



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

Feb. 27, 2002

Board reviews format for Monday's open forum

The Pattonville Board of Education on Feb. 26 reviewed the format for its upcoming Board-Patron Open Forum. The board will host this public forum for residents, students and staff in the Pattonville School District at 7 p.m., Monday, March 4 at Holman Middle School.

The purpose of the forum is to enable residents and staff to hold a conversation with board members about issues of importance to the Pattonville School District, its students, parents, employees and residents. This year, there will be no predetermined topics, but discussion will center on whatever issues and events participants wish to discuss or learn more about. The district will also offer updates on major initiatives and issues facing Pattonville schools. Participants will be able to meet with board members in small groups so that the board may hear from more voices in the community.

Questions discussed regarding SSD

The Pattonville board reviewed questions from the Public Review Committee of the Special School District (SSD) on Feb. 26 and discussed answers to the committee's questions. Assistant Superintendent John Heskett will compile the board's comments and bring a report back to the board before forwarding them to the review committee. The questions addressed by the board were:

1. Indicate current concerns, if any, you have about SSD and the delivery of special education services and vocational education.
2. Do you favor offering special education at the level which only meets IDEA (federal) requirements, at the current level (which generally meets and sometimes exceeds requirements), or offering services at a higher level than is currently being done (which, incidentally, may become a requirement in Missouri)?
3. Do you recommend any change in the way the Governing Council functions? Should it continue to exist indefinitely?
4. Do you feel sufficiently well informed about the level and nature of services conducted by SSD in your district? If not, any suggestions for improving the adequacy of communication?
5. Indicate your general level of satisfaction with SSD at this time.
6. Are there issues you would particularly like the PRC to address? If so, from any particular perspective?

Board members discussed several issues related to the questions, including:

- A desire that more vocational programs could be offered locally (as opposed to having students leave campus for programs);
- The fact that they like the partnership plan with SSD, since it allows partner school districts to be more involved in the delivery of special education services;

- A concern about the continued recruitment of qualified staff; and
- The opinion that, in general, board members' level of satisfaction with SSD is "improving."

More revisions approved to prepare for A+ review

Revisions to four high school curricular areas were approved by the board as part of the district's preparation for a March 7 A+ Schools designation review at Pattonville High School by the state of Missouri. Updates were approved to the curriculums for science, technology education, guidance and counseling, as well as modern languages.

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).

Pattonville High School will receive a visit by educators on March 7 that will determine whether Pattonville High School will be designated as an A+ School and whether its students will be eligible for two years of paid tuition to any Missouri community college or vocational-technical school.

Board OKs policy for POS School attendance

The Pattonville Board of Education approved a pilot attendance policy for the POSITIVE School at Pattonville High School.

The policy states, "In order to receive credit a student cannot be absent more than three class periods per term in any given course. Five tardies in any one class will be treated as an absence. A student who accumulates four or more absences per class will receive temporary loss of credit. If the absences have not been made up by the end of the term, the student will permanently lose credit."

Students can make up absences after school or during Saturday School. The former policy stipulated that a student could miss six days before receiving a loss of credit. The pilot will be used during the fourth term of this school year. If the pilot of the attendance policy is effective, the school will bring the change to the board for approval with the school's behavior guide next year.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

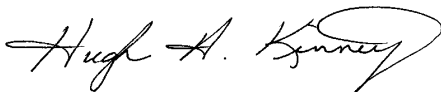
Dear Pattonville family,

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

- Pattonville High School Senior Amy Cadwallader will receive the Lieutenant Governor's Community Service Award this month for her volunteerism efforts. Amy most recently coordinated the Empty Bowls Luncheon at Pattonville High School, a fund-raiser for Community Helping Ministries.
- Next week, our schools will be celebrating Read Across America. Read Across America is a nation-wide literacy event sponsored by the National Education Association. The program supports our district's goals for improving student achievement by celebrating the joy of reading. The event also honors Dr. Seuss, whose birthday falls on March 2. The official celebration is March 1, but lots of activities are taking place in Pattonville throughout this week.
- Pattonville is one of 15 districts in the state invited to participate in a student educational technology exhibit on the Third Floor Rotunda of the Missouri State Capitol from 7 a.m. until noon, March 21 in Jefferson City. State legislators, educators, students and others will have the opportunity to see how technology is currently being used in Missouri schools to enhance learning and improve student achievement.

I am thrilled to see all of the preparations that are going on in our schools to get students and staff ready for this spring's MAP tests. The emphasis on reading, writing and higher-level thinking skills is wonderful, as is the focus I see on motivating students to do well. Keep up the good work and the great focus. You're doing great things for kids and for our community. Thanks for everything you do.

