



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

Jan. 23, 2002

## Board OKs parents' proposal for new attendance boundaries; changes to take affect in August

**T**he Board of Education of the Pattonville School District approved on Jan. 22 a recommendation made by a parent committee for redistricting Pattonville's elementary attendance boundaries. The changes will take affect next school year.

Pattonville had to redraw its attendance boundaries this year due to the opening of a new elementary school next fall in St. Ann. The new school will serve as a replacement for Carrollton and Carrollton Oaks elementary schools, both of which have been bought as part of Lambert Airport's expansion plan. The airport is providing the funds to build the new school.

After developing and considering nine different redistricting plans, the Pattonville Parent Redistricting Committee recommended to the board a plan that moved the least amount of students. The approved plan moves all of Carrollton and Carrollton Oaks students, as well as approximately 80 elementary students from the current attendance areas of the Bridgeway Elementary and Briar Crest Accelerated School attendance areas.

The committee – made up of 20 parents (as well as parent alternates) from throughout the district – met throughout the summer and fall to develop a recommendation for new attendance boundaries. The committee presented its proposed plan to the board on Jan. 8.

"I want to commend and thank the Parent Redistricting Committee for its work," said Pattonville Board President Kathy Fitzgerald. "These parents volunteered numerous hours of their time and took on a very difficult and emotional task. I believe they did their work focused on doing what was best for all the children of Pattonville, while also keeping in mind the impact their work would have on hundreds of individual children moving to a new school."

Specifics of the approved plan are as follows:

- The plan moves approximately 80 students 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.
- 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.
- The Bridgeway section that will go to the new school is bordered by St. Charles Rock Road to the north, Hellebush Park on the west, Old St. Charles Road on the south and Lindbergh Boulevard on the east. The Briar Crest section going to the new school is bordered by St. Charles Rock Road on the north, Lindbergh Boulevard and a section of Adie Road (between Lee Lane and St. Henry Lane) on the west, Old St. Charles Road and St. Henry Lane on the south and the school district boundary with the Ritenour School District on the east. The exception is Imperial Gardens Drive, which will continue going to Briar Crest.

- The current elementary-to-middle school feeder system will remain unchanged. Briar Crest, Rose Acres and the new elementary school will attend Holman, while Bridgeway, Parkwood and Willow Brook will continue to attend Pattonville Heights.
- The plan moves a portion of Essex Avenue (11361 to 11450) currently in the Bridgeway attendance area to Parkwood. This does not involve students changing schools, since students at these addresses currently attend Parkwood.
- Adjustments were made to Bridgeway’s attendance area to include a portion of Smiley Avenue between Old St. Charles Rock Road and Terry Avenue. Students in this area currently receive bus service to Bridgeway.
- The plan includes a projected number of additional classrooms that will be available at each school, assuming the continued use of modular classrooms.

Seven residents from the current Bridgeway attendance area slated to go to the new elementary school also addressed the board and encouraged board members to leave them in the Bridgeway area or provide an exception for their children to continue at their present school.

The board also approved an amendment to the committee’s recommendation that would give current Bridgeway and Briar Crest students affected by the boundary changes first priority under the district’s exceptional attendance policy. Under the policy, parents can apply for their children to attend a school outside their attendance area if the child is in good standing (no academic, attendance or discipline concerns), there is adequate space in the receiving school and parents provide their own transportation.

Maps of the new attendance boundaries can be viewed by going to Pattonville’s web site at [www.psd3.org](http://www.psd3.org) and looking under “Recent News and Information.”

## Summer school schedule to be changed

Pattonville’s enrichment and remedial summer school program this year will be revised to take place in four weeks instead of the usual six, said Dr. Debra Ebel, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. The change is being made in an attempt to increase participation and attendance in the program. The change also allows for crucial bond issue work to be completed during the summer months when children are not present.

The program for students in grades kindergarten through eight will take place five days a week from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 10 through July 3. The schedule includes a 20-minute lunch period. The high school summer school program will run from June 4 through June 28 with the first session running from 7:45 to 10:55 a.m. and the second session running from 11:20 to 2:30 p.m.

