



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

April 9, 2003

## Pattonville to begin pre-engineering program

Pattonville High School will be home to a new pre-engineering program next year, thanks to an agreement signed by the Pattonville Board of Education on April 8 with Project Lead the Way, a national non-profit organization.

In the 2003-2004 school year, Pattonville will offer the first course of the new pre-engineering program, Principles of Engineering.

Project Lead The Way creates partnerships with schools to prepare students to be successful in engineering and engineering technology programs by providing resources such as a fully-developed curriculum for high school and middle school; extensive professional development for teachers; professional development conferences for school counselors; and college-level certification, college course credit and middle school recognition.

Eventually, the pre-engineering program will consist of five courses at the high school. A Pattonville teacher will undergo training for the program this summer.

Dr. Debra Ebel, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, said the new program gives Pattonville students an alternative to leaving the Pattonville campus to receive instruction in higher-level technical courses that could lead to a career in engineering or a related field.

## Board elects officers, swears in members

Ralph Stahlhut was re-elected president of the Pattonville Board of Education during the April 8 board meeting. Stahlhut, along with Incumbent Pat Bryant, ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Board of Education by Pattonville residents earlier in the day. Both were sworn into office during the meeting.

Bryant was also elected vice president and will retain her position as board secretary until the board elects a new secretary and treasurer this summer. Keith Gillming is currently serving as treasurer.

## School ending dates revised

Students in the Pattonville School District will get out of classes one day early this year because the district did not need to use all of its emergency days.

Three emergency days were built into this year's school calendar. Because only two emergency days were used to cancel classes during the 2002-2003 school year due to inclement weather, the calendar needed to be revised to subtract one day from the end of the school year for student attendance.

Under the changes, the last day of attendance for elementary students is May 30, and the last day of school for middle and high school students is May 29. The last day for high school seniors is May 16.

Final exams for freshmen, sophomores and juniors will take place on May 23 and May 27 through 29. Graduation is set for May 22 at UMB Bank Pavilion (formerly Riverport Amphitheatre).

## Briar Crest updates school improvement plan

Members of the School Improvement Team at Briar Crest Elementary School on April 8 presented an updated plan to continue improving student achievement at their school. Staff and parent members of the team presented three major goals and the steps they will take to accomplish them.

A survey of parents and staff members regarding the revised plan indicated that 99 percent of parents and 100 percent of staff members supported the plan.

The three targets Briar Crest has chosen are:

1. All students are proficient readers and writers;
2. Briar Crest students will be responsible citizens; and
3. Briar Crest will foster high levels of parental/community involvement in academic and social activities.

To help students become proficient readers and writers, Briar Crest staff plans to differentiate the way they teach students to better meet individual student needs. In addition, the school will develop before- and after-school academic labs to help students who are lagging behind and also offer extended opportunities beyond the classroom for all children in the areas of reading and writing. The school will also begin researching models at schools that have been successful in raising student achievement despite a high level of students moving in and out of the school throughout the school year (student mobility).

## Updated plan unveiled by Bridgeway team

Parents and staff members on Bridgeway Elementary's School Improvement Team on April 8 unveiled an updated plan for continuing to improve the achievement of Bridgeway students. A survey of parents and staff showed that 96 percent of parents and 100 percent of staff supported the new plan.

Four targets were established for improvement:

1. All students are proficient readers;
2. Students are responsible citizens;
3. Student academic achievement will improve in all content areas; and
4. Bridgeway will foster high levels of parental/community involvement in academic and social activities.

To ensure that Bridgeway students are proficient readers, Bridgeway will train its teachers on how to vary their teaching methods to better reach the needs of all students (differentiated instruction). In addition, reading specialists will continue special services for students at risk of failure. Reading enrichment classes for students who are exceeding grade-level reading expectations will also be implemented, and successful programs such as tutoring and early literacy will be continued.

To improve achievement in all content areas, the school will also use four early dismissal days for teacher and department collaboration; research math software that can enrich and provide extra practice in math; continue a successful writing program (Step Up to Writing) at all grade levels; begin a staff book talk in the area of differentiated instruction; continue implementing the Literacy Project; and use technology for instruction. The Literacy Project is a district-wide program that trains all teachers to incorporate reading, writing and critical thinking skills into every content area.

## Evaluation of Board Forum shared

An evaluation of the March 2003 Board-Patron Open Forum showed that a good exchange of ideas and comments were made by participants, but that participation by parents in the event has declined.

Participants shared their thoughts on Pattonville's successes and concerns during this annual meeting with board members. In a survey of those who participated, 93 percent who responded said the event was valuable, and 100 percent said the topics of discussion were relevant to them. The response rate was 31 percent of those who attended.

A historical look at the attendance showed that participation has dropped from a high of 90 in the year 2000 to 48 this spring. Of the 48, only 17 were parents. The remaining participants were staff members.

