

Board at Work

News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

May 15, 2002

High school to begin using weighted grades

Beginning next school year, Pattonville High School will start using a weighted grades system, a move designed to encourage students to take more rigorous courses.

The Pattonville Board of Education on May 14 heard a proposal to move to the new grading system next year and voted to accept these changes to the high school's improvement plan.

"It's the belief of our School Improvement Team that in order for more students to achieve at higher levels, more students need to take advantage of our most rigorous courses," said Principal Jeff Marion. "It's our belief that providing weighted grades will help achieve this goal."

The high school School Improvement Team spent time over the past year doing extensive research and holding discussions with students, staff and parents before making a recommendation to the Board of Education. Feedback gathered throughout the process "clearly supports a weighted grading system," Marion said.

Under the weighted system, grades for the following courses will receive extra "weight" if the student earns a C or above: advanced placement courses, college credit courses, honors courses and gifted courses. The scale shown at right will be used.

Grade	Non-Weighted	Weighted
A	4	5
B	3	4
C	2	3
D	1	1
F	0	0

The new weighted system will be implemented next year, but will not yet impact the selection of valedictorian or salutatorian. Currently any student who

earns a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA) is named valedictorian. For the time being, the selection of students for these honors will remain unchanged, using non-weighted GPAs. Beginning with the class of 2006, students will be recognized according to a college-like cum laude system:

- 4.03 GPA and above – Summa cum laude
- 3.75 to 4.02 GPA – Magna cum laude
- 3.74 to 3.50 GPA – Cum laude

The school will continue to study whether or not to maintain the current valedictorian and salutatorian selection process when it implements the cum laude system. This point will be discussed further and a survey will be given to parents early in the 2002-2003 school year. The decision will be finalized in January 2003.

Pattonville sets preschool tuition rates

The Pattonville Board of Education on May 14 set the tuition rates for its early childhood preschool program for 3, 4 and pre-kindergarten 5-year olds. Pattonville offers several options for families to obtain early childhood learning experiences for their children through its preschool program:

- **Multiage classes (all half-day)** – Children must be at least 3 years old on or before July 31, 2002, to enter these classes in August. These classes are for 3- and 4-year old children who will NOT be entering kindergarten in August 2003. The two-day program has a Monday/Wednesday option or a Tuesday/Thursday option in the morning or afternoon and is offered at various locations throughout the district.
- **Pre-kindergarten classes (all half-day)** – Children who will be entering kindergarten in the fall of 2003 are eligible to attend pre-kindergarten classes in August. These classes will be offered at various locations throughout the district and are available in programs ranging from two days a week to five days a week, either in the afternoon or morning.

Tuition for Pattonville’s preschool program is as follows:

Program	Resident Tuition	Non-Resident Tuition
2-Day Program (M/W)	\$899.57	\$1,253.15
2-Day Program (T/Th)	\$950.25	\$1,323.75
3-Day Program	\$1,317.68	\$1,835.60
4-Day Program	\$1,862.49	\$2,594.55
5-Day Program	\$1,949.40	\$2,717.19

The tuition for the Monday/Wednesday two-day program is less than the Tuesday/Thursday program due to several Monday holidays. Pattonville’s preschool curriculum is based on a constructivist approach to learning. This approach emphasizes children learning through self-exploration, play and hands-on activities. Activities are suited to children’s ages and abilities and address all areas of development: intellectual, social, emotional, physical and creative. For an application or more information, call the early childhood office at (314) 213-8100 or (314) 213-8105.

Rose Acres amends schedule for more collaboration

By adding five minutes of instructional time to each day, teachers at Rose Acres Elementary School will be able to find more time for collaboration to enhance their teaching practices and improve student achievement.

The Board of Education on May 14 heard and accepted a proposal from the Rose Acres School Improvement Team to add the extra minutes to the school day in order to allow the school to schedule four early dismissal days next year to be used for professional development and collaboration among the teachers.

Schools are required by the state to have a certain amount of instructional time. Adding the five minutes to the school day will enable the school to meet state requirements while also opening up more time for teachers to work together on improving achievement.

A survey of parents at Rose Acres found that most were supportive of the idea. Similar schedules are currently being used at Briar Crest Accelerated School and Willow Brook Elementary.

Board approves financial goals for 2002-2003

The Pattonville Board of Education on May 14 approved the following list of financial goals to help guide the district's budgeting process:

- 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.

Revised promotion and retention policy reviewed

The Board of Education on May 14 approved revisions to policies and procedures related to the promotion and retention of students.

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 grades.

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, 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.

High school curriculum revisions approved

The Pattonville Board of Education on May 14 approved updates to the high school communication arts curriculum. The changes reflect new materials that will be used for three courses. The new textbooks adopted are: "A Pocket Style Manual," "Elements of Argument," "Literature and Its Writers," and "Mastering Competitive Debate." The first three textbooks are designated for college credit/advanced placement English courses.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