All the changes meet state guidelines for length of hours required.

## Board approves proposal to assume responsibility for early childhood special education programs

Pattonville school board members on Jan. 22 approved a proposal that enables the Pattonville School District to assume responsibility for early childhood special education services for Pattonville children. Currently, the Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County provides these services.

Estimated cost for the program is \$1.9 million, all of which would be funded by the state of Missouri without the use of local tax revenues. The change enables Pattonville to expand and enhance early care and education opportunities for young children and their families. Expanding services is a part of Pattonville’s Early Childhood Strategic Plan that was approved by the Pattonville Board of Education two years ago.

State law requires that school districts provide special education and related services for children 3 and 4 years of age who have been identified as disabled under the provisions of state law. In St. Louis County, SSD is required to provide these services, however, state law also allows SSD's partner districts, such as Pattonville, to provide these services.

"Our district is fortunate to be able to build on the effective programs that have already been established by SSD," said Dr. John Heskett, assistant superintendent for pupil services. "Making this change will enable us to provide a seamless, less fragmented early childhood program for our children. In addition, there will be more continuity of services as we integrate early childhood special education with our existing Parents As Teachers and preschool programs."

## Board approves budget revisions

Pattonville's annual budget revision was approved by the Pattonville Board of Education on Jan. 22. The revised budget for 2001-2002 is a balanced budget when bond issue and one-time expenditures are excluded. The growth in assessed valuation in the district continues to offset the loss of tax revenues due to the airport expansion and other factors, according to Ron Mastin, chief financial officer.

Included in the revision is an additional \$13 million to both revenues and expenditures. This revision was made in order to reflect the revenues and expenditures associated with construction of the new elementary school with funds from Lambert Airport.

Significant changes to the revenue budget included: a growth in assessed valuation that brought in more current and delinquent taxes; a decrease of \$130,520 in Proposition C sales tax revenue; and a reduction in state revenue due to a decline in student population and state-funded grants.

Major changes reflected in the adjusted expenditure budget were:

- The purchase of property adjacent to Briar Crest Accelerated School to be used to expand parking and playground areas;
- Curriculum adoptions;
- Waterford Early Reading Program Lab to improve reading skills;
- Adjustments to certified and support staff salaries and fringe benefits;
- New library furniture at the high school;
- Land purchase for future construction projects to be completed by the home construction classes at Pattonville High School; and
- A soccer field partnership with the city of Maryland Heights to develop land adjacent to Parkwood Elementary School.

## Kinney's contract extended by board

The Pattonville Board of Education on Jan. 22 unanimously voted to extend the contract of Superintendent Hugh Kinney for another year. The vote extends Kinney's contract through the year 2005.

"Since Dr. Kinney joined the Pattonville School District, he has had one goal – to improve student achievement for all children," said Board President Kathy Fitzgerald. "Through his leadership, our academic achievement has improved, the dropout rate has declined, services have increased for students needing extra assistance and course offerings have been made more rigorous and challenging. He has truly made a difference in the lives of our community's children."

Kinney was named superintendent of Pattonville in 1997. He was the superintendent of the Affton School District prior to coming to Pattonville and also served as an area superintendent in the Parkway School District.

Kinney is active locally and on the state level. He served on the state's Blue Ribbon Task Force dealing with recruitment and retention of qualified teachers in Missouri and on the Special Education

Advisory Panel to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. He was named community development vice president of the Northwest Communities Chamber of Commerce and is past chairman of the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC). He is currently serving as the chairperson of the *Characterplus* program.

## Jan. 23 is School Nurses Day

The Board of Education approved a proclamation declaring Wednesday, Jan. 23, as School Nurse Day in the Pattonville School District. Pattonville has 14 school nurses serving approximately 6,500 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12.

## Amendment approved to varsity drill team trip

The Board of Education approved an amendment to a scheduled trip by the Pattonville High School Varsity Drill Team.

In September 2001, 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 was scheduled to leave after school on Friday, Feb. 1, 2002, and return Monday evening; however due to changing check-in requirements by airlines and heightened security, the students must leave earlier on Feb. 1.