"It's unfortunate that the participation continues to decline," Mickey Schoonover, director of school-community relations, told board members on April 8. "On the other hand, that's probably a tribute to all of the public engagement activities you conduct throughout the year with various members of the community. The board coffees at the schools, the Board Focus Groups in the fall, the various meetings with community groups like our religious leaders and even the opportunity for public participation at board meetings give residents in our district a number of opportunities to interact with the board and make their opinions known. We also have a culture in our district where parents are actively engaged in making improvements at their own individual schools, and they know they are making a difference by their active participation."

## Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

---

Dear Pattonville family,

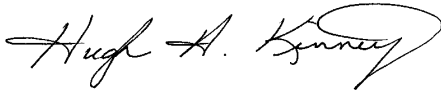
Here's a look at what's happening:

- On April 1 and 2, you shined. During our Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) reaccreditation review, you all demonstrated why Pattonville is such a wonderful place to learn and grow. The Missouri educators who visited our schools on these two days were impressed with your work and dedication to our children and the progress we've all made over the past five years. I have no doubt we will achieve reaccreditation once the board reviews the MSIP report later this spring. Thank you for all your efforts.
- Congratulations to our secondary schools in Pattonville, all of which earned a place on one of the state's Top 10 Most Improved Schools lists for improvement in students' scores on the Missouri Assessment Program. Making the list in different content areas were: Holman (communication arts), Pattonville Heights (communication arts and social studies), Remington (middle school math) and Pattonville High School (science). The recognition was based on growth from the first year the MAP tests were required to the spring 2002 administration. Great work! Thank you!
- On April 17, a group of educators and parents from Pattonville will travel to Jefferson City to make a presentation to the Missouri Board of Education on how Pattonville has narrowed the gap between scores of white and African-American students. The district was invited by the state to make this hour-long presentation because of the success we've had in this area. This is a testament to the diligence you've all shown in reaching and teaching each child in our care.

- Congratulations to the 10 staff members and volunteers who will be recognized this year for their efforts above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of Pattonville students. The following 2003 Pride of Pattonville recipients will be honored during District Appreciation Night on May 5: **Mike Burgio**, Pattonville Heights science teacher; **Gloria Fox**, Pattonville High School communication arts teacher; **Frank Gallagher**, retired elementary physical education teacher and school volunteer; **Kevin Gunn**, parent; **John Heskett**, assistant superintendent of pupil services; **Janet Johnson**, parent; **Mickey Schoonover**, director of school-community relations; **Jim Schwab**, principal at Drummond Elementary; **Leonard Sullivan**, Pattonville High School social studies teacher; and **Marilyn Terry**, director of technology services.

What a list of wonderful news for our district. And the news is great for our children, because it demonstrates that our common focus on doing what's best for every child is paying off. On Thursday evening (April 10) evening, our Board of Education will accept Pattonville's second "Distinction in Performance" Award from the state of Missouri for meeting ALL state standards related to academic achievement. This award belongs to all of you for all you do. On behalf of our children, families and community, I thank you. Have a great day.

Sincerely,



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

## Business Bits

### Approval of bills

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

- \$1,350,113.55 for regular bills;
- \$61,490.06 for cafeteria bills;
- \$47,005 for change orders on Phase I bond issue projects;
- \$153,444.42 for change orders on Phase II bond issue projects; and
- \$22,107.73 to Steamatic for additional work required for cleaning and restoration of the Pattonville Heights gym floor.

### Bid Awards

The Pattonville Board of Education on April 8 approved the following bid awards and contracts:

- \$456,526 to Corrigan Company, \$36,600 to Condaire and \$80,200 to ICON for heating, ventilation and air conditioning in Phase II bond issue projects;
- \$174,000 to Condaire, \$78,580 to Feit and \$151,541 to Beetz for plumbing work in Phase II bond issue projects;
- \$46,493 to Ahern Fire Protection for the sprinklers (fire protection system) for Phase II bond issue projects;
- \$1,343,855 to Schneider Electric for electrical work in Phase II bond issue projects;
- \$318,550 to Tri State Bus Sales for the purchase of school buses;

- \$12,292.98 to RamAir for the purchase of heating, ventilation and air conditioning filters;
- \$8,400 to School Health for four Lifepak CR Plus Defibrillators;
- \$55,000 to Energy Petroleum Company for the renewal of a diesel fuel agreement; and
- \$40,000 to Energy Petroleum Company for the renewal of the unleaded gasoline agreement.

## Other Business Items

The Pattonville Board of Education on April 8 took the following actions:

- Approved an agreement to dedicate a portion of land at Briar Crest Elementary School for use by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District to install a portion of a new storm system as part of the parking lot expansion at the school;
- Approved the adoption of the middle school family and consumer sciences instructional materials at a cost of \$6,478.38;
- Approved a proposal by the law firm of Thompson Coburn to serve as bond issue arbitrage attorneys. Interest earned on bond issue money investments that exceeds the interest rate paid to finance the bonds is considered arbitrage and is payable to the federal government. In order to determine the exact amount owed, the district needed to obtain the services of an attorney who specializes in the area of bond arbitrage; and
- Approved a proclamation declaring Monday, May 12, as School Nurse Day in the Pattonville School District.

