



# Board at Work

News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

August 28, 2002

## Wagner is finalist for Missouri Teacher of Year

A third-grade teacher at Drummond Elementary School in the Pattonville School District has been named one of six finalists for the title of Missouri Teacher of the Year. **Michelle Wagner** will be among those interviewed on Sept. 5 for the state honor. Wagner was named Pattonville Elementary Teacher of the Year and Pattonville Teacher of the Year last May. She began her teaching career in Pattonville in 1995 at Pattonville Heights Middle School. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and earned her master's from Lindenwood University.



*Michelle Wagner*

Forty-six public school districts across the state nominated a teacher for the 2002-2003 state award. A selection committee appointed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reviewed the candidates' written applications and selected the six finalists. The selection committee will interview the finalists in Jefferson City and select the new Teacher of the Year. Missouri's winner automatically becomes a candidate for national Teacher of the Year honor.

Wagner is the sixth Pattonville teacher to be a finalist for the state honor. In the last 10 years, two Pattonville teachers have been named Missouri Teacher of the Year.

## 2002-03 tax levy set, addresses valuation drop

The Pattonville Board of Education on Aug. 27 established a tax levy of \$4.046 per \$100 of assessed valuation for the 2002-2003 school year. Pattonville's tax levy remains below the St. Louis County average, which was \$4.287 last year.

The new levy is 10 cents higher than the previous year to offset an unexpected loss in assessed valuation of nearly \$10 million. State law allows for the recovery of lost tax revenue due to a reduction in assessed valuation, and school districts may levy up to a predetermined amount – called a ceiling levy – approved by voters. 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.

Even with the 10-cent increase, Pattonville will see an estimated reduction in tax revenue of \$918,137. Pattonville will make cuts in the 2002-2003 budget to make up the difference and maintain a balanced budget. Without an increase in the tax levy, the district would have faced a \$2.1 million loss in tax revenue.

“Given Pattonville’s past history of continuous, yet modest, growth in assessed valuation, we did not expect a sudden drop this year,” said Chief Financial Officer Ron Mastin. “Even so, we will do what has to be done to balance the budget and keep the cuts from impacting children in the classroom.”

Mastin said the district intends to continue investigating the cause of the decrease in assessed valuation.

## Board appoints committee members

Each year, board members are assigned to standing committees in the district that address various issues and activities. The following assignments have been made for the 2002-2003 school year:

- Professional Studies: Jeff Fitterling and Ron Kuschel;
- Pattonville Support National Education Association (PSNEA): Pat Bryant and Kathy Fitzgerald;
- Board Student Administration Action Committee (BSAAC): Kathy Fitzgerald and Keith Gillming;
- Comprehensive School Improvement Program (CSIP) Steering Committee: Keith Gillming;
- Technology: Michael Stewart;
- Facilities: Ron Kuschel and Ralph Stahlhut;
- Board Policy Review: Pat Bryant and Kathy Fitzgerald;
- Safety: Michael Stewart;
- State Finance: Kathy Fitzgerald and Michael Stewart;
- A+ Schools Steering Committee: Michael Stewart;
- Student Achievement: Ron Kuschel; and
- Calendar: Jeff Fitterling.

## Board allocates award funds for scholarships

When the Pattonville Board of Education received the Outstanding Board of Education Award from the Missouri School Boards Association in June, the board received a \$500 award check along with a crystal trophy. On Aug. 27, the board decided to designate the \$500 award for scholarships for the 2003 graduates who earned the most community service hours.

## Health and wellness program gets good check-up

Pattonville has a variety of programs and services in place to ensure that students and staff are healthy and make good choices that benefit their personal well-being. The Pattonville Board of Education on Aug. 27 reviewed an evaluation of the program and its accomplishments.

The goals of the health and wellness program are to provide quality health services to students; help students become responsible citizens; and to assist employees in improving their personal well-being.

A school nurse at each school (two at the high school) encourages self-help skills among students, administers medication and assists students in managing chronic conditions during the school day. A variety of drug and violence education and prevention programs exist to help students learn responsibility and good decision-making. Staff members are also encouraged to be healthy role models by participating in a district-wide wellness program, which includes fitness promotionals, exercise incentive programs, weight management sessions, flu shots and employee counseling services.

The programs in place as part of the health and wellness program were seen as being successful, and the following recommendations were made for the future:

- Continue to gather and interpret data regarding students' attitudes and behaviors around drug and violence;
- Continue to identify effective drug and violence education and prevention efforts K-12, especially focusing on the middle school level and support implementation of these programs in Pattonville with the Title IV funds and other resources;
- Provide parents with drug/violence information and available resources to raise awareness of youth use/abuse issues;
- Continue to engage staff in workshops on chemical dependency and related issues to raise awareness of youth trends;
- Continue to promote wellness opportunities to staff via electronic e-mails and a more thoroughly developed web page;
- Continue to encourage staff utilization of contracted employee counseling services and mental health benefits; and
- Continue to offer consistent medical care throughout the district by keeping current electronic health records, in-servicing sub nurses on Pattonville health room practices, communicating with district physician consultant as needed.

