



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

October 24, 2001

Curriculum, assessment, instruction report reviewed

A longitudinal look at Pattonville's Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) test scores indicates growth in virtually all subject areas since the district began tracking MAP scores in 1998, according to a Curriculum and Assessment Program Evaluation report given to the Board of Education on Oct. 23. The report also showed, however, that more work needs to be done to meet Pattonville's goal that all students are proficient in all subject areas, especially in the areas of math and science.

Students taking the MAP can score at one of five levels: advanced, proficient, nearing proficiency, progressing and Step 1. A district's improvement is demonstrated by *increasing* the number of students scoring in the top two levels (advanced and proficient) and *decreasing* the number of students scoring in the bottom two levels (progressing and Step 1) on a particular test.

"The good news is that we're meeting our Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) reading goals based on our own internal calculations," said Mike Fulton, assistant superintendent for planning and assessment. "We're also meeting the Missouri School Improvement requirement of having a drop-out rate below 3 percent each year. We also have MAP scores that are increasing or stable in most areas. We also saw real gains for students with IEPs (Individual Education Plans) in 2001."

Plans are already in motion to improve the district's performance on the MAP, said Debra Ebel, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

"Every school has developed a plan that helps them work from strengths and identifies areas they need to work on to increase their academic performance," Ebel said. "We're also working on monitoring student learning on Pattonville's essential curriculum."

Board members commended staff for their hard work.

"I feel good about the direction we're going in," said Director Ron Kuschel. "I feel good about us digging our heels in and working as a unified team to improve student achievement."

What follows are some highlights from the spring 2001 results:

- The percentage of students scoring advanced and proficient district wide on the spring 2001 MAP *increased* in six areas: elementary math (up 3 percent), science (up 8 percent) and social studies (up 8 percent); middle school communication arts (up 5 percent) and science (up 2 percent); and high school social studies (up 5 percent).
- Pattonville has also shown progress by moving students out of the lowest two levels district wide on the spring 2001 MAP. The percentage of students scoring progressing or Step 1 *decreased* in eight areas: elementary math (down 4 percent) and social studies (down 6 percent); middle school communication arts (down 7 percent), science (down 2 percent) and social studies (down 5 percent); and high school communication arts (down 8 percent), science (down 4 percent) and social studies (down 5 percent).
- From the time Pattonville began taking the MAP tests in 1998 to the most recent results (spring 2001), the district has *decreased* the percentage of students scoring at the lowest two levels in

ALL content areas at **ALL** grade levels. In addition, the district has *increased* the percentage of students scoring at the top two levels in ALL BUT ONE content area. In other words, Pattonville has seen improvement in 23 out of 24 possible comparison areas.

- Pattonville elementary students scored better than their peers did statewide in ALL content areas and in all areas where comparisons could be made on the spring 2001 MAP.
- More Pattonville middle school students scored advanced and proficient than their peers did statewide in communication arts and social studies on the spring 2001 MAP. In addition, fewer Pattonville middle school students were scoring in the lowest two levels in these areas when compared to the state results. Although middle school scores in math and science were near state average, Pattonville must continue its efforts to boost the achievement in these areas.
- Fewer Pattonville High School students scored at the lowest two levels in communication arts than their peers statewide on the spring 2001 MAP, and 8 percent fewer Pattonville students scored at these levels than the previous year. In addition, a 5 percent growth was seen in the percentage of high school students scoring advanced and proficient in social studies and a 5 percent decrease occurred in the number of students scoring in the bottom two levels. Although scores in other content areas were near state average, Pattonville must significantly increase our efforts to raise student achievement at the high school level, especially in the areas of math and science.

Board discusses MSBA resolutions

Board members reviewed and voted to endorse new and amended resolutions that are being proposed for approval by the Missouri School Boards Association (MSBA) fall 2001 Delegate Assembly. The assembly meets on Oct. 28 to consider the proposals. Pattonville Board Member Bob Drummond brought the proposals to the board to review because he will represent Pattonville as the district's voting delegate at the assembly. The adopted resolutions provide guidance to MSBA members and staff as to MSBA's official position on various issues.