Sincerely,



Hugh A. Kinney, Ed.D.

Business Bits

Paying the Bills

The board approved paying the following bills during its Feb. 26 meeting:

- \$3,533.50 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum for legal services rendered; and
- Change orders in the amount of \$53,957 to Condaire Inc. for installation of gas pipes in the high school science wing and \$253,035 to Affton Fabricating for structural and miscellaneous steel for Phase I bond issue projects.

Surplus Items

The board declared the following items surplus property on Feb. 26:

- Xerox 9900, Xerox 5090 and Xerox 1065 copiers.

Bid Awards

The board approved the following bid awards on Feb. 26:

- \$238,000 to Tony Prince Company, Inc. for flooring work for Phase I bond issue projects;
- \$587,769 to Mid-States School Equipment Company, Inc. for casework for Phase I bond issue projects;
- \$48,310 to Bi-State Fire Protection Corporation for fire protection systems for Phase I bond issue projects; and
- \$439,005 to Kehrer Brothers Construction for sheetmetal and flashings work for Phase I bond issue projects.

Proclamations

The board approved the following documents on Feb. 26:

- A proclamation naming March 6, 2002, as “Bob Drummond Day” in the Pattonville School District;
- A proclamation designating Wednesday, March 6, 2002, as “Principal Day” in the Pattonville School District;
- A proclamation declaring March 2002 as “Music in Our Schools Month” in Pattonville; and
- A proclamation naming March 2002 as “Youth Art Month” in Pattonville.

Policy/Procedure Updates

The board approved the following policies or procedures on Feb. 26:

- **Procedure GDDC-R (Probationary Period)** – The approved change eliminates holidays from the list of days that cannot be used during an employee’s 45-day probationary period after being hired.
- **Policy IGAD (Occupational Education)** – The change deletes a paragraph under the heading “Vocational Education” and replaces it with the following: “Vocational training programs shall be an integral part of the comprehensive high school concept in the school district. Efforts will be made to keep vocational programs relevant to job requirements and reflective of area needs, as well as being geared to the current and future technological and economic conditions. These programs shall provide students with the basic skills to enter the world of work, to obtain additional vocational skills and/or to continue their formal education. Vocational education, as a core component of comprehensive education, will share with other aspects of the high school curriculum in the development of character, attitudes and work skills. District vocational programs shall meet all federal and state guidelines and requirements. Advisory councils will be utilized in all vocational programs. Following the concept of area vocational-technical schools as established by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, students from the Pattonville R-III School District may attend vocational-technical training programs at the Area Vocational-Technical facility.”
- **Policy IGBI (Home Schooling)** – This is a new policy, which states, “In lieu of regular school attendance in the Pattonville R-III School District, a child may be excused from compulsory school attendance if the child is provided with home schooling as authorized by Missouri law. A child may be dually enrolled in the Pattonville School District and in home schooling to meet the requirements of the compulsory attendance law. Any alleged violation of the compulsory

attendance law shall be referred to the prosecuting attorney of the county where the child legally resides.”

- **Policy IGCE (Pattonville High School Athletic Summer Camp, Clinics, Workshops, etc., for Students and/or Adults), Procedure IGCE-R (Guidelines for Summer Camps, Clinics, Workshops, etc., for Students and/or Adults) and IGCE-R-E (Pattonville High School Sponsored Camp/Clinic Financial Statement)** – The revision changes the person or office responsible for athletic summer camps from the community education director to the athletic/activities office at the high school.
- **Policy IIA (Instructional Materials)** – The following sentence is now added: “The district will preferentially procure educational materials, including textbooks and collateral materials, from vendors that make the materials available in either a Braille format or electronic format which is computer-readable in a form approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), or both, at no greater cost than for regular materials.”
- **Procedure IIA-R (Textbook Selections and Adoptions)** – Approved revisions change the phrase “instructional materials” to “textbook selection and adoption” and add the statement listed above under Policy IIA (Instructional Materials).
- **Policy IIAC (Library Material Selection and Adoption)** – Approved revisions change the words, “records, tapes, filmstrips,” to “audio and video recordings.” Students are added under the list of persons to be consulted as necessary when purchasing materials.
- **Procedure IIAC-R (Library Materials Selection/Adoption)** – Approved revisions reflect minor words changes.
- **Policy IIACA (“Weeding” of Library Materials)** – The following sentence has been added under reasons for possible removal of library materials: “Materials no longer meet accreditation standards for public school districts in Missouri or Missouri School Library Media Center Standards.”

New Hires

- **Sharon Chiesa**, cook, Holman
- **Carol Farrar**, cook, Holman
- **Van Huynh**, custodian, High School