



Board at Work

News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

April 24, 2002

Pattonville's newest elementary school named for retired board member who served 30 years

Robert Drummond retired this month after serving on the Pattonville Board of Education for 30 years, but Pattonville residents and students will not soon forget his name.

The Board of Education on April 23 voted unanimously to name the district's newest elementary school Robert Drummond Elementary. The school is located in St. Ann and is expected to open for classes in August. It is being built with funds from the city of St. Louis as a replacement school for Carrollton and Carrollton Oaks elementary schools, both of which have been purchased as part of the Lambert Airport expansion plan.

"Bob has given so much of himself to this school district and this community," said Board President Ralph Stahlhut. "I can't think of a better person to honor than Bob for his volunteer commitment and his dedication to a quality education for our kids. His name on this school will serve as an enduring symbol of our belief in the importance of giving back to the community and doing what's best for kids."



"I think the board made an excellent choice in naming the new school after Mr. Drummond," said Superintendent Hugh Kinney. "During his 30 years on the board, Bob was driven by his desire to always do what's best for children. He is a true champion of public education and spent his lifetime looking for ways to provide more and better opportunities for not only our students, but also for young people all over Missouri."

A committee was formed to come up with suggested names for the new elementary. The committee consisted of 11 members, including two teachers, one support staff, the principal of the new school, six parents and the superintendent. Flyers were sent to all student families who will be attending the new school, as well as the staff members moving there. Nearly 80 flyers were returned with 40 suggested names. Drummond's name was suggested 21 times on the returned flyers.

"There's only one thing to say, and that's 'Thank you,'"



Above, a view of Robert Drummond Elementary, currently under construction, and a photo of the school's namesake.

said Drummond after the board's vote. "I am deeply honored by your action. I'm touched by your action. You do me great honor. I could not be more pleased and honored."

Drummond announced last winter that he would not seek re-election to the Board of Education in the April 2002 election after having dedicated 30 years of his life to Pattonville children and families. He has been consistently elected to serve on the school board, a volunteer position, since 1972.

Drummond had a role in many improvements during his tenure on the board. Under his leadership Pattonville was the first district in the area to establish an alternative high school, to reconfigure from junior highs to middle schools and to open a choice elementary school. He has helped the district improve its MAP (Missouri Assessment Program) scores, lower class sizes, offer full-day kindergarten to all students, reduce the dropout rate and form a partnership to use methane gas from a nearby landfill to heat Pattonville High School. He has helped to lead the district through several successful tax and bond levy campaigns. This money has financed air-conditioning in all Pattonville schools, a community auditorium, a unique learning center and the opportunity to make the latest in technology equipment available to Pattonville students and staff.

Drummond has held every office on the Pattonville Board of Education. He has also served as president of the Missouri School Boards Association and in leadership positions in area-wide programs such as *Characterplus*, the Council for Educational Advancement and Springboard for Learning. He helped affect a major improvement with the Special School District of St. Louis County. He was also Pattonville's representative on the Special School District's Governing Council, serving two terms as chairman.

Drummond is retired from a 48-year career in the printing and publishing industry. He graduated from Beaumont High School and Washington University and is a World War II veteran. He and his wife, Peggy, are the parents of two Pattonville graduates. This year, Drummond was honored with the 2001 Community Service Award sponsored by Commerce Bank. As part of the award, he received a \$7,500 grant, which he chose to contribute to the Pattonville Education Foundation.

Gifted program gets high marks

The program for gifted students in the Pattonville School District is getting high marks from students, parents and staff, according to an evaluation of the program. The program serves students in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

"One hundred percent of program graduates indicated that the gifted program provided learning opportunities which enabled them to think critically, use logic and develop decision-making skills," said Grace Weber, coordinator of Pattonville's gifted program. Weber surveyed students who had graduated from the program, as well as parents and staff, as part of the evaluation process. All students who graduated from the program and returned the survey also indicated that the program provided learning opportunities that challenged them.

The goals of the gifted program are to provide:

- Challenging learning opportunities for students beyond the regular classroom;
- Learning opportunities that include student choice, research using multiple resources and incorporates a variety of technology;
- Helpful communications about students in the gifted program; and
- Learning opportunities to a diverse population reflective of the district.

During the present school year, the Pattonville gifted program is serving 310 students, with 129 in the elementary program (ALPHA), 112 in the middle school program (SIGMA) and 69 in the high school program. During the first semester, targeted lessons were provided to all kindergartners through the KONNECT program. As a result, 11 kindergarten students are now included in the ALPHA program, and follow-up will occur with other potential students.

Recommendations for continued improvement of the program were made. They are as follows:

- Continue to monitor and review data to assure program congruence, curriculum alignment with Missouri's standards and high levels of performance (in all content areas) by program students.
- Continue to review and partner at both school and district levels appropriate in-service opportunities that target high-level learning and differentiation within the regular classroom.
- Continue to enhance communication links with parents and educators regarding program goals, curriculum and student performance.
- Continue to review current kindergarten model and evaluate recommended students.
- Continue to explore alternative approaches in addressing underrepresented populations especially among young students.
- Continue to review program criteria and testing procedures for an increasingly diverse population.

