



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

Jan. 9, 2002

Parent Committee proposes boundary changes

Parents on Pattonville's Parent Redistricting Committee presented a recommendation to the Pattonville Board of Education on Jan. 8 that would move approximately 80 elementary and 15 middle school students to a new school next year, not counting the students who currently attend Carrollton and Carrollton Oaks elementary schools.

Pattonville is redrawing its elementary and middle school attendance boundaries this year due to the opening of a new elementary school next fall in St. Ann. The new school will serve as a replacement for Carrollton and Carrollton Oaks elementary schools, both of which have been bought as part of Lambert Airport's expansion plan. The airport is providing the funds to build the new school.

The committee – made up of 20 parents (as well as parent alternates) from throughout the district - has been meeting throughout the summer and fall to develop new attendance boundaries. Throughout the course of their work, the committee members developed nine different boundary scenarios before voting to take the most recent plan to the Board of Education, said Committee Member Elizabeth Christmas.

In charging the committee with the task of redrawing attendance boundaries, the board required the plan to be put together by a committee of parents and that there be community input into the process. The board also outlined three "wants" that it asked the committee to consider, but that were not required:

- For the new boundaries to result in the minimum number of students moving from an existing school to an existing school;
- For the new boundaries to result in students attending the school closest to their residence;
- and
- For the new boundaries to insure a balanced enrollment based on the building capacity.

"With the community input we received, we started looking at the needs and the future, and we decided moving the least number of students from existing school to existing school was one of the most important 'wants' the board gave us," said Committee Member Paul Galluzzo. "The most difficult to adhere to was for students to go to the closest school and that was due to the location of the new elementary school."

Specifics of the plan now being considered by the Board of Education are as follows:

1. The plan moves approximately 80 students at the elementary level (not counting Carrollton and Carrollton Oaks children) and 15 middle school students. This represents less than 1.5 percent of Pattonville's student population.
2. All of Carrollton and Carrollton Oaks will attend the new school, along with small sections of the current Bridgeway and Briar Crest attendance areas. All other elementary attendance areas will remain the same.
3. The current elementary-to-middle school feeder system will remain unchanged. Briar Crest, the new elementary school and Rose Acres will attend Holman, and Bridgeway, Parkwood and Willow Brook will continue to attend Pattonville Heights.

4. The plan moves a portion of Essex Avenues (11361 to 11450) currently in the Bridgeway attendance area to Parkwood. This does not involve students changing schools, since students at these addresses currently attend Parkwood.
5. Adjustments were made to Bridgeway's attendance area to include a portion of Smiley Avenue between Old St. Charles Rock Road and Taylor Avenue. Students in this area currently receive bus service to Bridgeway.
6. The plan includes a projected number of additional classrooms that will be available at each school, assuming the continued use of modular classrooms.

Committee members said developing the proposed plan was very difficult since they knew it would impact students.

"We took this very seriously. We did not take this lightly. We all have children in this school district," said Committee Member Meredith Durso. "I volunteered to be on this committee because I wanted to help the Pattonville School District."

Six residents from the current Bridgeway attendance area that is proposed to go to the new elementary school also addressed the board and encouraged board members to leave them in the Bridgeway area or provide an exception for their children to continue at their present school.

Mike Fulton, assistant superintendent for planning and assessment, answered board members' questions about what the impact would be if the Bridgeway area under discussion were moved to the new school. Fulton said the same number of classes would be needed in Bridgeway next year regardless of whether or not the Bridgeway section were moved, but would most likely result in larger class sizes at Bridgeway in the upper grade levels.

"By the year 2004, however, it results in the difference of one less classroom being needed at Bridgeway," Fulton said. Extra classrooms are desirable at all schools so that Pattonville can implement its early childhood program and maintain desirable class sizes.

Board members commended the committee for its hard work.

"I applaud the work of the committee," said Board Member Ron Kuschel. "It's a tough job, and I appreciate all the effort you've put into it."

The Board of Education is expected to review the plan again at its Jan. 22 meeting (7 p.m., Pattonville Learning Center) and take a vote regarding the proposed redistricting plan.