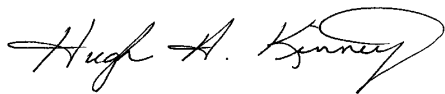
Dear Pattonville family,

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

- Congratulations to Rose Acres students, along with Art Teacher Mary Tevlin and Music Teacher Rhonda McAfee, for the wonderful opera the students staged on May 9 and 10. The students wrote the opera, music and lyrics. They designed all the sets and costumes and helped publicize the event. It was truly a student-based program, and I congratulate all that were involved on a job well done!
- Kudos to the high school for implementing a new program to honor students. One hundred and forty-one students at Pattonville High School were recently honored during the school's first annual Pirates of Prestige "Most Valuable Pirate" (MVP) Award ceremony. For the MVP Award, each faculty member at Pattonville High School was asked to choose a student to receive the award. Students were awarded a medallion and a memory book during the program. Thanks to Neil Berry, assistant principal, for spearheading this effort.
- Hundreds of current and former students, families and staff members attended the open houses at Carrollton and Carrollton Oaks elementary schools on May 5 to help reminisce and share memories before both schools close due to airport expansion. The committees who coordinated these events are to be commended for holding such wonderful celebrations for two outstanding schools. Thanks to everyone involved.
- In Pattonville, learning doesn't just stop when the last day of school rolls around. More and more students and families are opting for continuing their education over the summer. This year's summer school enrollment is up 20 percent over last year's enrollment, and the majority of the enrollment is in enrichment programs. More than 2,000 students will be coming back in June for summer school classes –that's almost a third of our students who are showing their dedication to continuing their education. What a great testament to the wonderful faculty and staff we have here.

As we wind down to the last days of school, let me say, "Thank You," for all your hard work and diligence over the past year. It's been a pleasure working with all the parents, staff and students to do great things for our families and kids. Enjoy your summer break! You've earned it.

Sincerely,



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

Business Bits

Policy Updates

- **Procedure GCBD-R-2 (Professional Staff Leaves of Absences)**—The board approved on May 14 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.
- **Procedure GCBC-R-3 (Emergency Leave)** – On May 14, the board approved a revision that changes grandfathers, grandmothers to grandparents of an employee or spouse.
- **Procedure GCBC-R-5 (Family Leave)** – On May 14, the board approved a revision which deletes grandparents of spouse since the approved change in GCBC-R-3 now addresses grandparents of an employee’s spouse.
- **Policy IKF (Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2001-2002 and Graduation requirements for the Class of 2004 and Thereafter)** – The board approved on May 14 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 of Education on May 14 also reviewed and lodged for action the following policies and/or procedures:

- **Policy GDBF (Staff Health)** – Proposed revisions reflect minor wording and grammatical changes.
- **Procedure GDBF-R (Support Staff Health Appraisals)** – **Proposed** revisions clarify the time period in which an employee may be asked to undergo a second health appraisal.
- **Procedure GDD-R (Employment)** – A proposed revision reflects a minor wording change.
- **Procedure GDFA-R (Personnel Records for Support Staff)** – The proposed revision adds “reference check forms” to the list of items an employee must submit for his or her personnel file. Other changes reflect minor wording clarifications.
- **Procedure GDL-R (Educational Assistance Plan – Support Staff)** – The proposed revision changes the person responsible for approving requests for education assistance from the assistant superintendent for human resources to the assistant superintendent for planning and assessment.

The board is expected to vote on the above policies during its May 28 meeting. On May 14, the board also approved the review of the following policies and procedures:

- **Policy GDFH (Transportation)**
- **Procedure GDFH-R-1 (Procedures for Transportation Department Routes)**
- **Policy GDIA (Involuntary Transfers)**
- **Policy GDK (Support Staff Health Performances of Duties)**

Bids Awarded

The board awarded the following bids during its May 14 meeting:

- \$4,472.60 to Schiller’s, \$13,153.01 to VSA, \$965.01 to National AV, \$269.99 to Columbia AV, \$10,812 to Acquire X and \$82.32 to Learning Services for audio visual equipment
- \$8,400 to Desktop Color Systems for Textronix Phaser Printers
- \$30,000 (or 6 cents a gallon over rack prices) to Energy Petroleum Company for unleaded gasoline for the 2002-2003 school year

Paying the Bills

The board approved paying the following bills during its May 14 meeting:

- \$1,469,413.04 for regular bills
- \$78,820.89 for cafeteria bills
- \$1,377.30 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum for legal services

Change Orders

The board approved the following change orders on May 14:

- \$18,386.17 to Fru-Con Construction to replace the asphalt surface in the kindergarten interior courtyard of Drummond Elementary with a rubberized play surface
- \$205,166.86 for bond issue construction projects

New Hires

- **Linda Carr**, early childhood special education paraprofessional
- **Krystal Kelley**, early childhood special education paraprofessional
- **Kelli Lerch**, early childhood special education paraprofessional
- **Antoinette Wilhelm**, early childhood special education paraprofessional
- **Sharon Wood**, early childhood special education paraprofessional
- **Regina Dunmire**, bus driver, transportation
- **Karen Arana**, fifth grade, Remington
- **Christopher Cheatham**, first grade, Willow Brook
- **Julie Harder**, library media specialist, Pattonville Heights
- **Kevin Beckner**, social studies, High School
- **Charles Huette**, English, High School
- **Dawn Kehr**, mathematics, High School
- **Jeremy Moore**, social studies, High School
- **Katherine Sowers**, social studies, High School
- **Bethany Wagner**, English, High School
- **Lindsey Bryant**, early childhood special education teacher
- **Kathryn Fogarty**, early childhood special education diagnostician
- **Trisha Hanff**, early childhood special education speech language therapist

On May 14, the board also approved additional summer school staff for the 2002 summer school program.

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