



News from the **Pattonville School District Board of Education**

September 26, 2001

Parents give board update on redistricting work

Pattonville parents Tammy Yeaton and Ann Weible on Sept. 25 gave Pattonville school board members an update on the Parent Redistricting Committee's work to date and a glimpse of a plan now being considered by the committee. Yeaton and Weible are members of a Parent Redistricting Committee created by the Board of Education to develop a plan for redrawing attendance boundaries – an action necessitated by the opening of Pattonville's newest elementary school next fall.

The new elementary school will open in St. Ann (near the Shop 'n Save grocery store) as a replacement for Carrollton and Carrollton Oaks elementary schools, both of which have been bought as part of Lambert Airport's Federal Aviation Administration-approved expansion plan. The airport is providing the funds to build the new school.

The committee has been meeting throughout the summer and fall to develop new attendance boundaries.

"We've looked at nine different plans," said Tammy Yeaton. "The one we're looking at right now moves the least amount of students. As we keep getting more and more feedback from the community, we keep adjusting plans."

In charging the committee with the task of redrawing attendance boundaries, the board required the plan to be put together by a committee of parents and that there be community input into the process. The board also outlined three "wants" that it asked the committee to consider, but that were not required:

- For the new boundaries to result in the minimum number of students moving from an existing school to an existing school;
- For the new boundaries to result in students attending the school closest to their residence; and
- For the new boundaries to insure a balanced enrollment based on the building capacity.

"Balancing all three 'wants' was difficult," said Weible, adding that the committee felt moving the fewest amount of students was "almost a must" because of the impact moving can have on children. "Balanced enrollment at first was a priority, but as we heard comments from the parents, it became less of a priority."

Specifics of the plan now being considered are as follows:

1. The plan moves the least amount of pupils – 80 at the elementary level (not counting Carrollton and Carrollton Oaks children) and 15 middle school students. This represents less than 1.5 percent of Pattonville's student population.
2. All of Carrollton and Carrollton Oaks will attend the new school, along with small sections of the current Bridgeway and Briar Crest attendance areas. All other elementary attendance areas will remain the same.

3. The current elementary-to-middle school feeder system will remain unchanged. Briar Crest, the new elementary school and Rose Acres will attend Holman, and Bridgeway, Parkwood and Willow Brook will continue to attend Pattonville Heights.
4. Additional rooms are available in the 2002-2003 school year, assuming enrollment projections hold true and modular classrooms are still used.
5. The plan is considered “good” for 5 to 7 years because there are too many “unknowns” in Pattonville’s future (i.e., possible home buy-outs on Cypress Road to commercial investors and possible reappearance of younger families in Pattonville’s residential areas.)

“The parents are doing a wonderful job with this, and they’re listening to the community at every step. We’ve tried to make this a very open process,” said Mike Fulton, assistant superintendent for planning and assessment. Fulton has been assisting the committee with its work.

The committee will bring a tentative plan to the board on Oct. 9. Next, the committee will host Redistricting Open Forums from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29, at Pattonville Heights Middle School and from 3 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2, at Holman Middle School. During these events, the parents and staff can review a proposed plan and provide written or verbal feedback and suggestions. A final recommendation will be brought to the board in December, and the board is expected to vote on the final recommendation in January.

Pattonville makes the grade on annual audit report

Pattonville received a good review from auditors at Schowalter and Jabouri during a report to the Board of Education on Sept. 25. After auditing the district’s financial records for the 2000-2001 fiscal year, auditors said they found no instances of non-compliance or areas of weaknesses in the internal control structures. In addition, all areas the firm suggested for improvements were implemented prior to the report to the board.

Technology services improve under restructuring

Web-based surveys of Pattonville certified and support staff showed high praise for Pattonville’s technology services department.

Last year, the district’s data processing and instructional technology departments combined under the leadership of Dr. Marilyn Terry to become the technology services department. The group of 12 employees in the department support more than 5,000 administrative and instructional computers, 550 software titles, the district’s mainframe (AS400), telephone system, voice mail, network, E-mail, staff development, web site, student technology utilization and technology grants.

Nearly 90 percent of those who responded to the survey rated the department’s service as being good, effective or highly effective. The department also received high marks in the areas of installing new hardware, troubleshooting problems and communication.

Terry updated board members on the progress of technology bond issue projects. The bond issue approved in April 2000 allowed \$4 million to purchase new technology for students and staff. Terry said her staff has installed 571 teacher computers, 150 administrative computers, and new network equipment; activated existing classroom fiber connections; created a wireless network; begun technology training for staff; and helped buildings create technology plans for student computer usage.

In addition, all student computers are installed at Briar Crest, Bridgeway, Carrollton, Carrollton Oaks, Remington, Willow Brook and the High School. The department is still working to install computers at Holman, Pattonville Heights, Parkwood and Rose Acres. Many schools have opted to put laptop computers – called iBooks – on carts that can be transported from classroom to classroom and connected to the Internet via a wireless network. The district’s purchase of nearly 2,000 high-end,

Internet-ready computers makes the district's ratio of students to computers less than four to one. The state average is six students for every one computer.

"I'd like to thank you (the board) and our community," Terry told the board. "Without the bond issue we wouldn't have this wonderful technology for our kids."

