

We're just days away from spring break and next, our Missouri School Improvement Program review. You've all been working hard preparing this accreditation review while accomplishing your everyday task of preparing our children for life. Thanks for all your efforts and energy. This break is well deserved, and I hope you enjoy it with your family and friends.

Sincerely,



Hugh A. Kinney, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Business Bits

Approval of bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on March 18 approved the following:

- \$1,334,173.12 for regular bills;
- \$69,044.25 for cafeteria bills;
- \$4,542.07 for legal services to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum; and
- \$173,129.71 for Phase I and II bond issue change orders.

The board also approved a donation of \$2,000 for the Pattonville High School All-Night Graduation Party after hearing a brief presentation by representatives of the senior class.

Bid Awards

The Pattonville Board of Education on March 18 approved the following bid awards and contracts:

- \$133,759.12 to Steamatic and Heartwood Floor for the replacement of the gym floor at Pattonville Heights;
- \$441,000 to Condaire for heating, ventilation and air conditioning for Phase II bond issue work;
- \$18,745 to Southwest Plastic Binding for an automatic punch with auto feeder, one extra die and a one-year service contract;
- \$5.25 per student packet to Hal Wagner Portrait Group for elementary student picture packets;
- \$7.75 for student packets, \$4 for class books and \$11 for student packets plus class books to Interstate Studios Inc. for middle school picture packets;
- \$36,182.63 to Corporate Interiors for furniture for Pattonville High School and Pattonville Heights Middle School;
- \$17,592.05 to Industrial Soap and \$10,418.40 to HP Products for paper goods and trash liners;
- \$6,995 to Gateway Visuals for a PRO36 Color Poster Printer; and
- \$6,750 to Bulte Company for double batting cages.

Policy/Procedures

The Pattonville school board approved the following policies and procedures on March 18:

- **IB (Academic Freedom)** – The following has been removed: “Such academic freedom will be extended teachers in our schools because it is necessary to the effective exercise of the basic responsibility of the school: to guide students toward the knowledge and understanding befitting free, reasoning and responsible adults.” The following sentences were added: “It is the intention of this school district to preserve and clarify the academic rights and responsibilities of the district’s teachers, within the scope of the curriculum, and to strive toward the free exchange of ideas in the classroom. To further the exchange of ideas, the teacher may employ subject matter appropriate to the level of the learner, in keeping with the mores of the community, and may use teaching methods and teaching aids deemed appropriate in conduct of the class. Educators and students are allowed access to library materials without unnecessary or artificial barriers.”
- **IC/ICA (School Year/School Calendar)** - The policy was revised to read, “The school calendar shall provide for a minimum of 174 days and 1,044 hours of actual pupil attendance. Additional days for pupil attendance, various meetings, holidays and other days may be scheduled as part of the school term at the discretion of the Board of Education. The district is required by state law

to make up all days canceled due to inclement weather unless it has scheduled at least two-thirds as many make-up days as were lost during the previous school year. If the district uses these make-up days and still does not meet the requirement for a 174-day term, it shall be required to make up no more than eight additional days and half the number of days canceled in excess of eight days. Days that the district's schools are closed for emergency reasons, which cause a violation of the necessary 174 days of pupil attendance, will be made up in accordance with state statutes and as approved by the Board upon the superintendent's recommendation. Upon approval of the calendar by the Board, the superintendent or designee will distribute copies to the staff and news media."

- **IGBC (Parent/Family Involvement in Instructional and Other Programs)** – The following sentence was added: "The Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction serves as the coordinator for the Parent Involvement Policy." Sections were also added which address school policy, migrant education program parent involvement and limited English proficiency parent involvement.
- **IGBG (Homebound Instruction)** – This is a new policy, which outlines conditions under which a student is eligible for homebound instruction.
- **IGBG-R (Homebound Instruction Procedures)** – This is a new procedure, which outlines the process for providing homebound instruction to eligible students.
- **IGDA (Student Organizations)** – The following phrase was deleted, "and the approval by the superintendent and/or budgeted funds, or that may engage in activities controversial in nature." The following sentence was added, "Any organization requiring budgeted funds and/or that may engage in activities of a controversial nature must be approved by the superintendent."
- **IGDJ (Interscholastic Athletics/Activities)** – A sentence was revised to read, "Students eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who do not meet the above criteria may have their eligibility restored by the high school principal following a review with the athletic/activities director."
- **IGDJ-R (High School Activities and Student Eligibility)** – The list of activities governed by policy IGDJ was updated, and the phrase, "sanctioned by Missouri State High School Activities Association," was added.
- **IIADA (Computer Software Copyright)** – The following sentence was deleted, "The principal of each school site is responsible for establishing practices and procedures which will enforce this policy at the school level."
- **IICA (School-Sponsored Field Trips)** – A paragraph was revised to read, "All parents of students who are eligible to participate in the field trip shall be notified in advance of the activity. Each child who goes on a field trip must have written parental consent, including walking excursions off school grounds."
- **IICAB (Non-District Field Trips and Excursions)** – This is a new policy outlining the district's expectations when staff are involved in non-district sponsored field trips and excursions.
- **IJ (Guidance Programs)** – This is a new policy that replaces an older version and outlines the goals, activities and components of the district's guidance programs.
- **IKAB (Student Progress Reports to Parents)** – Minor wording changes were approved.
- **IGBCA (Programs for Homeless Students)** – Numerous changes and revisions were approved for updating this policy dealing with programs for homeless students.

New Hires

- **Rosellen Knapp**, paraprofessional, Drummond
- **Marilyn Conrad**, Program for the Exceptionally Gifted teacher, Drummond

The board also took the following actions regarding staffing:

- Approved the hiring of certified and support staff for the K-12 summer school program (academic review and enrichment);
- Approved the reemployment of administrative personnel for the 2003-2004 school year;
- Approved the reemployment of certified staff for 2003-2004; and
- Approved the reclassification of the preschool clerical assistant position to secretary, as recommended by the Job Description Review Committee.

Your Board of Education

- **Ralph Stahlhut**, President
- **Ron Kuschel**, Vice President
- **Pat Bryant**, Secretary
- **Keith Gillming**, Treasurer
- **Jeff Fitterling**, Director
- **Kathy Fitzgerald**, Director
- **Michael Stewart**, Director