The board approved an amendment that would allow the students to miss a half day of school on Feb. 1 to accommodate travel needs.

## **Kinney's Corner**

*Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney*

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Dear Pattonville family,

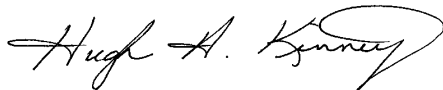
I would like to share with you a few of the great things happening in Pattonville.

- This week is School Board Member Recognition Week in the state of Missouri. Last night, we honored our board for its combined 68 years worth of service to Pattonville children, families and staff. Please join me in saying “thank you” to these hard-working, dedicated volunteers.
- I would like to extend a personal “thank you” to all the parents who served on the Parent Redistricting Committee. If you know one of the volunteers, please join me in doing the same. They volunteered to do a job no one wanted to do, and they took their responsibility very seriously. They had the best interest of ALL Pattonville children at heart, and they did a great job. It’s because we have volunteers such as these parents that Pattonville is a great place to learn and work.
- The Pattonville Education Foundation hosted a Book Fair for children who were experiencing temporary transitions in housing on Jan. 22 at the Pattonville Learning Center. The Book Fair was funded by a grant awarded by Commerce Bank to the Foundation in the name of Robert Drummond, Pattonville Board of Education Director, for his service to the

community. Each child invited to attend the fair, which was held in cooperation with Scholastic Book Fairs, was able to select three books to take home, read and keep in his or her personal library. The books were free for all children selected to participate in the program. The Foundation hopes to repeat the program again in the spring and possibly next year, as well.

As the winter months wind down, we start to think about spring, spring break and the summer that's just around the corner. But in Pattonville, I know all of us also remain focused on our task of teaching and learning. As MAP testing approaches, please continue this focus and carry on the Pattonville tradition of doing what's best for all kids. You can and do make a difference. 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 Jan. 22 meeting:

- Payment of 40 percent of the annual dues for membership in the Cooperating School Districts in the amount of \$50,333 for the 2001-2002 school year.
- Legal bills in the amount of \$2,839.08 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum.

### Bid Awards

The board approved the following bid awards during its Jan. 22 meeting:

- \$207,860 to Concrete Design Inc. for concrete flatwork for Phase I bond issue projects.
- \$32.50 per hour and a 10 percent discount on parts to Unichem Manufacturing for custodial equipment repair.
- \$18,256 to Electrostatic Refinishers for the electrostatic painting of lockers at Pattonville High School.
- \$8,995 to Stephens Floor Covering Company for carpeting at Pattonville Heights Middle School.
- \$20,290.50 to Gateway Equipment Company for a skid steer loader.

### Policy/Procedure Updates

The board lodged for action the following procedures or policies at its Jan. 22 meeting:

- **Procedure GDBA-R (Job Description Review Committee Procedure for Hourly Employees)** - A sentence was added which reads, "The applications will be reviewed by the assistant superintendent for human resources, and those not meeting the change criteria will be returned to the employee with an explanation."
- **Procedure GDBD-R-2 (Support Staff Non-Compensable Leave of Absence Procedure)** – The proposed changes reflect minor grammatical adjustments.
- **Procedure GDBD-R-4 (Jury Duty)** – The proposed revision changes the title of the fund that receives jury duty pay reimbursements from the "Incidental Fund" to the "General Fund."

- **Policy GDBF (Staff Health)** – The proposed revision changes the word “classified” to “support” when referring to support staff employees.

It is anticipated the board will approve these policies at its Feb. 12 meeting. The board reviewed the following procedures or policies at its Jan. 22 meeting:

- **Procedure GCBC-R-2 (Personal Leave)**
- **Policy GDBD (Leaves of Absence)**
- **Procedure GDBD-R-1 (Support Staff Military Leave of Absence)**

### New Hires

- **Karen Arana**, English For Speakers of Other Languages teacher assistant, Pattonville Heights
- **Rebecca Baker-Buckley**, school bus aide, transportation