PHS will get its A+ designation review in March

Pattonville High School will receive a visit by educators on March 7 that will determine whether Pattonville students will be eligible for a state program that provides two years of paid tuition to any Missouri community college or vocational/technical school.

For the last year and a half, Pattonville High School teachers, parents, students and community members have been completing program changes and curriculum updates to prepare for a visit by the A+ Schools Designation Team. The Pattonville Board of Education at its Jan. 8 meeting heard an update on plans by the high school to become involved in Missouri's A+ Schools Program. Members of the Class of 2002 could be the first Pattonville High School graduates eligible for the paid tuition IF the high school is granted A+ Schools designation by the state of Missouri.

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, 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. Graduates of an A+ School are eligible to receive two years of their tuition (and books) paid by the state to attend any state community college or vocational/technical school in Missouri.

Should Pattonville receive A+ designation from Missouri, students would be eligible for the paid tuition if they have attended an A+ designated high school for three years immediately prior to graduation and:

- Earned a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale by graduation,
- Maintained a 95 percent attendance average over a four-year period,
- Provided 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring of younger students,
- Maintained a record of good citizenship, and
- Avoided the unlawful use of drugs (have no alcohol or drug offenses on school or police records).

Jane Wolff, Pattonville’s A+ coordinator, said the school should know whether they have received A+ designation within two or three weeks after the site review. Currently 218 students are signed up in the program, including 96 seniors. Wolff said typically, about 80 Pattonville graduates go on to attend community college each year.

Students who wish to sign up for the program should contact Jane Wolff at (314) 213-8051 to request an agreement form to sign. Parents and students will be notified as soon as possible as to whether or not Pattonville High School has received A+ designation.

Board approves calendars for next two years

The Pattonville Board of Education on Jan. 8 approved school calendars for the next two school years. The district Calendar Committee, which includes teachers, support staff and parents, recommended the proposed calendars.

Highlights of the proposed calendars are as follows:

Year	School Begins	Winter Break	Spring Break	Last Day of School
2002-03	Aug. 19	Dec. 23-Jan.1	March 24-28	May 30-Grades 6-11 June 2-elementary, Remington
2003-04	Aug. 18	Dec. 24-Jan. 2	March 29-April 2	June 1 -Grades 6-11 June 2 -elementary, Remington

Surveys indicated the majority of parents, students and staff preferred the dates listed above for winter break.

Board approves budget revisions

The Pattonville Board of Education got its first look at its annual revised budget on Jan. 8. Members are expected to take a vote on the revisions at their Jan. 22 meeting.

The revised budget for 2001-2002 is a balanced budget when bond issue and one-time expenditures are excluded. The growth in assessed valuation in the district continues to offset the loss of tax revenues due to the airport expansion and other factors.

Included in the revision is an additional \$13 million to both revenues and expenditures. This revision was made in order to reflect the revenues and expenditures associated with construction of the new elementary with funds from Lambert Airport.

Significant changes to the revenue budget included: a growth in assessed valuation that brought in more current and delinquent taxes; a decrease of \$130,520 in Proposition C sales tax revenue; and a reduction in state revenue due to a decline in student population and state-funded grants.

Major changes reflected in the adjusted expenditure budget were:

- The purchase of property adjacent to Briar Crest Accelerated School to be used to expand parking and playground areas;
- Curriculum adoptions;

- Waterford Early Reading Program Lab to improve reading skills;
- Adjustments to certified and support staff salaries and fringe benefits;
- New library furniture at the high school;
- Land purchase for future construction projects to be completed by the home construction classes at Pattonville High School; and
- A soccer field partnership with the city of Maryland Heights to develop land adjacent to Parkwood Elementary School.

Board looks at proposal to assume responsibility for early childhood special education programs

Pattonville school board members on Jan. 8 reviewed a proposal that enables the Pattonville School District to assume responsibility for early childhood special education services for Pattonville children. Currently, the Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County provides these services.

Estimated cost for the program is \$1.9 million, all of which would be funded by the state of Missouri without the use of local tax revenues, said Laurie Wenzel, Pattonville’s director of early childhood.

The proposal would enable Pattonville to expand and enhance early care and education opportunities for young children and their families. Expanding services is a part of Pattonville’s Early Childhood Strategic Plan that was approved by the Pattonville Board of Education two years ago.

