

Board at Work

News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

November 14, 2001

Board asks to negotiate Chapter 100 terms

A tax incentive program that the St. Louis County Economic Development Council has begun to use to attract commercial and industrial growth was the focus of discussion at the Nov. 13 Pattonville Board of Education meeting. Pattonville board members expressed concern that one component of the tax abatement program – called Chapter 100 after the state law that allows the incentives – might take tax dollars out of the Pattonville School District.

School districts legally have no say in the terms of such an arrangement. However, school board members asked Pattonville Superintendent Hugh Kinney to negotiate with the county for a guarantee that tax dollars set aside for community redevelopment as part of the Chapter 100 agreement would stay in the Pattonville School District.

Under the proposed tax abatement plan, the county is offering Magellan Health Systems a 40 percent real estate tax abatement for 10 years to locate its headquarters in Earth City (Riverport area). As part of the proposed agreement, the county would receive a payment in lieu of taxes of \$89,000 annually for 10 years to use for community redevelopment. In the last Chapter 100 agreement the county negotiated in the Parkway School District with Edward Jones Company, the revenue from such a community development fund was used outside the Parkway School District to build a business incubator in Wellston. Pattonville board members want the funds from any community development fund in Pattonville to be used to redevelop areas in the Pattonville School District.

Denny Coleman, a representative from the St. Louis County Economic Development Council, attended the board meeting to discuss the proposed Chapter 100 agreement in Pattonville. He said the county is interested in working with the school district to get its support for the plan. Under the proposed Chapter 100 plan, Pattonville would receive \$288,000 annually for 10 years in taxes from Magellan. After 10 years (based on today's dollars), the tax revenue for Pattonville would be \$480,000 annually. Coleman said Magellan would bring 1,400 existing jobs to its new headquarters, as well as at least 600 new jobs.

Committee recommends challenge courses

The Student Achievement Action Committee brought a recommendation to the Board of Education to add honors/challenge courses at the high school and middle school levels, beginning next school year. The actual courses to be added will be recommended for approval to the board next month.

The committee has been studying challenge courses and other strategies as a way to insure a challenging curriculum for all students, as well as improved student achievement. Committee members' study focused on the core subject areas of math, communication arts, science and social studies. The committee's recommendations are:

1. Implement honors/challenge courses at the high school for the 2002-2003 school year.

2. Phase-in honors/challenge courses at the middle school during the next two years. Eighth-grade courses would be implemented next year, and courses for grades 6 and 7 would be studied in 2002-2003 with a recommendation for 2003-2004 based on results of the study.

New course recommendations for next year, including recommendations for challenge courses, will be proposed at the Nov. 28 district Curriculum Coordinating Council meeting. The board is expected to approve new courses in December.

Board Focus Groups involve diversity of residents

Survey results from the Board Focus Groups community meeting on Oct. 30 indicate participants felt the event was useful and 95 percent said the event helped them to communicate with members of the Board of Education more effectively.

Both parents and non-parents received personal invitations through a random selection process to attend the Board Focus Groups. During the event, participants met 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 Board Focus Groups program was designed to engage a broader segment of Pattonville patrons in meaningful discussions about what Pattonville does well and ways that Pattonville can improve. About 50 residents – both those with students and those without – attended the meeting.

Survey results also indicated that 98 percent felt the topics discussed were relevant to Pattonville and to the participant. Participants' input was recorded on flip charts during the meeting and later put into a report that is being shared with administrators to use as part of evaluations on different Pattonville programs throughout the year.

Special education document gets first look

The Pattonville Board of Education on Nov. 13 lodged for action a "General Assurance Document" that outlines the scope and nature of requirements that Pattonville and the Special School District of St. Louis County must meet in order to provide appropriate educational services to students with disabilities. The board is expected to approve the document, which is required annually, at its next meeting on Nov. 27.

New math course approved for second semester

The Pattonville Board of Education on Nov. 13 approved a new math course at Pattonville High School titled "Math Essentials." The course was added in order to give 9th and 10th graders more exposure to math during second semester. The addition of the new class will not require additional staffing.

Revised high school curriculum gets board's OK

Pattonville board members on Nov. 13 approved revisions to the curriculum for two departments at Pattonville High School. Updates were made and approved to the family and consumer science curriculum as well as the art curriculum for grades 9 through 12.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

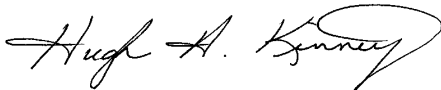
Dear Pattonville family,

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

- About 600 older residents of our district enjoyed dinner and the high school play, “Fools,” as part of the district’s 55+ Club program on Nov. 7 and 8. The high school play received rave reviews from everyone who had the chance to enjoy this amusing comedy. Thanks to Sugar Smith for her wonderful work with these students.
- Pattonville currently has 19 teacher openings for the 2002-2003 school year due to retirements. To help fill these positions with quality candidates, Pattonville is hosting an Employment Fair from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 8 at the Pattonville Learning Center. If you know of candidates who may be interested in joining the Pattonville family, please pass this information along to them.
- Congratulations to Kerry Brown, Pattonville Heights teacher and Pattonville’s Teacher of the Year. Kerry was honored along with several other outstanding teachers from throughout the area at the Emerson Electric Excellence in Teaching ceremony at the Ritz Carlton.

Tomorrow is a staff development day in the Pattonville School District. I want to congratulate all the principals and staff members for their work in putting together staff development opportunities that involve reviewing data on student performance and focusing on ways to improve student achievement. Staff members will be looking at our areas of strength and identifying areas where we can improve. From all of the agendas I’ve seen for the day, we should see a lot of quality work taking place in the individual schools on Nov. 15. Thank you for your continued vigilance toward making improvements on behalf of our students.

Sincerely,



Hugh A. Kinney, Ed.D.

Business Bits

Bid Awards

The board approved the following bid awards during its Nov. 13 meeting:

- \$674,150 for the plumbing package for the bond issue phase one work to Feit Plumbing company (a bond issue purchase)
- \$3.3 million for the HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) work for the bond issue phase one work to Condaire Inc. (a bond issue purchase)
- \$6,004 to Zumwalt Corporation for a garage door with photo eye and remote for transportation
- \$7,995 for renewal of fire alarm testing and inspection agreement with Tech Electronics

- \$8,130 to McCann Pest Control for pest exterminating and rodent control services
- \$7,700 to Educational Resources for software for the Vocational Enhancement Grant
- \$18,868 to Broadway Truck Centers for a commercial cargo van
- \$9,923 to Collins & Herman Inc. for transportation complex fencing
- \$44,413.85 to Corporate Interiors to purchase furniture for the new elementary school library.

Policy/Procedure Updates

- **Policy JECC (Exceptional Attendance Policy)** – The board approved 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 approved 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 approved changes that update words used in this policy.
- **Policy JEDA (Truancy)** – The board approved 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 approved a change that corrects a word used in this policy.
- **Policy JGB (Detention and /or In-School Suspension)** – The board approved a change that deletes two words used in this policy.
- **Policy JGA (Corporal Punishment)** – The board approved a change that updates the year cited for the legal references.

Paying the Bills

The board approved paying the following bills during its Nov. 13 meeting:

- Dues for the Missouri School Boards Association (MSBA) in the amount of \$6,201.
- Bills in the amount of \$975,271.94.
- Cafeteria bills in the amount of \$99,974.18.

New Hires

- **Terrie Ivie**, bus driver, transportation
- **Mindy Renner**, Title I teacher assistant, Parkwood
- **Sharon Chiesa**, bus driver, transportation