



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

September 10, 2003

## Technology program enhances services

An evaluation of the Pattonville technology services program shows that the program has been instrumental in enhancing the access and use of technology for Pattonville students, staff and parents. Dr. Marilyn Terry, director of technology services, presented a report on the program at the Board of Education meeting on Sept. 9.

The goals of the technology program are to

1. Increase the access and use of technology; and
2. Successfully implement the PowerSchool student management software, which gives parents online access via a secure password to their child's grades and school information.

In the past two years, members of the technology services department have completed several projects, which have improved the access and use of technology by staff, students and parents. Staff continue to provide updated hardware and repair hardware that is not operational. Significant changes were made to improve network speed and reliability, as well as to enhance the district's voice and e-mail systems. Technology users were also provided added functionality in the form of web-based surveys, databases and new software packages.

In addition, Pattonville continues to train staff in the use of technology for productivity and instructional purposes. All staff are undergoing 30 hours of training (through the district-created STEPS training program) to receive a district Technology Level I certification. Nearly half of all employees signed up for the program have completed this process. The district is now implementing training for Level II, which will help teachers learn how to better integrate technology into their teaching practices as a way to improve achievement.

Pattonville also recently completed an update to its technology plan. The plan, which is required to be updated and submitted to the state periodically, is a roadmap for technology growth in the district over the next three years. The plan earned 99 out of 100 points from the state and has been listed on the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Internet web site ([www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/index.html](http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/index.html)) as one of only 29 exemplary plans in the state (the only one in St. Charles and St. Louis counties), Terry said.

Technology staff have also made progress on implementing new software packages that will help with record keeping, scheduling and other district-level office tasks. New hardware and new software packages for finance, human resources and employee management are being installed and will become functional in January 2004. In addition, PowerSchool, which enables teachers to log a student's attendance, grades and progress online, has been activated and piloted at the high school and middle school levels with success. Parents can view their child's information via the Internet using a secure password, and the district has offered training for parents on how to use the new system. Work is in progress to enable such access to parents at the elementary level.

Terry listed several recommendations and major initiatives for the coming school year in her report to the board. They are:

- Improve PowerSchool data integrity;
- Develop and implement an online report-card system based on Pattonville learning standards in PowerSchool;
- Increase PowerSchool parent access at the high school and middle school levels;
- Implement PowerSchool parent access at the elementary level, especially in fourth and fifth grades;
- Finalize the transition from the old AS400 system (Pattonville's mainframe server) to the new by January 2004;
- Continue progress toward the goal of all staff achieving Level I technology certification;
- Create and implement the STEPS Level II technology certification, called "Integrator."
- Finalize a disaster recovery plan;
- Continue network improvements; and
- Implement the approved technology plan.

## Students taking advantage of A+ incentive

Students continue to sign up for the A+ Schools program at Pattonville High School, said Jane Wolff, A+ coordinator at the school, in an update report to the Board of Education on Sept. 9. More than 100 seniors in the class of 2003 were eligible to receive the A+ incentive, which provides two years of paid tuition to any Missouri community college or vocational technical school, provided requirements for attendance, citizenship and volunteerism (tutoring and mentoring younger students) are met.

The A+ Schools Program was initiated by the state of Missouri to help high schools reduce the dropout rate, eliminate the general track curriculum and provide better "career pathways" for all students. The key goal of A+ Schools is to assure that all students, when they graduate, are well prepared to pursue advanced education or employment or both. A school that has programs in place to meet the goals of the A+ Schools program can be designated an A+ School. Pattonville High School received that designation in 2002.

Wolff said she'd like to see more students maintain their eligibility for the program. Last year, only slightly more than half the seniors who'd signed up for the program continued to be eligible by the time they graduated. Some dropped from the program because they learned they'd been accepted to four-year colleges, while some became ineligible because of their grade point average, attendance or failure to complete the tutoring requirements.

Wolff encourages students to continue in the program even if they receive acceptance to a four-year college. They may find the four-year college isn't what they wanted and could return to a two-year institution in Missouri and use their A+ funds anytime within a four-year period after graduation. As an incentive for staying in the program, the high school has decided to offer an honor cord for seniors to wear at graduation this year if they complete the A+ program eligibility requirements.

# Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

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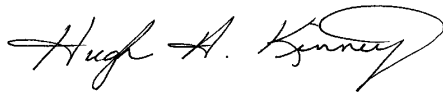
Dear Pattonville family,

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

- The Pattonville Education Foundation held a very successful golf tournament last weekend. The funds raised will go to support grants for innovative programs for Pattonville students and families. Thanks to all the businesses, golfers and volunteers who made the day such a success.
- We are in the midst of CHARACTER<sup>plus</sup> of Pattonville Week, a week set aside to focus more on character development. This week, our students and staff are emphasizing the concepts of **peace, courage, service, respect and kindness**. Thanks to those who have coordinated this effort and work everyday to teach our students how to become responsible and respectful citizens.
- The St. Louis Association for Gifted Education (SAGE) will hold a meeting on the topic of state funding for gifted education at from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 25 in the cafeteria of Holman Middle School. **Debbie Green**, a gifted teacher in the ALPHA program at Holman, is vice president of programming for SAGE and decided to host the program in Pattonville to showcase our programs and students. State Rep. Clint Zweifel (D-78<sup>th</sup> District) will speak about state funding for gifted education and what the legislature is working on in this area. A panel of students will also be present to share their experiences with gifted education and take questions from the audience. The meeting is open to any interested person.

As most of you know, our school family has been dealing with the tragic death of a 15-year-old student at Pattonville High School. Nothing can express the sorrow and loss that we all feel for this young life. All that we can do in difficult times like this is to pull together and provide one another with comfort and support. I want to commend the high school staff, counselors in the district and all the others who have worked tirelessly to help our students and school family through this. Your sensitivity and compassion has helped us all. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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

## Business Bits

### Approval of bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on Sept. 9 approved the following:

- Regular bills in the amount of \$4,278,898.04;
- Cafeteria bills in the amount of \$58,490.23; and
- Bond issue change orders in the amount of \$210,376.82.

### New Hires

- **Jill Whitman**, Title I paraprofessional, Drummond
- **Sandra McIntyre**, paraprofessional, Parkwood
- **Bo Nguyen**, custodian, High School

#### 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