Summer school matters approved

A new course has been approved for Pattonville's high school summer school program. The Board of Education on April 23 approved the addition of a new course titled, "Literature of the Holocaust." The course will be offered for an English elective credit for students in grades 11 and 12. The board also approved hiring several persons to fill summer school positions. In a related matter, the board also approved spending \$122,860 for summer curriculum, assessment and professional development workshops.

Food and Nutrition evaluation shows improvements

An evaluation of Pattonville's food and nutrition services program shows a positive financial balance, low employee turnover and improvements in services to students.

A model serving structure in the elementary schools was instituted to allow for more food selections and variety without impacting the speed of service or length of lunch lines. Along with added lunch choices, the district began using an identification scanner at the cashier stations at the high school, Bridgeway, Willow Brook and Carrollton. Using this system on a non-cash basis enabled staff to increase the speed of the serving lines while increasing accountability regarding maintenance of student accounts and government-required meal counts. The computer system will be expanded to other schools, as well. Rick Mariam, food services director, also said the district took extra measures after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to ensure food safety through staff training and awareness, placing a hold on the use of certain foods for a month and reinforcing back-up supplies of stored foods.

The goal of the food services program is to "assure that students are provided the opportunity and encouragement to eat daily nutritious meals." The district strives to exceed all local and state health standards and provide nutritionally balanced, appetizing meals that are available daily to every student.

The following recommendations were made as part of the evaluation:

- Maintain all current pricing levels of reimbursable meals, with the exception of eliminating the \$1.50 lunch option at the high school, which complicates and slows down the computer point of sale program and is selected by very few students.
- Participate in the new USDA summer feeding program serving breakfast and lunch in five Pattonville summer school sites.
- Concentrate efforts at the new elementary school location to provide a model cafeteria program regarding the appetizing appeal of the food and service as well as promoting individualized nutritious meals. New packaging and service ideas will be implemented. Special meals for all diet-related concerns (i.e., reduced sugar, salt, fat, meat alternatives, etc.) will be promoted.
- Increase adult customer sales in the schools "district-wide."

The board approved the recommendation to eliminate the \$1.50 meal at the high school and retain all other pricing for lunch and breakfast. The pricing schedule is as follows:

Location	Student Lunch	Adult Lunch	Student Breakfast	Adult Breakfast
High School	\$1.75	\$2	75 cents	\$1
Middle School	\$1.75	\$2	75 cents	\$1
Elementary	\$1.50	\$1.75	75 cents	\$1

Board reviews financial goals

Each year, the Pattonville Board of Education sets financial goals that guide the district’s budgeting process. The board on April 23 reviewed and lodged for action the following list of goals:

- To maintain a balanced operating budget.
- To maintain a beginning fund balance sufficient to avoid short-term borrowing and to address future changes to the state foundation formula.
- To provide competitive salaries for the employees of the Pattonville School District.
- To maintain a level of staffing for classrooms that meets or exceeds desirable standards established by the Missouri School Improvement Program.
- To provide funding to address the recommendations of the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan Committees.
- To provide adequate funding for the maintenance of district facilities.
- To provide funding for the replacement of district technology.

A final vote on the proposed goals is expected at the board’s May 14 meeting.

Revised promotion and retention policy reviewed

The Board of Education on April 23 reviewed and lodged for action revised policies and procedures related to the promotion and retention of students. The board is expected to vote on the changes at the May 14 board meeting.

Revisions of IKE (Promotion and Retention of Students Grades K-8), IKE-R (Promotion and Retention of Students Grades K-8), and new policy IL (Reading Assessment Program) address Senate Bill 319 legislation regarding the promotion of students reading more than one grade level below their currently assigned grade.

The major changes are:

1. Procedures are established to assess student reading levels, to identify students reading more than one grade below level beginning at grade 3, to allow exemptions from the reading requirement, to provide for mandatory retention at grade 4 if a student fails to meet certain requirements, and to require a reading improvement plan for students reading below level.
2. Beginning in the 2002-2003 school year, mandatory summer school attendance will be required for any student in grades 1 through 8 who reads more than one grade level below the currently assigned grade. Students with disabilities, limited English proficiency and limited cognitive ability will attend based upon the recommendations of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individual Accommodation Plan (IAP) Committee or Care Team.

Board changes March meeting date for next year

The Pattonville Board of Education regularly meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, except in December and July, when the board meets only once. Because one of its board meetings next school year would fall during spring break, the board voted to hold only one meeting in March 2003 and move it to the third Tuesday, March 18, 2003.

Pattonville to expand "Everyday Math" to 6th grade

The Board of Education on April 23 approved a pilot project to expand the "Everyday Math" curriculum to sixth grade classrooms in the district next year. The expansion is based on the need to better connect student learning from fifth grade to sixth grade. "Everyday Math" is the textbook used to implement the elementary math curriculum that was adopted in the spring of 2001. Current fifth grade students are in their first year of "Everyday Mathematics." A sixth-grade "Everyday Mathematics" textbook will be used to support the sixth grade curriculum next year. All teachers will receive "Everyday Mathematics" in-service training this May and June, as well as throughout next school year.

