



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

June 11, 2003

Positive School qualifies for A+ status

Pattonville's Positive School is the first alternative school in the state to qualify for A+ status and four recent graduates will receive the college tuition benefits associated with that standing. This was shared during the Positive School's School Improvement Report which was presented to the Board on June 10. The report also cited an emphasis on reading and writing that resulted in better MAP scores.

Positive School Principal Marc Montgomery said that a committee of parents, students and staff members has been meeting monthly for five years to find and put into place action steps to help the students be successful. Three areas of concern were student achievement, responsibility and reading. Teacher Rebecca Duncan said that in addition to the increase in MAP scores, the students were showing more responsibility with an increasing attendance rate and an increased graduation rate.

After visiting several alternative schools and studying research on what makes students successful, the committee recommended, and the Board approved, a change in the Positive School schedule for the coming school year. The new schedule will be privilege based. It features a zero hour beginning at the school's regular starting time of 7:23 a.m. Students who have earned a good standing status will not need to be at school until 8 a.m. This will not change the regular instruction time or the time school is in session. It was made possible by adjusting break times. The zero hour will be 32 minutes and will not be for credit. Below is an outline of the changes:

1) Application of new schedule

- a) All students new to Positive School will be put on Probationary Status for at least their first term. These students are required to attend the zero hour class.
- b) At the end of each term, all probationary students are evaluated with respect to three possible outcomes—taken off probation earning good standing status; remain on probation and continue with zero hour; or be removed from Positive School.
- c) To change from probationary status the students must meet the following conditions: no suspensions (in school or out), no final grade below a C, no temporary loss of credit, no more than 5 tardies in the morning, and accumulation of less than five demerits.
- d) For the 2003-04 school year only, any current students with 10 or more demerits will be placed on probationary status, those with fewer will be given good standing status.
- e) A student in good standing will change to probationary for a minimum period of three weeks if any of the following conditions apply at either progress or final report card evaluation: in school suspension, grade of less than C on progress report, temporary loss of credit, or tardy more than five times in the morning.
- f) A student in good standing that is changed to probationary status for any six weeks of a nine-week term will remain on probationary status for the next entire term.
- g) A student in good standing will change to probationary status for a minimum period of the next entire term if at final grade time he or she has a grade of less than a C or has accumulated ten or more demerits. Status is changed immediately for out of school suspension.
- h) All students who arrive by bus will participate in zero hour.

- 2) **Student in good standing privileges**--students in good standing will not be required to attend zero hour, can leave the wing with a pass and can become an office worker to receive community service.
- 3) **Probationary status limitations**--students on probationary status in addition to being required to attend zero hour, will not be able to leave the wing during school hours and can not become office workers.
- 4) **Positive aspects of the proposal**
 - a) Commitment of new students is measurable,
 - b) Incentive of privileges for new students to demonstrate a high level of commitment,
 - c) Students are treated based on levels of achievement and responsibility and there is an incentive to remain at those levels,
 - d) Immediate consequence for students demonstrating unacceptable commitment,
 - e) Demerit system, attendance policy, referral system remains unchanged,
 - f) New students who are not ready to take advantage of Positive School can be replaced after just one term without the lengthy process of accumulating 20 demerits.
- 5) **Application of zero hour**
 - a) All Positive School staff will have zero hour responsibilities.
 - b) Instructional possibilities include orientation, reading and math skill development, social skills training, meeting times for clubs, book clubs, make-up work with tutoring, study skills and learning strategies training, computer assisted extra courses and correspondence courses.
 - c) The team concluded that attending Positive School is a privilege and that each student must be willing to do what he or she can to succeed. It is the group's belief that the new schedule provides an incentive for each student to maintain a high level of performance.

Students receiving Special School District Services have improved test scores

Pattonville students receiving services through Special School District are solidly grounded in the educational curriculum which can be attributed to our staff and the Special School District staff. This was the conclusion drawn by Dr. John Heskett, assistant superintendent for pupil services, in his evaluation of the Special School District program which he shared with the Board on June 10. This is evidenced by the number of students moving into the advanced/proficient categories from the step 1/progressing categories in the MAP scores.

The evaluation included the following summary points relative to the Pattonville Performance Report issued by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:

- 1) The Pattonville incident rate (percentage of students with disabilities) is 1.06% higher than the State average. The majority of the variance is found in the number of students with learning disabilities.
- 2) Significantly more Pattonville students with disabilities are educated in the general education classroom compared to students in other school districts (77 percent versus 54 percent). Students with disabilities in Pattonville have strong access to the general education curriculum.
- 3) Reading achievement by students with disabilities in Pattonville is significantly higher than State averages.
- 4) Students with disabilities in Pattonville demonstrate better performance on all sections and grade levels of the MAP compared to students in other school districts. Pattonville scored better on 24 out of 24 performance comparisons.
- 5) The graduation rate for students with disabilities in Pattonville exceeded 70 percent in both comparison years, exceeding State averages.
- 6) The dropout rate for students with disabilities remained below 5 percent for both comparison years, exceeding State averages.

