



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

August 27, 2003

Architect hired for projects to improve safety

Good management of funds from a bond issue passed by voters in 2000 has enabled the Pattonville School District to save enough money to hire an architectural firm and complete a list of projects that will increase safety and security at its elementary and middle schools, along with a few other renovation projects. These projects are over and above what was originally planned in the 2000 bond issue.

The Pattonville Board of Education on Aug. 26 voted to hire Bond Wolfe Architects to provide architectural and engineering design and construction services for projects that will reconfigure the front entryways to several elementary and middle schools. The board also hired S.M. Wilson and Company to provide construction management services on what's being called "Phase III" of the bond issue. The district originally had only planned two phases of the bond issue based on needs identified by residents and staff in the Pattonville community. Additional funds, created through careful spending and wise investing of the bond monies, are enabling the extra projects.

The majority of school entryways will be redesigned so that once school begins for the day, all visitors must pass through the school office in order to gain entry to the building. Such projects have already been completed with 2000 bond issue funds at Rose Acres Elementary and Willow Brook Elementary. This type of design was incorporated into the building plans for Drummond Elementary when it was built in 2002. At Pattonville High School, a security guard greets visitors as they enter the building and directs them to the school office.

Pattonville School Board President Ralph Stahlhut and Director Ron Kuschel said they were pleased that the additional funds were available to complete the new projects. Both are members of the Pattonville Facilities Committee, which oversees facilities expenditures.

In 2000, Pattonville voters approved a \$37 million bond issue for upgrades and renovations for Pattonville schools. Included in the bond issue were new library and science wings at Pattonville High School, both of which are in operation today. Other projects included roof replacements, new heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units, new windows and doors, new door locks, electrical upgrades, repairs to sidewalks and parking lots, new boilers and lighting systems, as well as modifications required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Parking has been expanded at Briar Crest and Willow Brook, and the majority of work in Phase II of the bond issue is nearing completion at Pattonville Heights, Holman, Briar Crest, Remington and Willow Brook.

Through sound fiscal management of bond issue funds and competitive bidding, the district was able to save \$3 million, which should cover the new "Phase III" projects.

Pattonville sets 2003-2004 tax levy

A new tax levy set by the Pattonville Board of Education on Aug. 26 should result in the majority of homeowners seeing a reduction in their taxes.

The board established an average tax levy of \$4.0495 per \$100 of assessed valuation for the 2003-2004 school year. Pattonville's tax levy remains below the St. Louis County average, which was \$4.384 last year. Although the new average levy reflects an increase by one-third of a penny over the previous year's rate (\$4.046), a new change in state law regarding how school levies are set will mean a potential decrease in taxes for most property owners.

"The average homeowner's taxes will go down, unless the value of their house has increased," said Ron Orr, Pattonville chief financial officer.

Under House Bill 1150, which takes effect for St. Louis County this year, each class of property – commercial, residential, agricultural and personal – will have an individual tax levy instead of being subjected to the average levy. A form developed by the state auditor's office is used to determine the individual rates so that a school district's revenue does not grow too much. The formula used for determining the individual rates enables a rate to be decreased when the assessed value of property in that class increases and for the levy to be rolled up if the value decreases. State law allows for the recovery of lost tax revenue due to a reduction in assessed valuation, and school districts may levy up to an amount predetermined by voters – called a voter-approved maximum levy. Pattonville's voters have authorized the district to levy a tax of up to \$4.11 per \$100 of assessed valuation, as needed. The district lowers its levy when growth in assessed valuation exceeds the consumer price index.

Pattonville's new levies by property category are as follows:

Residential real estate	\$3.8920
Agricultural real estate	\$4.4300
Commercial real estate	\$4.0488
Personal property	\$4.2198

Orr gave the following illustration to demonstrate how a homeowner's taxes might decrease. A district resident lives in a home valued at \$150,000 and assessed at \$28,500 and owns two cars valued at \$30,000 and assessed at \$9,900. In 2003, both the real and personal property would have been taxed using the \$4.046 rate per \$100 of assessed value, resulting in a tax bill of \$1,553. Under the new law, the homeowner would now be taxed using the \$3.8920 for his home and \$4.2198 for the cars, resulting in a tax bill of \$1,527 – a \$26 decrease.