The following recommendations were made as part of the evaluation of the technology program:

- Reconvene the technology committee for the 2001-2002 school year to provide additional support, direction and recommendations.
- Increase student access to computer technology through the continued installation of student computers and the expansion of our wireless network. Students should be pre- and post-surveyed to determine if access and utilization has increased.
- Continue technology certification process. Devise and implement recommendations for increasing participation.
- Plan and pilot PowerSchool student management software (Web-based student information package in which parents can get attendance and grade information using confidential passwords) in preparation for full implementation during the 2002-2003 school year.
- Plan and implement new FMS financial software and human resource software.

Board approves Walk for Hunger Proclamation

The Pattonville Board of Education approved a proclamation declaring Sunday, Sept. 30, as "Community Walk for Hunger Day" in the Pattonville School District.

The National Honor Society at Pattonville High School is helping to sponsor a local "Crop Walk for Hunger" with the Community Helping Ministry on Sunday, Sept. 30. The event will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Pattonville High School.

The Crop Walk is an international event that raises money and awareness of hunger worldwide. Part of the proceeds from the local event go to the Community Helping Ministry to aid families in the Pattonville School District. Students and other walkers will collect money from sponsors and participate in a one- or two-mile walk.

For more information, call Deb Powers at Community Helping Ministry at 770-2535 or call Rebecca Krohn, Pattonville High School Community Service Coordinator, at 213-8051.

Board approves team trip to national championship

The board approved a request by the Varsity Drill Team to participate in the National Dance Team Championships in Orlando, Florida, in February 2002. The team will leave after school on Friday, Feb. 1, 2002, and return Monday evening. Each participant is responsible for her proportional cost of the trip.

Modifications to progress report approved

The Pattonville school board approved recommendations by the Elementary Report Card Committee to modify progress reports for elementary art, music and physical education for grades kindergarten through four and to add a progress report for art, music and physical education for fifth grade beginning with the 2001-2002 school year. Changes to the existing progress reports occurred mostly in the wording of the descriptors, said Mike Fulton, assistant superintendent for planning and assessment. The format remains unchanged.

Kinney's Corner

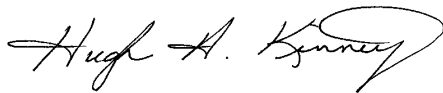
Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

Dear Pattonville family,

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every one of you for a smooth start to the 2001-2002 school year. I know, however, all of us were stricken with sadness and shock over the tragic terrorist attacks that took place in our nation on Sept. 11. The undaunted spirit of compassion that rose out of our classrooms and our community in the hours and days that followed did not surprise me, however.

From building to building, our kids took the lead to raise funds for victims and survivors of this devastating event. Our students and our staff also sent the message to our community and our nation that we stand united, that we care, and that we have hope for our future. From patriotic signs on school fences to gestures of camaraderie on our sports fields, our Pattonville community showed that we are a patriotic family that cares for our national neighbors. Thank you to each person for the way you have helped (and continue to help) our young ones through a time that is difficult for even adults to understand.

Sincerely,



Hugh A. Kinney, Ed.D.

Business Bits

Policy Updates

- **Policy DLC-R (Expense Reimbursement)** – The board lodged for action a change that would increase reimbursable meal costs to an average of \$32 per day.
- **Policy DJF-R (Purchasing Procedures)** – Changes lodged for action on Sept. 25 are intended to provide clarification on a paragraph referring to reimbursements. The paragraph with proposed changes reads as follows: “Employees may be reimbursed for out of pocket district purchases, less sales tax, in an amount not to exceed a daily amount of \$100, if the purchase has been pre-approved by the principal. Out of pocket expenditures that exceed \$100 will only be reimbursed if a prepared purchase order has been signed by the principal. The preferred method of purchase is to issue a purchase order to a vendor for these expenses.”

Paying the Bills

The board approved paying the following bills during its Sept. 25 meeting:

- Regular bills in the amount of \$2,029,521.71
- Cafeteria bills in the amount of \$45,178.10
- An invoice for football jerseys from Magan & Associates in the amount of \$6,013.97
- Concannon & Jaeger for court reporting services in the amount of \$3,433

- Legal services from Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum in the amount of \$5,377.16

Bid Awards

The board approved the following bid awards during its Sept. 25 meeting:

- \$12,000 bid for testing services for the high school library and science wing additions to Midwest Engineering Services, Inc. (a bond issue item)
- \$6,108 bid for industrial technology computers to Skywalker Communications (a bond issue purchase)
- \$10,702 for IBM Maintenance Service Agreement for the AS400 to DRX Technologies, Inc.
- \$23,800 bid for transportation complex retaining walls to Masters Ground Control, Inc. (a bond issue purchase)

New Hires

- **Joan Besmer**, nurse, Briar Crest
- **Mary Brummet**, teacher assistant, Bridgeway
- **Yvonne Whitehead**, teacher assistant, Rose Acres
- **Patti Saathoff**, teacher assistant, Pattonville Heights
- **William Jones**, teacher assistant, Pattonville Heights
- **George Calhoun**, teacher assistant, high school
- **Noble Franklin Farley**, bus driver, transportation
- **Jennifer Hyatt**, teacher assistant, Carrollton Oaks
- **M. Kathleen Benning**, teacher assistant, Parkwood
- **Leslie Carroll**, cook, Parkwood
- **Linda Cox**, teacher assistant, Parkwood
- **Toby Glass**, custodian, high school
- **Otis Truitt**, bus driver, transportation
- **Claudia Snyder**, computer teacher, Bridgeway
- **Amy Frost**, fifth grade teacher, Carrollton Oaks
- **Terry Maxwell**, science teacher, high school