Linda Shemwell, regional director for Special School District, who assisted Heskett with the report, said that the higher incident rate is attributed to the drop in Pattonville's overall student population. Students with Individual Education Plans (IEP's) did not drop at the same rate.

Shemwell added that most of the Pattonville students are in less restrictive programs with very few in self-contained classrooms or in Special School District schools. “It has been a very, very good year,” she said. Shemwell also announced that Special School District has done some administrative reorganization and next year Pattonville will have three full-time area coordinators, Rita Hackett will coordinate the programs in the elementary schools; Beverly Helton will take care of the middle schools and Remington; and Donette Green will supervise the high school, Positive School and the programs at Missouri Baptist Children’s Home.

The report included the following recommendations:

- Continue successful implementation of Early Childhood Special Education.
- Continue to improve relative to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Special Education Performance Criteria.
- Implement recommendations from the Partnership Plan—Special School District and Pattonville School District
- Implement corrective actions for the Special Education Program Review as may be required.

Teacher evaluation forms revised

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 10 approved changes to the teacher evaluation forms, both formative and summative. The changes include modifying the formative form to a checklist format. A space for narrative following the checklist states, “The narrative addresses areas of strength; and, any area checked for ‘needs improvement’ must be addressed in the narrative.” In addition, a technology standard is included in the professional responsibilities portion of the evaluation. The changes are based upon recommendations from the Teacher Evaluation Committee and were presented as a joint recommendation from the Professional Studies Committee.

Two-year salary agreements approved for support staff and paraprofessionals II

A two-year agreement on salaries for support staff was approved by the Board on June 10. The agreement had been approved by the Pattonville Support Staff National Education Association members earlier. The 2003-04 support staff wage and salary schedules represent a total increase of 3.83 percent. Support staff will receive a 7.5 percent increase over two years; 3.75 percent each year. In order to advance support staff on the salary schedule and to give a 1 percent increase to employees at the top of the salary schedule, it was necessary to add .08 percent (\$7,400) to the 3.75 percent increase.

An agreement on salaries for persons in the paraprofessional II level also was approved. This schedule was part of the certified staff economic agreement which includes a 4.09 percent increase in 2003-04 and a 3.41 percent increase for 2004-05. This schedule also required an additional amount to allow for the movement on the schedule and an increase for those on the top step. This increase was .31 percent (\$1,950).

Salary increases for both teachers and support staff members over the two-year period reflect a 7.5 percent increase in the money allocated for salaries for each group.

Budget for 2003-04 approved

The Board approved the 2003-04 budget on June 10, 2003. It will take effect July 1, 2003 and projects revenue to exceed expenditures by close to \$52,000. The budget includes a 20 per cent reduction in state funds which is strictly an estimate since the state budget is still in question and includes no increase in assessed valuation. Pattonville expects to lose \$400,000 in assessed valuation due to additional airport buyouts but will gain some due to a change in assessed valuation that occurred after the 2002-03 budget revision was approved by the board.

The total operating budget is based on \$67.84 million in revenue and \$67.79 million in expenditures. It includes a 4 per cent increase in salary and fringe benefits for staff, with a staff reduction

of six administrative positions and 20 teaching positions and a 15 per cent increase in the insurance package. Actual salary increases are still being finalized and teaching position reduction could change based on enrollment in August. Salaries and benefits account for 82 per cent of the budget.

The budget includes \$11.35 million in bond issue expenditures as the district completes the work included in the 2000 bond issue package. A total of \$913,347 is budgeted for textbooks. Also part of the budget are two contingency funds. The first is for \$2 million to cover loss of revenue from the airport buyout, desegregation payments and reductions in state funding. The second is \$1 million to provide funding for a five-year technology replacement cycle.

Surplus sale scheduled for July 7 and 8

The District will hold its annual surplus sale on July 7 and 8 at Holman Middle School. The sale will be open to the public from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. on both days. The Board declared a list of items surplus at its meeting on June 10.