Orr said the assessed valuation of property in Pattonville grew by \$23.6 million last year. The value of existing property increased by \$7 million or 0.6 percent and new construction represented the remaining \$16 million in growth. The value of personal property in the district decreased by \$14.5 million or 4.4 percent.

Pattonville revises elementary progress report

Since 1996, elementary teachers and parents in Pattonville have been working on refining the elementary progress report so that it is easy to understand for parents and students and so that it accurately reflects a child's progress in understanding and applying specific grade-level concepts.

On Aug. 26, the Pattonville Board of Education approved a revised version of the elementary progress report, which will be piloted during the 2003-2004 school year. In kindergarten through second grade, students are "graded" in areas such as reading, writing and math, using the following key:

- Blank – Not formally evaluated at this time;
- E- Extending – Working above grade level expectations;
- ND- Not demonstrating;
- 1- Beginning – Starting to develop understanding of end-of-grade level expectations;
- 2- Developing – Progressing toward end-of-grade level expectations; and
- 3- Proficient – Consistently demonstrates understanding of end-of-grade level expectations.

At third, fourth and fifth grades, students receive letter grades (A, B, C, D and F), as well as other information about their ability to effectively communicate their understanding about important concepts and skills. Educators will measure the success of the revised report cards in 2003-2004 by surveying teachers and parents and using advisory groups. Several recommendations were made for the coming years in updating the progress report:

- Pilot the revised K-5 Progress Reports during the 2003-2004 school year and evaluate their effectiveness in communicating a child's learning to his/her parents and the student.
- Implement PowerGrade (Internet-based reporting system) beginning fall 2003 in grades 1 through 5. Teachers in grades 1 and 2 will enter scores for math only; a voluntary pilot will be conducted with fifth-grade teachers for parent access to their child's grades on PowerSchool beginning February 2004.
- Eliminate fourth-quarter narrative reports for kindergarten, first and second grade.
- Continue to have kindergarten, first- and second-grade teachers conference with all parents second quarter. One release day will be provided to compensate for conferencing.
- Have every student in grades 1 through 5 set a least one academic goal that is monitored for progress during the school year.
- Identify effective strategies for student-lead conferencing and use of student portfolios during the 2003-2004 school year and recommend specific steps for implementing use of these strategies beginning with the 2004-2005 year.
- Adopt a trimester reporting system beginning with the 2004-2005 school year.

The following assumptions were made when deciding to go to a trimester reporting system:

1. Trimesters do not have to be of equal length.
2. Progress reports are completed at the end of each trimester and mid-trimester updates are sent home second and third semester.
3. Conferences with parents occur first and second semester (February conferences work better in providing spaces for conferences with parents, good timing for revising individual education plans of students with special needs, summer school consultation, test preparation and more opportunity for students to show progress in the last grading period.)
4. Report days are provided first trimester (full day), second trimester (half day) and third trimester (half day).

Board, administrators appointed to committees

The following committee assignments were approved for the Board of Education and Pattonville administrators:

Committee	Board Representative	Administrative Representative
Professional Studies	Randy McArthur, Jeff Fitterling	Debra Ebel, Tom Morgan, Anthony Robinson, Jim Schwab, Bernard West, Ron Orr (alternate)
Pattonville Support National Education Association (PSNEA)	Pat Bryant, Kathy Fitzgerald	Ron Orr, Jim Siervo, Tom Morgan, Art McCoy, David Besgrove, Nancy Henley (alternate)
Board Student Administration Action Committee (BSAAC)	Ron Kuschel, Keith Gillming	Hugh Kinney, Jeff Marion, John Heskett (alternate), Cathy McGrath (alternate)
Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) Steering Committee	Ralph Stahlhut	Mike Fulton, Hugh Kinney, Barry Nelson
Technology	Jeff Fitterling	Marilyn Terry, Ron Orr, Barry Nelson, Scot Mosher
Facilities	Ron Kuschel, Ralph Stahlhut	Ron Orr, Hugh Kinney, Jim Siervo
Board Policy Review	Kathy Fitzgerald, Randy McArthur	Cindy Boddy
Safety	Keith Gillming	John Heskett, Jim Siervo, Mickey Schoonover, Sharron Washington
State Finance	Ron Kuschel	Hugh Kinney, Ron Orr
A+ Schools Advisory Committee	Randy McArthur	Debra Ebel
Calendar	Pat Bryant	Debra Ebel