The language of the proposed amendments is as follows:

1. MSBA opposes the expansion of charter schools in Missouri and believes all charter schools should be authorized solely by local boards of education and held accountable to local boards of education.
2. MSBA believes all current and future mandated state programs should be adequately funded with state resources.
3. MSBA strongly opposes any attempt to divert revenue committed to or intended for public education.
4. MSBA supports the distribution of gaming proceeds to school districts on a per eligible pupil basis provided that the foundation formula and categorical programs are fully funded.
5. MSBA urges the General Assembly to enact legislation providing immunity for school employees and volunteers acting within the scope and course of their employment and service.
6. MSBA supports repeal of the current law allowing school board recall when a school(s) within the district is declared academically deficient.

African-American achievement resolution approved

The Pattonville Board of Education put its commitment to improving African-American achievement in writing once again when it approved a resolution Oct. 23 on improving African-American achievement in Pattonville.

In the resolution, the board states that it recognizes a gap exists between the academic performance of African-American students and white students “throughout the country, state, region and our own district...which deserves emergency action.”

The district prepared a Minority Achievement Report in May 2000, which provided an analysis of the achievement of minority students in the district and specific recommendations for improving their academic achievement.

The resolution asserted the board’s commitment to improving minority achievement by resolving that the Pattonville School District:

- Reaffirms its commitment to the May 2000 Minority Achievement Report;
- Commits to support implementation of school action plans during the 2001-02 school year and beyond which will target the elimination of the gap in achievement by June 2005; and
- Will keep parents and citizens well informed regarding its strategies, timelines, progress and student outcomes.

Board reviews format for community meeting

Board members reviewed the format for the third annual Board Focus Groups community meeting during the board’s Oct. 23 meeting.

Both parents and non-parents received personal invitations through a random selection process to attend the Board Focus Groups on Oct. 30. During the event, registered participants will meet in small groups with board members to discuss issues such as student achievement, safety, finance and communication. Invitees were selected at random from the district’s parent/guardian database, as well as from voter registration records.

The concept behind the Board Focus Groups is to engage a broader segment of Pattonville patrons in meaningful discussions about what Pattonville does well and ways that Pattonville can improve. Input from the sessions will be shared with administrators to use as part of program evaluations on different Pattonville programs throughout the year.

Transportation routes get official OK

The Pattonville Board of Education on Oct. 23 approved 2,167 miles worth of transportation bus routes for the district’s 11 schools. Missouri law requires the local Board of Education to formally approve the route mile schedule for transportation. The approved routes represent 118 regular routes.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

Dear Pattonville family,

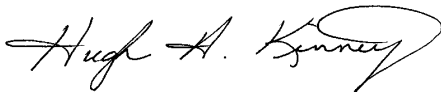
I would like to share with you a few of the great things happening in Pattonville.

- Congratulations to the Pattonville Pirates on their 47-7 victory over McCluer High School during Homecoming. The parade, game and dance proved to be a great day for Pattonville students and families.

- The Pattonville Education Foundation Golf Tournament on Sunday, Oct. 21, was a great success, thanks to golf Chairperson Sheila Musaji and her many committee members. The tournament nearly doubled in size over its first year. This is great news for our Pattonville educators and students who benefit from grant awards.
- Pattonville High School Girls Volleyball Team will be participating in the MSHSAA District Volleyball Championship today. I congratulate the team on a GREAT year.
- This is Red Ribbon Week in Pattonville, and the nation and our schools are doing several activities to emphasize substance-free lifestyles for our children and adults. All of our elementary schools will be visited by Ronald McDonald this week to share an anti-drug message.
- On Nov. 8 and 9, we'll hold our first 55+ Club Dinner Theatre for the school year. Residents of the district aged 55 and older will enjoy dinner and the high school play, "Fools," as part of this annual event. The play continues on Saturday, Nov. 10, as well, and we look forward to great performances by Sugar Smith and her students.

As I've traveled from school to school over the last couple of weeks, I've been encouraged to see the wonderful plans being developed and implemented to improve our performance on the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) and to raise achievement for all children. I ask every staff member to do his or her part to make sure these plans are successful. If we all work together and follow the plan, our children will see the benefits of our hard work. And the children are the ones we are here for. Please keep up the good work and continue the focus on doing what's best for our kids. Thanks, and have a great week!

