



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

October 23, 2002

Significant gains made in student achievement

An evaluation of Pattonville's curriculum and instruction program shows that Pattonville's student achievement improved significantly from the first year Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests were administered in 1999 to the spring 2002 testing program. Gains were made in all content areas and at all grade levels, with some of the biggest gains in communication arts at all levels and science at the elementary level.

In addition, Pattonville students scored better than the state average in 23 out of 24 areas where comparisons could be made on the spring 2002 MAP tests. This includes the percentage of students moving out of the bottom two levels (progressing and Step 1) and the percentage of students moving into the top two levels (advanced and proficient).

These were among the conclusions shared during an evaluation report given to the Board of Education on Oct. 22.

"We believe that we are realizing our mission, 'That all will learn,'" said Mike Fulton, assistant superintendent for planning and assessment, during the report. "That has come about as part of a joint effort on the part of this community."

"We're very excited about where we are at this point in time," said Board Vice President Ron Kuschel after the presentation. "On behalf of everyone it's a great job, and I'm really proud of the work that's been done."

"One of the reasons I came to Pattonville was because the Board of Education was interested in doing the very best for the kids in this district," said Hugh Kinney, superintendent. "I've been really fortunate in the six years I've been in Pattonville to work with boards of education that focus on what is best for kids."

Other conclusions drawn from the report indicate:

- Pattonville has met its state-established goals for reading achievement.
- The dropout rate has remained below 3 percent for the past four years.
- The attendance rate of students has been 94 percent or more for the past four years.
- The ACT scores of Pattonville students improved from 1999 to 2002, and students scored above state and national averages in 2002. The number of students taking the test has increased during this time period.
- Circulation of books in Pattonville libraries has increased over the last seven years – from an average of 28 books checked out per student in 1995 to 44 in the 2001-2002 school year.
- Significant improvements were made on the MAP by students represented in disaggregated groups – special education students, students eligible for free and reduced lunch, gender groups, gifted and African-American students.

Several recommendations were made for continuing the trend of improvement:

- Develop and implement school plans to improve student achievement;

- Analyze student learning on the essential curriculum using various assessments for the purpose of improving instruction;
- Continue the Literacy Project, which includes incorporating writing, reading and thinking in every content area every week; and
- Continue to emphasize increased student achievement in the core disciplines.

Holman field trip to Memphis approved

The Pattonville Board of Education on Oct. 22 approved a requested by a sixth-grade team at Holman Middle School to sponsor a field trip to Memphis, Tenn. The trip will allow students to experience hands-on history from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, which is part of the sixth-grade curriculum. Students will visit the Memphis Belle bomber, Graceland and the National Civil Rights Museum. The two-day trip will take place in May.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

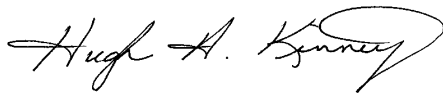
Dear Pattonville family,

Here's a look at what's happening:

- Homecoming last weekend was great, and the weather cooperated. It was wonderful to see our students and families joining together in a show of school spirit. Thanks to all who organized the various aspects of this event and made it a special day for our students.
- Kudos to the finance department at Pattonville. Thanks to sound fiscal management and a history of building balances to avoid borrowing money for operating expenses, our bond rating was improved from A+ to AA-. This is one of the highest ratings a school district can receive and will ultimately save the Pattonville taxpayers money as we finance and refinance bond issues.

It's Red Ribbon Week this week, and I want to thank all our staff and parents for focusing our children's thoughts and activities on making good, healthy choices in life. You are great role models!

Sincerely,



Hugh A. Kinney, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Business Bits

Approval of bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on Oct. 22 approved the following bills and change orders:

- \$16,688.91 for work performed by NetCom at Drummond Elementary;
- \$141,056.84 for work performed by FruCon Construction at Drummond Elementary; and
- \$7,686.55 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum for legal services.

