



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

March 20, 2002

Professional development report reviewed

In a report to the board, members of the Pattonville Professional Development Steering committee said that all recommendations for the 2001-02 school year had been met with some needing continuing emphasis. The Pattonville Professional Development plan is based on the following areas of emphasis:

- Creating a positive learning environment
- Implementing district-focused instructional strategies
- Differentiating Instruction
- Integrating Technology
- Leadership

Mike Fulton, assistant superintendent for research and assessment, highlighted the following survey results:

- 84.4 percent of the staff indicated an agreement/strong agreement with the statement, “The professional development activities I attend are related to district-wide instructional improvement.”
- A high number of staff members are participating in or are interested in participating in teacher collaboratives for staff development.
- There is a continued use of graphic organizers for writing and thinking at all grade levels.
- 77 percent of the staff have students write in the content area once a week or more.
- Staff members show strong support of balanced literacy instructional strategies.
- 97 percent of support staff indicated that sessions provided on staff development day were excellent or above average.

The evaluation concludes that the Professional Development program is aligned with the district’s Comprehensive School Improvement Plan and promotes improved student achievement.

The Professional Development Committee recommends the following for the coming year:

- Continue to provide training that promotes implementation of district-focused instructional strategies. This includes district-supported building based training in literacy, with an emphasis on reading and writing in the core content areas and engaging students in complex reasoning. Reading, writing and complex reasoning should occur weekly in every core subject at every grade level (as developmentally appropriate in kindergarten and first grade.) Specialists should regularly engage students in reading, writing and complex reasoning.
- Continue to provide K-12 teachers with training in the District Level Instructional Strategies: analyzing student data, identifying best instructional practices, engaging students in reading, writing and thinking across the curriculum, and using performance assessment to monitor and provide feedback to students.
- Support learning about and implementation of strategies for differentiated instruction.

- Provide opportunities for teachers to learn collaboratively in study groups on topics identified in the Professional Development Needs Assessment.
- Update the Professional Development Committee Member Handbook.
- Provide training as appropriate for Comprehensive School Improvement Program goals (e.g. School Improvement Teams).

Board approves summer school plan

This year Pattonville's summer school for grades K-8 will include both academic review and enrichment classes which will begin June 10 and end on July 3. Classes will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Briar Crest and Carrollton Oaks students will attend a school-wide Title I program for academic review at Briar Crest Elementary School. Students from Parkwood, Bridgeway and Carrollton will attend Title I classes at Remington Traditional School. Students from Rose Acres and Willow Brook will attend a non-title academic review program at Willow Brook Elementary School. Students from Remington will attend the program for the school in their attendance areas. Plans are to offer a program at each elementary summer school site for students who will begin kindergarten in August who are referred through Parents As Teachers.

Students in grades 6-8 will attend a Title I program at Pattonville Heights Middle School. The enrichment programs for grades K-8 also will be located at Pattonville Heights.

The summer school program for grades 9-12 will include both academic review and elective courses. Classes will be June 4 through June 29. The first session begins at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 10:55 a.m. The second session begins at 11:20 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. Classes are Monday through Friday. Due to construction at Pattonville High School, the 9-12 program will be held at Holman Middle School.

Classes will be offered based upon actual student enrollment.

Superintendent Hugh Kinney informed the board that if some of the state education budget reductions are put into place, the summer school program could cost the district an additional \$30,000.

In a related matter, the board approved the recommendations for the employment of summer school staff.

Support staff salary schedule approved

The board approved a 5.5 percent wage increase for the support staff for the 2002-03 school year. This is the second year of a two-year economic agreement that reflects a total 11% increase over the two years. The package also includes the second year of a two-year salary adjustment that was necessary to be competitive with surrounding St. Louis County school districts. The adjustment this year adds \$43,582, which brings the total salary package to 5.95%.

Other support staff adjustments included:

- Creating a new salaried pay channel for the payroll coordinator
- Moving the district's web master from a technology support specialist position to the computer programmer channel
- Creating a new pay channel for the district photographer, with salary to remain the same
- Classification of the position of business manager as a Program Director I if the individual has a CPA or advanced degree. Without these, the individual would be placed on the Program Director II channel
- Adding an additional electrician to the maintenance staff.

Board hires teaching staff for 2002-03

In compliance with state law, the board approved the recommendations for renewal of contracts for the district certificated staff based on administrative recommendations. The board also approved the separation of some probationary staff and made an adjustment to the full-time equivalency of three staff members.