Sincerely,



Hugh A. Kinney, Ed.D.

Business Bits

Committee Reports

- **Professional-Studies** - The Professional Studies Committee met Sept. 27 and Oct. 22. The team members discussed improving student achievement, critical issues, dress code for staff, conference attendance procedures, the school year calendar and the G-series policies. The committee will meet again at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 29.
- **Pattonville Support National Education Association (PSNEA)** – The PSNEA met on Oct. 22 and reviewed nine policies. The team members discussed a petition initiative drive sponsored by the Missouri Parent Teacher Association and Missouri School Boards Association to have an issue placed on a statewide ballot that would allow school districts to pass bond issues by a simple majority. In addition, the group resolved an issue regarding

uniforms for transportation employees and discussed aides for buses carrying students with disabilities.

Policy/Procedure Updates

- **Policy EHD (Electronic Communication Policy)** - The board approved a proposed policy that governs electronic communications (Internet usage, e-mail and web publishing) in the district.
- **Procedure GDBC-R-7 (Family Leave for Support Staff)** – The board approved a change to the family leave policy that would include son-in-law and daughter-in-law in the definition of immediate family.
- **Procedure GDBC-R-4 (Support Staff Leave)** - The board approved a change that would include son-in-law and daughter-in-law in the definition of immediate family and replaces one phrase with "...whom you have been primary caregiver for," under the critical illness and bereavement leave sections.
- **Procedure GDE-R (Support Staff Extra Help/Substitute Staff)** - The board approved language updates to this policy, including the deletion of a sentence regarding age of applicants.
- **Policy JECC (Exceptional Attendance Policy)** – Lodged for action was a policy that outlines how students may attend a school outside the attendance boundary in which they live. The district will make every effort to honor a parent’s request for a change, provided that space is available at the grade level and school requested and that the student is in good standing (appropriate academic, behavioral and attendance records). Parents must provide their own transportation to the school outside the attendance boundary in which they live.
- **Policy JB (Equal Educational Opportunities)** – The board lodged for action changes which update words used in this policy.
- **Policy JD (School Census)** – The board lodged for action changes which update words used in this policy.
- **Policy JED (Student Absences and Excuses)** – The board lodged for action changes that update words used in this policy.
- **Policy JEDA (Truancy)** – The board lodged for action a new policy which states the board’s intention to reduce truancy. The policy states, “It will be the responsibility of the building administrator for enforcing the compulsory attendance laws which require regular attendance, provide for penalties if parents/guardians do not carry out their responsibilities, and establish procedures for referral of a truant student to juvenile authorities.”
- **Policy JG (Student Discipline)** – The board lodged for action a change that corrects a word used in this policy.
- **Policy JGB (Detention and /or In-School Suspension)** – The board lodged for action a change that deletes two words used in this policy.
- **Policy JGA (Corporal Punishment)** – The board lodged for action a change that updates the year cited for the legal references.
- The board approved the review of the following policies and procedures: Policy JA (Student Policies Goals), Policy JC (School Attendance Areas), Policy JECA (Admission of Resident Students), Policy JECE (Student Withdrawal from School), Policy EGAAA (Copyright), Procedure KL-R (Public Complaints about Instructional/Library Materials), and Exhibit KL-R-E (Citizen’s Request for Reconsideration of Educational Material).

Paying the Bills

The board approved paying the following bills during its Oct. 23 meeting:

- Legal services from Mickes, Tueth, Keeney, Cooper, Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C., in the amount of \$91.25.
- Legal services from Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis & Giljum, LLP, in the amount of \$1,860.61.

New Hires

- **Jody Warren**, teacher assistant, Briar Crest
- **Lisa Conley**, teacher assistant, Parkwood
- **Donald Baird**, custodian, Rose Acres
- **Waymond Ellis**, custodian, Holman
- **Donald Labbe**, maintenance supervisor
- **Tammy Holzshuh**, bus driver, transportation