Kinney's Corner

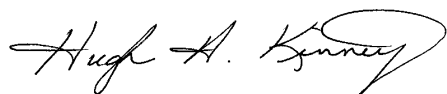
Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

Dear Pattonville family,

Here's a look at what's happening:

- This is the first year school districts had to comply with a Missouri law to retain students in fourth-grade who are reading below grade level. In a proactive move, this fall Pattonville tested all fourth-graders and identified those needing extra help. I am very proud to report that no fourth-grade students were retained because of the requirements of the law. This is a great tribute to the hard work of our staff, the students and the help of the families.
- Congratulations to the team of Pattonville High students that placed sixth in skit presentation and 15th in writing at the International Future Problem Solving Bowl. Pattonville had two teams that qualified to represent Missouri at the International event by placing first and second in the state competition. There were 64 teams in their division from 40 states and three other countries in the International Bowl which was held at the University of Connecticut last week.
- Summer School is in full-swing with an enrollment of 2,385.
- Work on the final phases of the bond issue is progressing throughout the district. Work is underway at Pattonville Heights, Holman, Briar Crest, Remington and Willow Brook.
- Enjoy a refreshing and relaxing summer break.

Sincerely,



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

Business Bits

Approval of bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 10 approved the following:

- \$1,857,048.85 for regular bills; and
- \$86,503.38 for cafeteria bills.

Bid Awards

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 10 approved the following bid awards and contracts:

- \$125,497.00 to Custom Coatings, Inc. for the Painting Package for the Bond Issue Phase 2 work;
- \$224,550.00 to Oreo & Botta Concrete Company for the Concrete Flatwork Package for the Bond Issue Phase 2 work;
- \$373,286.00 to Heitkamp Masonry Inc. for the Masonry Package for the Bond Issue Phase 2 work;
- \$73,400.00 to Desco Systems for Resinous Flooring Package for the Bond Issue Phase 2 work;
- \$2,911.16 to Schillers, \$10,262.01 to CDWG, \$2,093.50 to Learning Services and \$15,326.95 to VSA for a grand total award of \$30,593.62 for Audio Visual Equipment; and
- \$6,510.25 to Reliance Automotive, \$5,355.00 to National Bus Parts, \$1,170.00 to School Bus Parts, \$1,080.00 to Auto-Jet Muffler, \$288.00 to Carquest, \$12,066.00 to Al's Automotive, \$1,875.00 to Transtar and \$4,074.00 to Kenny's Auto Parts for a total award of \$32,418.25 for Automotive Parts & Supplies.

Other Business Items

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 10 took the following actions:

- Approved additional summer school staff including substitutes;
- Approved maintaining the same rate of pay for the Community Education Instructor salary schedule;
- Approved the transportation route miles for 2002-03;
- Approve the renewal of employee benefits (insurance coverage) for the period October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004;
- Approved the purchase of three (3) Stratachache Network Servers from Stratachache for a total amount of \$13,706.10;
- Approved the purchase of three Apple Authentication Servers from Apple Computer for a total amount of \$9,156.00.
- Approved the purchase of four Apple Macintosh Computers, for the High School Yearbook and Pirate Press staff, from Apple Computer for a total amount of \$10,040.00.

Policy/Procedures

The Pattonville Board of Education approved the following policies and procedures on June 10:

- **Procedure GDLB-R (Grievance Procedure)** – Minor wording changes.
- **Policy GDLC (Employee Contribution to the Decision-Making Process)** – A minor wording change.

The Pattonville Board of Education lodged for action the following policies and procedures on June 10:

- **Procedure GDBE-R-2 (Support Staff Holidays)**—Eliminates the need for a vote on how to use time off at Christmas, by making December 24 the holiday and includes provisions for that day falling on a weekend;
- **Policy GDPB (Resignations)**—adds wording regarding giving notice;
- **Policy GIPC (Retirement of Support Staff Members)**—addresses requirement to participate in Medicare;
- **Policy GDPD (Progressive Discipline and Termination)**—minor word change;
- **Procedure GDPD-R (Suspension of Support Staff)** — wording changes to update titles and review of status; **and**
- **Policy GDQB (PSNEA Rights)**—minor word changes to update.

New Hires

- **Mike Regina**, physical education, Parkwood (listed incorrectly in May 29 Board At Work)
- **Janel Barnholtz**, first-grade, Bridgeway
- **Brittany Garcia**, fourth-grade, Bridgeway
- **Kathie Mohr**, third-grade, Bridgeway
- **Brook Adams**, kindergarten, Drummond
- **Jennifer Thornton**, fifth-grade, Drummond
- **Karolyn Florence**, part-time, tv production, high school
- **Mark Ludwig**, part-time, tv production, high school
- **Leonard Sullivan**, part-time, social studies, high school
- **Kevin Yorga**, custodian, Drummond
- **Valerie Guetschow**, nurse, high school

