

Board at Work

News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

June 12, 2002

Bond issue projects in the works this summer

The east and west sides of Pattonville High School look markedly differently than they have in the school's 30-year history. Two additions to the high school made possible as part of a \$37 million bond issue approved by voters in 2000 are just months away from completion. A 13,500-square foot library on the west side of the building and a 27,000-square-foot science wing addition on the east should be complete in September. The library is estimated to cost \$2.25 million, while the science wing will cost approximately \$4.25 million.

The two projects are perhaps the most visible evidence of millions of dollars worth of repairs, upgrades and improvements currently taking place in Pattonville thanks to the passage of the bond issue in 2000. Several projects are underway this summer at the high school, Bridgeway Elementary, Parkwood Elementary and Rose Acres Elementary as part of the first phase of the bond issue work. All bond issue projects are scheduled to be finished in the fall of 2003.

The Board of Education on June 11 received an update on bond issue projects. Most work is taking place at schools where summer school is not being held. Here's a quick look at how the projects are progressing:

High School Projects

- Science wing – Exterior brickwork and the roof are complete. Temporary windows have been installed so construction workers can focus on interior work. Mechanical equipment has been installed on the roof. Drywall taping and plastering is taking place on the interior, to be followed by the installation of ceiling insulation, ceiling grids and interior partitions.
- Library – Exterior brickwork and the roof are complete. Window installations will begin at the end of this week. The ceiling grid was installed last week.
- Replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning units (HVAC) – Now that school is out, workers are proceeding wing by wing at the high school, shutting down the old units and replacing them with new. Once all new units have been installed, workers will proceed with replacing the roof.
- Track Replacement – The old track has been torn out and is currently being replaced with a new surface. Electrical upgrades and track timers are also being installed, as well as additional power sources. The project is expected to be complete in a month.
- Sidewalk Replacements – Deteriorating sidewalks are being replaced, and a new ramp for disabled persons is being installed at the front entrance of the high school.

Bridgeway Elementary School

- Boiler Replacement - Replacement of the school's boiler is 90 percent complete.
- Electrical Upgrades - The school will also receive electrical upgrades this summer that include new lighting in the multipurpose room, new security and exit lights, a new security system and new breaker installation.

- Other - Sidewalks are also being replaced, as are all interior door hardware (door handles and locks).

Parkwood Elementary School

- Roof Replacement – The roof replacement should be complete tomorrow.
- Corridor Addition – A 600-square foot corridor is being added on the south exterior of the building. Steelwork has been completed on this project.
- Boiler Replacement – Replacement is 90 percent complete.
- Electrical Upgrades – Upgrades to be installed this summer include new security and exit lights, a new security system and new breaker installation.
- Replacing Door Hardware – New door handles and locks will be installed on all Parkwood classrooms this summer, however, materials have not arrived yet.

Rose Acres Elementary School

- Nurses Addition – An 800-square foot addition to the nurse’s area is being built onto the exterior of the school to provide more room to care for and isolate sick students. The framework is completed, and the floor will be poured this week.
- Roof Replacement – Work will begin tomorrow on replacing the roof at Rose Acres.
- HVAC Replacement – Replacement of the heating and air conditioning units on the lower level has begun and will be complete by the time school starts in August.
- Replacing Door Hardware – Installation will begin this week.
- Electrical Upgrades - Upgrades to be installed this summer include new security and exit lights, a new security system and new breaker installation.
- Asbestos Flooring Removal – Tiles will be removed in the front entry as well as the multipurpose room and replaced with new tile and carpet.
- Boiler Replacement – Replacement is 90 percent complete.

Parking Improvements

Parking lot improvements will begin at Briar Crest Elementary, Willow Brook Elementary and Rose Acres this summer. Bids are due to the district from construction firms on Tuesday and should be awarded at the board’s June 25 meeting. Briar Crest’s lot should be completed before school starts, although some improvements at Willow Brook and Rose Acres may be completed after classes have begun because they will not be in the main flow of traffic.

Print shop/maintenance

Renovations are also taking place this summer at the district print shop and maintenance building located next to Pattonville Heights Middle School. New electrical service is being installed, along with HVAC upgrades. The print shop has been shut down this week for demolition of existing ductwork and hoses and installation of the new.

Board approves budget for 2002-2003

The Pattonville Board of Education approved its budget for 2002-2003, but may have to make some adjustments in the coming year, depending on whether final figures from the county assessor’s office confirm that the district may have lost assessed valuation for the first time in recent history.

The board approved the budget on June 11. During the meeting, Chief Financial Officer Ron Mastin informed the board that a recent article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch indicated Pattonville may have lost \$9 million in assessed valuation of commercial and residential properties. Based on past history, Mastin had budgeted for a conservative 3 percent growth in assessed valuation, and the recently released figures may mean the district will have to cut an estimated \$1.7 million from the 2002-2003 budget.