Policy/Procedures

The Pattonville school board approved the following policies and procedures on Oct. 22:

- **Procedure GDPE-R-2 (Support Staff Retirement Bonus Buy-Out)** – The approved changes state “Effective Nov. 1, 2002, membership service will be frozen for staff who qualify for retirement under the rule of 80 or 30 years of service,” and “Effective Nov. 1, 2002, the state retirement factor will be frozen at .0161 for staff who do not qualify for retirement under the rule of 80 or 30 years of service and .0241 for staff who do qualify for retirement under the rule of 80 or 30 years of service. Staff who have obtained the .0241 factor by Oct. 31, 2002 will maintain this factor after the age of 62.”
- **Policy GCBG (Short Leaves to Serve on Juries and as Consultants, Judges or Sports Officials)** – The words “he/she” is changed to “employee,” and “teacher’s fund” to “special fund.”
- **Policy GCBF (Itinerant Teachers)** – Approved edits reflect a minor word change.
- **Policy GCBG (Professional Dues Deduction)** – Approved edits change the prefix “bi” to “semi.”
- **Policy GCF (Professional Staff Orientation)** – Approved edits remove the words “his/her.”
- **Policy GCG (Professional Staff Probation and Tenure)** – The approved revision adds a year for the legal references, the year 1999.
- **Procedure GCBG-R-3 (Professional Staff Leaves of Absence – Military Leave)** – Edits change the words, “he/she” to “returnee,” “personnel” to “human resources,” and “he/she” to “teacher.”
- **Procedure GCBG-R-4 (Professional Staff Leaves of Absence – Exchange Teaching)** – Revisions change the words “he/she” to “they” or “their.”
- **Procedure GCBG-R-5 (Professional Staff Leaves of Absence – Sabbatical Leave)** –Revisions change the words “his/her” to “their.”
- **Procedure GCBG-R-5-E-1 (Sabbatical Leave Contract)** – Approved revisions change the words “his/her” to “their” and “him/her” to “employee.”
- **Procedure GDBF-R (Support Staff Health Appraisals)** – The approved revision changes the word “within” to “no later than.”

The board also lodged for action the following policies and procedures. The board is expected to vote on these items during its regular Nov. 12 board meeting:

- **Policy GDBB (Overtime/Extra Time Compensation for Hourly Support Staff)** – The proposed revisions change the word “Non-exempt” to “hourly” and removes the phrases, “as defined by FLSA criteria as school nurses” and “and/or compensatory time off.” The sentence, “‘Exempt’ support employees as defined by the FLSA shall be compensated for ‘extra time’ according to procedure GDBB-R,” will also be removed.
- **Procedure GDBB-R (Overtime/Extra Time Compensation for Hourly Support Staff)** – The proposed revisions include changing the word “non-exempt” to “hourly” and removing the

following paragraph: “The ‘non-exempt’ or ‘exempt’ status of a support staff position shall be determined by the application of the appropriate criteria contained in the Fair Labor and Standards Act (FLSA), 29 U.S.C. 201-219, and accompanying regulations and each classification shall be appropriately designated. (A lists of positions is contained in procedure GDB-R).” Under the heading “approval,” the words “and extra time” were added, and the words, “and all extra time for exempt employees” were removed.

- **Procedure GDBC-R-3 (Exhaustion of Sick Leave for Critical/Extended Illness)** – Proposed revisions reflect minor grammatical changes and adds the words “Subject to the support staff member’s rights, if any, under the Family and Medical Leave Act,” to two paragraphs.
- **Policy GDD (Equal Opportunity)** – The proposed revision changes the word “sex” to “gender.”
- **Policy GDJ (Work Schedules)** – The proposed revision changes the words “central office” to “learning center.” New employee categories are added: Paraprofessionals I and II, Paraprofessionals II High School and Paraprofessionals II Elem/Middle. The following sentence is also proposed to be added: “The District will establish an hourly support staff compensated days schedule with Economic Agreement.”

The board also gave its approval on Oct. 22 to the review of the following:

- Policy GDI (Support Staff Assignments and Transfers); and
- Policy GDCA (Support Staff Recruiting/Posting of Vacancies/Hirings).

New Hires

- **Melissa Murphy**, paraprofessional, Briar Crest
- **Sara Turner**, clerical assistant, Holman

Your Board of Education

- **Ralph Stahlhut**, President
- **Ron Kuschel**, Vice President
- **Pat Bryant**, Secretary
- **Keith Gillming**, Treasurer
- **Jeff Fitterling**, Director
- **Kathy Fitzgerald**, Director
- **Michael Stewart**, Director