## Policy/Procedures

The Pattonville Board of Education lodged for action the following policies and procedures on April 8:

- **DLC-R (Expense Reimbursements)** – The words “bus” and “train” are proposed to be added to one section, and the following sentences are added elsewhere: “All airline reservations shall be obtained electronically by either the individual or purchasing agent. If airline reservations are obtained through a travel agency, the ticketing fee will be the responsibility of the individual making the reservation.”
- **ID (School Day)** – The policy would be revised to read, “The length of the school day will be recommended by the superintendent and approved by the Board in accordance with state law. The specific daily opening and closing time for individual schools may vary to facilitate the scheduling of the district’s educational and transportation programs. The specific opening and closing time for school will also be subject to Board approval. The administration is authorized to make minor changes in opening and closing times for safety or instructional reasons and to facilitate the scheduling of transportation, however, major changes in schedules will be subject to Board approval. If the district’s schools are dismissed due to inclement weather after school has been in session for three (3) hours, that day shall count as a school day including afternoon session kindergarten students.”
- **IFB-R (Pilot Projects and Programs)** – The procedure would be revised to read, “School-based innovative programs will be planned through the school improvement team process. Innovative or pilot programs involving more than one school will be approved by the assistant superintendent for planning and assessment. In both cases, an IRB (Independent Review Board) form is required as applicable to research projects. Any pilot or innovative program requiring an increased cost to the district must have an approved budget.”
- **IF-R-2 (New Course/Program Development and Adoption)**- A paragraph in this procedure would be revised to read, “Courses/programs recommended for adoption into the curriculum must be submitted in writing to the Curriculum Coordinating Council no later than April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year and contain a complete description with substantial support and justification.”
- **IICA-R (Field Trips Class Related and Field Trips Activity-Athletic Related)** – A sentence would be revised to read, “All field trips must be approved by the principal.” The phrase, “in

advance and submitted to the curriculum/instruction office for final approval at least five (5) days prior to the trip,” is proposed to be deleted. In addition, three sections dealing with a sponsor/coach serving as the qualified driver and the scheduling of 20-passenger vans are suggested for deletion.

- **KG (Use of School Properties)**- Several minor changes are suggested, and the section on permit eligibility has been rewritten to read, “Permits may be issued to those groups and individuals that are within the Pattonville School District, and a majority of the participants are District residents. It may be required for organizations to provide the School District with a copy of their charter or incorporation documents, and a complete up-to-date membership roster listing names and addresses of their total membership. Employees of the Pattonville School District may request the use of district facilities. Non-residents may be granted permits for the Planetarium/Observatory, the Community Auditorium Facility, and when there is a direct benefit to the Pattonville School District.”
- **KG-R (Use of School Properties)** – Among the many revisions suggested for this procedure were setting a date of March 15<sup>th</sup> for when applications for facilities use will be accepted for the coming year, requiring users of facilities to pay for all repairs resulting from damage caused to the facilities, requiring individuals requesting use of the facilities to sign the district’s Hold Harmless Agreement, and charging the lesser of \$100 or 10 percent of collected receipts to any facility users who charge an admission or fee to be paid by attendees to activities. This fee would be waived for district-supported activities or with the approval of the superintendent.
- **KG-R-2 (Use of School Properties-Pattonville School District Community Auditorium) -** Proposed revisions to this procedure would change the location of auditorium use applications from the director of community relations to the director of facilities and would increase the amount of liability insurance required of all non-resident users to be \$1 million. Several of the fees associated with the auditorium usage are proposed to be slightly increased.
- **KG-R-2E (Application Form and Contract for Use of Auditorium)** – Proposed revisions update this exhibit to provide more information to the district from applicants.
- **KG-R-3 (Use of School Properties – Pattonville School District Community Auditorium/Communication Arts Addition)** – One sentence is revised to read, “No smoking is permitted on the high school site or in the Communication Arts/Auditorium addition.”
- **KG-E (Building Use Application PSD-M/3)** -Proposed revisions update this exhibit to provide more information to the district from applicants and to bring fees charged more in line with actual costs to the district for facilities usage.
- **KG-E-1 (Pattonville School District Facility Usage Waiver, Release and Agreement to Indemnify and Hold Harmless)** – This is a new exhibit that is required of facilities users to indemnify and hold the district harmless for any injuries to those participating in the user’s activities on school grounds.

The board is expected to vote on these policies and procedures during its April 22 meeting.

## New Hires

- **Joanna Crawford**, early childhood special education paraprofessional, Learning Center
- **Jamie Kitsis**, community relations intern, Learning Center
- **Leo McCandless**, industrial technology, Holman
- **Tricia Piazza**, speech/language therapist, early childhood special education, Learning Center

The board also approved the hiring of additional staff for the district’s summer school program (for grades kindergarten through 12).

## Your Board of Education

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