## A+ Schools program off to great start

Nearly 800 students are signed up for the A+ Schools program at Pattonville High School this year, a program that enables eligible graduates to receive two years of paid tuition to any community college or vocational-technical school in Missouri. Pattonville received A+ Schools designation from the state last year and the first seniors graduated last May with the tuition incentive.

The goals of the A+ Schools program are:

- The dropout rate will decrease to less than 2 percent;
- All students will take a rigorous, challenging course of study with identified, measurable learning outcomes;
- All students will proceed from high school graduation to a college or post secondary vocational technical school or a high wage job with work-place skill development opportunities; and
- An A+ Steering Committee will be formed to plan and oversee the progress of A+ in the Pattonville district and to ensure attainment of the established performance standards/district goals for the A+ Schools program.

Although Pattonville has not yet met its goals for the dropout rate, the district's rate is consistently below the state average, which was 4.72 in 2000-01. A dropout task force has been established to analyze and make recommendations for what the district can do to further reduce the dropout rate.

Recommendations to meet this goal are to:

- Implement the recommendations proposed in the dropout report;
- Update the (intervention services) guide annually and reprint it for all guidance counselors; also have copies available on display for parents and students to easily access; and
- Require a mandatory exit interview to be done by guidance staff, administration or the A+ coordinator with all students who drop out. An exit interview would have to be developed that would give information to help prevent future dropouts.

Over the last two years, the high school has reviewed its curriculum to align with state standards, measure learner objectives, identify instructional strategies that enable students to master each objective and to write assessments to measure mastery of objectives. The school also eliminated general track courses and added advanced placement and challenge courses to the curriculum. Recommendations for improvements in this area included evaluating and revising course objectives and assessments with the goal of high academic achievement as a focus being a continuous and ongoing process; and expanding career awareness, exploration and preparation within each department's curriculum.

The evaluation also showed progress on the goal of students proceeding to college or post-secondary education or a high wage job after graduation. Recommendations for improvements in this area were:

- Continue refinement of the four-year plans for students and develop a simplified system to collect and access the four-year plans;
- Integrate career path information into all courses;
- Review follow-up information to determine if the district is getting all of the information needed;
- Develop a career path web page linked to the district's web page, the high school web page and the middle school web pages;
- Encourage other classes to become involved in the job shadowing experiences; and
- Develop an identified, structured K-12 career education curriculum as a resource for teachers to plan career activities in their classes.

The evaluation report also showed that the last and final goal of the A+ Schools program had been met – to establish an A+ Steering Committee.

## Varsity drill team trip OK'd by board

The Board of Education on Aug. 27 approved a trip to Orlando, Fla., for the Pattonville High School Varsity Drill Team in February for a national competition. All expenses incurred for the trip will be the responsibility of the individuals attending the competition.

## SSD will provide homebound services for students

The Board of Education on Aug. 27 approved a contract with Special School District to provide homebound general education services for the 2002-2003 school year as needed.

# Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

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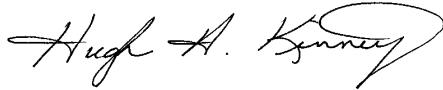
Dear Pattonville family,

What a great first week we had in our schools. Here's a look at what's happening:

- If you've read this far in the newsletter, you know Michelle Wagner, Drummond teacher, is a finalist for the Missouri Teacher of the Year. I congratulate her! She is a perfect example of what makes Pattonville a great place to learn and work.
- The opening of school went very smoothly this year, considering all the big changes that are happening – bond issue construction, Drummond Elementary opening and a major technology switch with our PowerSchool student information system. This smooth transition for our students could not have been possible without the wonderful, hard-working and dedicated certified and support staff we have here in Pattonville. You make Pattonville shine, and I thank you.
- We hope you'll join us tomorrow for the dedication ceremony of our newest school, Drummond Elementary. The ceremony will take place between 6 and 6:30 p.m., before Drummond's open house. If you do decide to join us for this special occasion, please consider parking at the

Learning Center and taking one of our two air conditioned shuttle buses to the new school. The shuttle will run from 5 p.m. to approximately 8:30 p.m.  
We are off to a great start. Welcome back to all the students, staff, parents and community volunteers who provide such rich opportunities for our children. Thanks for all you do for kids and the difference you will make this year as we focus on “Student Success...One Child at a Time.”

Sincerely,



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

## Business Bits

### New Hires

- **Kara Arens**, nurse, Bridgeway
- **Kristin Powell**, paraprofessional, Drummond
- **Sara Haag**, paraprofessional and art, Parkwood
- **Debra Schoenberger**, paraprofessional, Parkwood
- **Robert Miller**, paraprofessional, Parkwood and Rose Acres
- **Judith Timmons**, paraprofessional, Rose Acres
- **Jamie Hoff**, PACE instructor, Holman
- **Margo Humphrey**, bus driver
- **Nancy Hammack**, bus aide
- **Sharron Willman**, bus aide
- **Alta Cohen-Hunt**, reading specialist, Briar Crest
- **Laurie Klusmeyer**, reading specialist, Briar Crest
- **Andrea Sartorius**, fifth grade, Briar Crest
- **Geri Brickell**, kindergarten, Drummond
- **Robert Miller**, music, Parkwood and Rose Acres
- **Stacey Evans**, kindergarten, Remington
- **Julia Gibson**, French, Holman

### 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