



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

November 28, 2001

Pattonville making progress in minority achievement

More African-American students in the elementary and middle schools in Pattonville are scoring at the highest two levels on the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) than in previous years, according to an evaluation report regarding the Voluntary Transfer Program between Pattonville and minority students living in the city of St. Louis. In addition, Pattonville was ranked as the fourth highest among St. Louis County school districts for African-American Achievement in the “Racial Disparity Report Card” published by the “St. Louis Black Pages.”

Still, more work needs to be done to close the gap in achievement levels between Caucasian and African-American students, especially at the high school level, said Dr. John Heskett, assistant superintendent for pupil services. The Pattonville report looked at achievement levels of resident African-American students as well as transfer students.

Pattonville has participated in the Voluntary Transfer Program since 1982. The current enrollment of 621 is approximately 10 percent of the entire district student population and 40 percent of Pattonville’s African-American student population.

Surveys of students in the transfer program and their parents revealed that the majority showed strong support for the program. In addition, data indicated that the dropout rate for transfer students was about the same as the overall school rate: 2.5 percent for transfer students and 2.4 percent for all of Pattonville High School.

Recommendations included in the report to improve the program are as follows:

- Develop and conduct follow-up surveys of voluntary transfer students who withdraw from the program to determine the reasons for withdrawal. This data will be shared with school improvement teams.
- Develop and conduct structured interviews/focus groups with voluntary transfer students to identify strategies which students believe will encourage them to perform academically at their level of potential.
- Support the school improvement teams as they develop strategies to implement the minority academic achievement report. A review of minority academic achievement report data and the voluntary transfer program evaluation data would suggest particular emphasis on:
 - Creating high expectations for minority students;
 - Encouraging all students to take more rigorous academic coursework;
 - Establishing academic monitoring systems for students to achieve early identification of those experiencing academic difficulties; and
 - Establishing systems to support and recognize strong academic results of African-American students.
- Establish assistance for students and parents as the zone attendance policies of the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation are implemented in the 2002-03 school year.

Business Education Trip Ok'd

Business education students at Pattonville High School will take a trip to Chicago Feb. 28 through March 1, having won approval for the trip by the board members on Nov. 27. Students will visit the Mercantile Commodities Exchange, as well as the Chicago Board of Trade and the Museum of Science and Industry.

Special education documents approved

The Pattonville Board of Education on Nov. 27 approved a "General Assurance Document" that outlines the scope and nature of requirements that Pattonville and the Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County must meet in order to provide appropriate educational services to students with disabilities.

The board also approved a contract between Pattonville and SSD for Phase 2 Classroom students for the 2001-2002 school year. Phase 2 students spend more than half their instructional time each week in a special education setting. The contract enables Pattonville to collect and report attendance of Phase 2 students.

Character*plus* update provided to Board

Board members reviewed a booklet providing updates about the Character*plus* program in Pattonville. Character*plus* is a program that teaches students responsible behavior by emphasizing different character traits each month. The traits that are emphasized throughout classroom instruction were developed by a committee of community members and include characteristics such as respect, responsibility, compassion and honesty.

Because of its emphasis on character education and a requirement of 50 hours of community service for graduation, Pattonville was named one of two high schools of character in the nation by "Business Week" magazine and the Character Education Partnership, as well as a National Service Learning Leader School.

Board approves recommendation for bus aides

On Nov. 27, the Pattonville Board of Education approved a recommendation from the Job Description Review Committee to create a new position of bus aide to provide support services for students with special needs (wheelchair).

According to board policy, when a new position is created, a description will be created and the Job Description/Review Committee will meet to assign the position to the proper job category. The committee met and approved the job description and the pay range.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

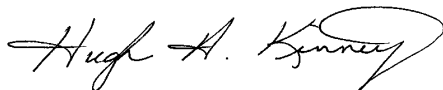
Dear Pattonville family,

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

- Congratulations to Tracey Robinson, fifth grade teacher at Carrollton Oaks, and Paul Simpkins, a social studies teacher at Holman. Both learned last week that they earned National Board Certification, the highest credential a teacher can obtain. The process to become board certified involves a rigorous self-assessment process that takes at least a year to complete.
- A committee of current and former parents and staff members from Carrollton and Carrollton Oaks elementary schools has begun meeting to plan closing celebration activities at each school. Open houses are set at both schools from 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, May 5, 2002, to allow the community to celebrate the schools' histories and reminisce before both close at the end of the school year due to the airport expansion. The committee is seeking photos or memorabilia that the community may wish to share or display at the events. If you have something you'd like to share, please make sure you send it to Carrollton or Carrollton Oaks.
- Community Meetings regarding proposed new elementary and middle school attendance boundaries are being held this week. The Community Meetings will be conducted in an open-house format. Community members may attend either meeting at any time. At the meeting, participants may speak with a member of the Parent Redistricting Committee about the boundary process, view the boundary maps and street lists and make comments for the parent committee to review prior to the committee's development of its final recommendation to the Board of Education. Meetings will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 29, at Pattonville Heights, and 3 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2, at Holman Middle School.
- Throughout the year, the Pattonville Board of Education meets with various groups in the community to talk about issues of mutual importance and to keep in touch with its constituents. On Saturday, Dec. 1, the board will meet with state legislators from the Pattonville community to discuss upcoming legislation that could impact schools locally.

I want to offer my sincere thanks to all the staff members who made our professional development day on Nov. 15 a success. I was pleased to see teachers and administrators digging deep into data regarding student performance and looking at ways to improve student achievement. While the work completed on this day was quality work, we must not lose the momentum. We must continue to focus on our goals for student achievement and to implement the plans we've worked so hard to develop. This takes everyone doing his or her part, teaching the curriculum, and making sure our instruction is varied enough that we are meeting the learning needs and styles of every student. We must continue to "keep up the good work." Thanks, again, for all you do for our students.

Sincerely,



Hugh A. Kinney, Ed.D.

Business Bits

Bid Awards

The board approved the following bid awards during its Nov. 27 meeting:

- \$14,944 to ABLE Computers for PC computers

Policy/Procedure Updates

The board lodged for action the following policies or procedures at its Nov. 27 meeting:

- **Policy GCN (Performance-Based Evaluation Philosophy Statement)**-The proposed update reflects a grammatical change in wording.
- **Policy GCP (Voluntary Termination of Employment of Professional Staff)**- The proposed update changes the title of “Director of Personnel” to “Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.”
- **Procedure GCP-R (Voluntary Termination of Employment –Professional Staff)**- The proposed update changes the title of “Director of Personnel” to “Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.”
- **Policy GBEAB (Staff Protection)** – The proposed updates are minor modifications that would make the wording more current.

The board approved the review of the following procedure or polices:

- **Policy GBEBA (Drug-Free Workplace)**

Paying the Bills

The board approved paying the following bills during its Nov. 27 meeting:

- Legal bills in the amount of \$4,650.20 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum.
- Renewal of a paint and paint supplies agreement with MAB Paints for \$12,739.08.

New Hires

- **Stephani Shoaf**, nurse, high school
- **Dawn Cockrell**, bus driver, transportation