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

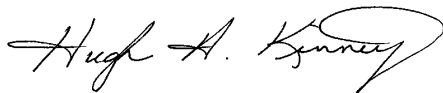
Dear Pattonville family,

Here's a look at what's happening in Pattonville:

- On Aug. 15, the St. Louis Black Leadership Roundtable Education Committee held a reception to honor 15 area schools and their principals for the performance of their African-American students on the MAP tests. Jim Schwab from Drummond was among those honored. Congratulations to Mr. Schwab and his outstanding staff!
- Nationally board certified teachers Geri Evans (Drummond), Karen Lammert (High School) and Jennifer Rogers (Drummond) received plaques from Missouri Gov. Bob Holden and Commissioner of Education Kent King in honor of their achievement.
- Students and staff in the Pattonville School District will emphasize character education in classrooms during CHARACTERplus of Pattonville Week, set for Sept. 8 through 12. One of the following character traits will be emphasized each day: Peace, courage, service, respect and kindness. Thanks to Jennifer Dedert (Willow Brook), our CHARACTERplus coordinator, and her committee for organizing the week's activities, along with all the staff at the buildings who are planning great activities for our kids.

School is off to a great start this year. Everything went smoothly on the first day, and despite a few air conditioning problems here and there, things are going great. Construction projects are proceeding well, including a new press box, which was raised onto the stadium yesterday and will be ready for our first home varsity game on Sept. 5. I want to thank all the support and certified staff who worked so hard to get our buildings ready and who are continuing to work diligently to make this a wonderful place for our children to learn.

Sincerely,



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

Business Bits

Approval of bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on August 26 approved the following:

- \$7,598.98 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum for legal services.

Bid Awards

The Pattonville Board of Education on August 26 approved the following bid awards and contracts:

- \$6,299.73 to Tom Snyder Products for software;
- \$8,063.66 to Office Solutions for study carrels for Pattonville Heights Middle School; and
- The sale of Pattonville's surplus textbooks to Follett Educational Services for \$5,880.

Policy/Procedures

The Pattonville Board of Education approved the following policies and procedures on August 26:

- **Policy IKF (Graduation Requirements)**–The revised policy provides more information on community service and transfer of credit from other schools.
- **Procedure IKF-R (Minimum Course Load and Grade Classification for High School Students)**–The revised procedure reflects the changes in the graduation requirements.
- **Policy IKFF (Graduation Requirements)**–The revised policy includes changes in the curriculum and provides information on community service.
- **Policy JECBA (Admission of Exchange Students)**–The revised policy provides more guidelines for the program at Pattonville High School.
- **Policy IGAEA (Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco)**–The revised language includes a provision for following federal mandates.
- **Policy IGDK (Campaigns or Activities for Raising Money)**–Minor word changes were made.
- **Policy IIAD (Special Interest Materials)**–An inaccurate word was changed.
- **Policy IICC (School Volunteers)**– The revisions include guidelines for supervision of volunteers and a provision requiring a background check.
- **Procedure IKA-R (Grading Procedures)**–Several word and phrase changes were made.
- **Procedure IKAD (Parent Conferences)**–Additional provisions were made for scheduling conferences.
- **Policy IKB (Homework)**–The policy has been completely reworded. It defines homework and the expectations for both students and staff.

New Hires

- **Cornelia Feemster**, cook, Parkwood
- **Charlene Schweitzer**, paraprofessional, Parkwood
- **John Howard**, in-school suspension supervisor, High School
- **Linda Stuckey**, custodian, High School
- **Amanda Raby**, library clerk, High School
- **Theresa Gaeng**, paraprofessional, early childhood special education
- **Katherine Mazzacavallo**, paraprofessional, early childhood special education
- **Brenda Vitale**, bus aide, transportation
- **Jennifer Hook**, first grade, Drummond
- **Nancy O'Leary**, speech/language therapist, early childhood special education

Your Board of Education

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