Board/patron forum summary reviewed

The board reviewed the summary of the board/patron open forum, which was held March 4. There were 42 staff members, parents and students in attendance. Ninety-seven percent of those responding to a survey given at the forum found the event valuable, useful and helpful in communicating with board members. Major themes of discussion were

- Challenge/rigor in the curriculum to address the needs of higher-level students
- Stress on children with academics and Missouri Assessment Program tests
- Alternative programs/programs for at-risk/special needs students/non-college bound kids.

Members of the board all said they liked the open topic format for the forum. Suggestions for improvement were to increase attendance and to divide the small discussion groups more evenly.

The report will be forward to the individual school improvement teams for use in their planning.

All Night-Graduation party receives financial support from the board

Eliza Malon, Pattonville High School senior class president, and Amy Dwyer, class secretary, requested a financial donation for the all-night graduation party. Following their request, the board voted to donate an amount equivalent to the donation provided the previous year.

Responses to Special School District approved

The board reviewed and approved the written responses to the questions asked by the Special School District's Public Review Committee. The responses were prepared by Dr. John Heskett, assistant superintendent for pupil services, following the board's discussion at its February 26 meeting.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

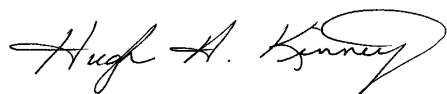
Dear Pattonville family,

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

- Last Thursday, I was honored to join our Board of Education in accepting a “Distinction in Performance” Award from the state of Missouri. Pattonville is one of 16 St. Louis area school districts that was honored with this award for its academic performance as measured on the district’s Annual Performance Report (APR). My thanks goes to each and every staff member, student, parent and administrator for making this possible.
- Congrats to Remington Traditional School for again making the state’s top 10 list for performance on the Missouri Assessment Program. This is Remington’s third year to make the list of the highest performing schools in Missouri. Remington was named as one of the top 10 mid-sized schools in Missouri for its performance on the elementary social studies exam and on the middle school math and social studies exams.
- In the St. Louis Post-Dispatch’s Gateway Guide to Schools 2002, Pattonville was noted for having scores that exceeded expectations in 19 percent of the content areas in which students were tested on the 2001 spring MAP tests, one of the highest percentages in St. Louis County. In addition, the guide listed 32 schools in the St. Louis metro area that exceeded expectations in 3 out of 4 or 4 out of 4 content areas. Two of these schools are in Pattonville – Carrollton Oaks Elementary and Remington Traditional School. Congratulations to all.

What do the three things above have in common? Academic achievement! I believe this shows we are making progress in our journey to ensure that all children achieve. I’m proud of how far we’ve come. Our staff, students, parents, administrators and community have worked hard to make a difference for children, and their efforts are paying off. As we approach MAP testing time after spring break, let’s continue to stay focused on the task at hand. Let’s help our students continue to do their best. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Hugh A. Kinney, Ed.D.

Business Bits

Paying the Bills

The board approved paying the following bills during its March 19 meeting:

- Regular bills in the amount of \$1,231,100.64
- Cafeteria bills in the amount of \$98,693.56

New Hires

- **Kimberly Sims**, teacher assistant, Briar Crest
- **Douglas Bills**, custodian, Carrollton
- **Melvin Horton**, custodian, Pattonville High School
- **Tiffany Smith**, writing center supervisor teacher assistant, high school
- **Denise Jasso**, early childhood special education occupational therapist, location to be determined
- **Lisa Schulte**, early childhood special education occupational therapist, location to be determined
- **Carla Kurth**, early childhood special education physical therapist, location to be determined
- **Toni Bryant**, early childhood special education social worker, Learning Center
- **Sherrie Pearse**, early childhood special education paraprofessional I, location to be determined
- **Glenda Pope**, early childhood special education paraprofessional II, location to be determined
- **Michelle Ashton**, early childhood special education paraprofessional II, location to be determined
- **Mary Jones**, early childhood special education teacher, Learning Center
- **Henri LePique**, early childhood special education teacher, Learning Center
- **Debra McCormack**, early childhood special education teacher, Willow Brook
- **Mary Ellen Sievers**, early childhood special education teacher, Bridgeway
- **Nancy Creek**, early childhood special education speech/language therapist, location to be determined
- **Linda Tyahla**, early childhood special education speech/language therapist, location to be determined
- **Katherine Laramie**, gifted education teacher, Pattonville Heights
- **Lisa Harmon**, biology teacher, high school