State law requires that school districts provide special education and related services for children 3 and 4 years of age who have been identified as disabled under the provisions of state law. In St. Louis County, SSD is required to provide these services, however, state law also allows SSD’s partner districts, such as Pattonville, to provide these services.

“Our district is fortunate to be able to build on the effective programs that have already been established by SSD,” said Dr. John Heskett, assistant superintendent for pupil services. “Making this change will enable us to provide a seamless, less fragmented early childhood program for our children. In addition, there will be more continuity to services as we integrate early childhood special education with our existing Parents As Teachers and preschool programs.”

The board is scheduled to take a vote on the change on Jan. 22.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

Dear Pattonville family,

I would like to share with you a few of the great things happening in Pattonville.

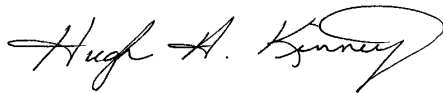
- If you have not had the opportunity, I encourage you to drive by the site of the new elementary school that is being built in St. Ann (near Shop ‘N Save). Construction is progressing quite well and the structure is taking shape. It will be exciting to see the students enjoying their new school next year.
- Look for information to be coming out soon regarding the Pattonville Education Foundation’s annual Dinner Dance Auction. This is a fun and entertaining evening in a

relaxed setting (unless you're in a bidding tug-of-war with friends!). More importantly, it's a great event that benefits our teachers and our students. Please mark your calendar for the evening of Saturday, March 2.

- The week of Jan. 21 through 25 is School Board Member Recognition Week in the state of Missouri. This is an important week as we honor the men and women who volunteer countless hours of their personal time to provide leadership to Pattonville and other school districts in the state. Please join me this week in saying "thank you" to all the men and women on our school board. They play an invaluable role in making Pattonville a great place to learn and work. Each and every one of them put children first.

I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing break. As we approach the last half of the school year, I encourage you to continue the great focus you've had on improving student achievement. This year's Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) testing is on the horizon, and this is our last chance to shine academically before we receive our Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) review next year. Thank you for everything you do to make a difference in the lives of our students. I send my best wishes for a wonderful 2002.

Sincerely,



Hugh A. Kinney, Ed.D.

Business Bits

Paying the Bills

The board approved paying the following bills during its Jan. 8 meeting:

- Regular bills in the amount of \$716,843.57
- Cafeteria bills in the amount of \$61,843.80
- Legal bills in the amount of \$37.50 to Mickes, Tueth, Keeney, Cooper, Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C. and \$4,673.74 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum, LLP.
- Renewal of the Missouri United School Insurance Council premium for the 2002 calendar year in the amount of \$604,586.

Bid Awards

The board approved the following bid awards during its Jan. 8 meeting:

- \$60,895 to Datamax Office Systems for a True Two Color Printing Press; and
- \$21,028.44 to Aramark for leasing uniforms for custodial, transportation and food service employees.

Policy/Procedure Updates

The board approved the following procedures or policies at its Jan. 8 meeting:

- **Policy GCL-R-1 (Leave of Absence for Attendance at District-Supported Conferences of State, Regional/National Professional Organizations) and Policy GCB (Professional Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans)** – The revision of these policies was jointly

recommended by the Professional Studies Committee and includes a change that provides for international conference attendance. The changes include a limit on district reimbursement of international conference attendance, and any travel outside the continental United States must be pre-approved by the superintendent.

- **Procedure GCBA-R-1 (Advancement of Professional Staff Salary Schedule)** – Revisions change the word “certificated” to “certified” when referring to educational staff.
- **Prccedure GCBA-R-2 (Professional Staff Salary Schedule/Initial Placement)** – Changes reflect minor grammatical modifications.
- **Procedure GCLM-R (Professional Staff Workshops and Conferences)** – Changes reflect minor wording changes for clarification.

New Hires

- **Meghan Shook**, teacher assistant, Briar Crest
- **Arthur Dorsey Jr.**, custodian, Rose Acres
- **Frances Turnbaugh**, secretary, Holman, Coordinator’s Office
- **Julie Pellow**, nurse, high school