Board certifies election results

The Board of Education voted on April 23 to certify the results of the April 2 election as "true, complete and correct." The abstract of votes cast on April 2, as certified by the Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis County, for the director of the Board of Education are as follows: Three-Year Term (3 to be elected) Randall J. McArthur, 2,172; Jeff Fitterling – 2,408; Ronald C. Kuschel – 2,375; and Michael W. Stewart – 2,485.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

Dear Pattonville family,

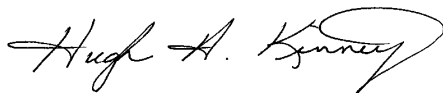
I would like to share with you a few of the great things happening in Pattonville.

- A big congratulations to Pattonville High School for earning the title of "A+ School" from the state of Missouri. Being designated an A+ School means our graduates, beginning this May, will be eligible for two years of paid tuition to any Missouri community college or vocational technical school if they meet certain requirements. Most schools in the state accomplish A+ status over a period of several years and through the use of a state grant. Our outstanding staff at Pattonville High School accomplished this feat in a much smaller time frame and without a state grant. This program supports our goals to lower the dropout rate and prepare students for college or meaningful employment after graduation. On behalf of our students and families, I can't thank our high school enough for its success in this endeavor. A special thanks goes to Jane Wolff, our A+ Coordinator, and Principal Jeff Marion.

- Congratulations to our District Teacher of the Year finalists: Michelle Wagner, third-grade teacher at Carrollton Oaks, who is Elementary Teacher of the Year; Paul Simpkins, a reading teacher at Holman, who is Middle School Teacher of the Year; and Janet Kuhn, a family and consumer science teacher, who is High School Teacher of the Year.
- I also extend congratulations to our Support Staff Employee of the Year finalists: Steve Ferndo, a custodian at Remington Traditional School, Mary Beth Kretschmer, a nurse at Rose Acres Elementary, and Rommel McDonald, a teacher’s assistant at Carrollton Elementary. The District Teacher of the Year and Support Staff Employee of the Year will be announced at District Appreciation Night on May 6.
- More than 700 senior citizens enjoyed Pattonville High School’s musical, “The Wizard of Oz,” when they participated in Pattonville’s 55+ Club Dinner Theatre on April 22 and 23. Hundreds return each year to enjoy dinner and the show through this wonderful program, which enables our students to show their talents to the community. Our older adult guests also enjoyed being served by student volunteers from BSAAC (Board Student Administration Action Committee). Thanks to Sugar Smith, drama teacher, and her student cast for a wonderful evening. The play continues Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Everyone’s aware that we’re in the thick of MAP (Missouri Assessment Program) testing right now. When out in the buildings, I have witnessed how hard everyone is working and all the changes that have taken place in an effort to boost our students’ achievement. I know your efforts up to this point and during this time period will pay off for our students. Thanks for staying the course and never faltering in your work. Though you may not always see it, what you do has a tremendous impact not only on our students, but also on their families, our school district as a whole and on the community at large. Thanks for being part of such a great and child-centered school system.

Sincerely,



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

Business Bits

Policy Updates

- **Procedure GCBD-R-2 (Professional Staff Leaves of Absences)**—The board lodged for action a change that would move up the date to March 1 when an employee on non-compensable leave of absence submits notice indicating a wish to return to the district. The board is expected to vote on the procedure on May 14.
- **Procedure GCBC-R-3 (Emergency Leave)** – The board lodged for action a revision which changes grandfathers, grandmothers to grandparents of an employee or spouse. The board is expected to vote on the procedure on May 14.

- **Procedure GCBC-R-5 (Family Leave)** – The board lodged for action a revision which deletes grandparents of spouse since the proposed change in GCBC-R-3 now addresses grandparents of an employee’s spouse. The board is expected to vote on the procedure on May 14.
- **Policy IKF (Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2001-2002 and Graduation requirements for the Class of 2004 and Thereafter)** – The board lodged for action a revision which provides an appeal provision for students who need to take an additional .5 unit of credit in their year of anticipated graduation in order to meet the requirements for units of credit to graduate. The board is expected to vote on the procedure on May 14.

Bids Awarded

The board awarded the following bids during its April 23 meeting:

- \$9,545 to Pavyer Printing Machine Works for a right-angle folding section for the MBO B18 folder

Renewals

The board approved the following renewal on April 23:

- An agreement for the TV room equipment maintenance for \$10,800 to Dorman Video for the 2002-2003 school year.

Paying the Bills

The board approved paying the following bills during its April 23 meeting:

- \$3,201.89 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum for legal services.

Change Orders

The board approved the following change orders on April 23:

- \$17,543.83 to Bi-State Utilities, Jacobsmeyer Mauldin Construction Company, Feit Plumbing Company, and Schneider Electric Company

New Hires

- **Leah Morgan**, family and consumer science, Holman
- **Kimberly Kleyer-Hanck**, business education, Holman
- **Ralph Bayoneto**, science, high school

Your Board of Education

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