“This doesn’t follow suit with what has happened historically in this district,” Mastin said, adding that he and other St. Louis County school financial officers would be meeting with the county assessor’s office to discuss the figures.

“As we have over the past several years, we’ll continue to look at positions that come open and evaluate whether we need to replace them, but we will protect class sizes,” said Superintendent Hugh Kinney.

The approved budget reflects \$68.5 million in revenues and \$67.5 million in expenditures (not including spending on bond issue projects, construction of Drummond Elementary, debt service and one-time expenditures). The budget reflects a balanced budget once one-time expenditures are removed. It will take effect July 1. A balanced budget means that revenues equal or exceed expenditures. The one-time expenditures amount to approximately \$2.3 million. Another \$1.8 million was added to the operating funds and the expenditure budget for Pattonville’s Early Childhood Special Education program, which is fully funded by state and federal resources. Pattonville will assume control of the early childhood program in July. One-time expenditures included in the budget are:

- Briar Crest Parking - lot \$175,000
- Drummond Elementary contingency for betterments - \$100,000
- Replace air-handling units and roof at high school - \$1.6 million
- Rose Acres nurse’s room addition - \$50,000
- High school technical education van - \$25,000
- High school science wing addition – furniture and supplies - \$161,000
- Pattonville Heights parking lot and stairs - \$67,000
- Radio communications system (repeater and tower) - \$45,000
- Mapping and routing transportation software - \$40,000
- High school video security system (first installment) - \$70,000

The expenditure budget includes a 4 percent increase for certified staff and a 5.5 percent increase for support staff. This is the second year of a two-year salary agreement with a total increase in salaries of 11 percent. Health insurance costs were budgeted for an estimated increase of 18 percent, but actual costs appear to be a 12.5 percent increase. The support staff salary budget includes an additional electrician position and two extra custodians at the high school to address additional space created by new construction at the high school (library and science wing). The district is reducing staff by 6.1 employees overall next year due to a declining enrollment resulting from airport buyouts and fewer students in the voluntary transfer program with the city of St. Louis. Salaries and benefits account for 73 percent of Pattonville’s operating budget.

Textbook expenditures next year will reach \$887,777, a figure that includes textbook adoptions and textbook purchases in the schools. Expenditures also include \$17 million in bond issue funds, as the 2002-2003 school year marks the beginning of Phase II of bond issue renovation projects in most buildings in the district. The bond issue is scheduled for completion in fall 2003.

The district is also maintaining two contingency funds in its balances. One is a \$2 million contingency fund to cover unexpected possible losses of revenue due to the airport buyout and future changes in state funding. The second is a \$1 million contingency fund to enable the district to replace technology in the future as it becomes obsolete.

ESOL program discussed at board meeting

Pattonville has had a program for students who speak other languages since 1990, at which time the district averaged between 15 to 20 students with a primary language other than English. Now the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program serves 115 students in kindergarten through 12th grade at ESOL center schools (Bridgeway, Parkwood, Pattonville Heights and Pattonville High School).

The program was reviewed by the Board of Education on June 11. When the school year begins, teachers refer students to the ESOL program, and each referred student is individually assessed to determine placement in the program. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade receive an average of 200 minutes of instruction per week, although more or less may be given depending on the need. Students at the high school receive daily ESOL instruction and additional support in content area classes

as needed. Among the various first languages represented are Chinese, Vietnamese, Punjabi, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Tagalog, Urdu, Tamil, Gujarati and Bosnian.

The goal of the program is to ensure that students demonstrate significant improvement in their understanding and application of the state's Show-Me Standards, and that all students are proficient readers. The following recommendations were made for the coming school year to improve the program:

1. Determine the best process for collecting data on students who have been discontinued from the English for Speakers of Other Languages instructional services to assess their progress in achieving the goal that all students are proficient readers.
2. Continue to analyze test data of students who receive ESOL services to determine their progress on the goal that students are proficient readers.
3. Create a district-wide database on current language minority (LM) students.
4. Continue to provide additional staff development opportunities for classroom teachers who have children receiving ESOL services.
5. Continue to research and evaluate best practices in ESOL education.
6. Continue to provide students with the opportunity to continue instruction in English during the summer through the enrichment and remedial summer school program.
7. Monitor enrollment trends to ensure we are providing appropriate services, especially at the middle school levels.
8. Track student attendance rates beginning in the 2002-2003 school year.
9. Administer the Post-Language Assessment Scale test only, with the Pre-Language Assessment Scale being given only to new ESOL students entering the district.

Board reviews proposed changes to behavior guides

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 11 reviewed proposed changes to behavior guides for elementary, middle and high school students. It is anticipated that the board will approved the changes on June 25. A summary of the proposed changes follows:

Elementary:

- Notice to parents that professional school staff are mandated reporters for suspected child abuse or neglect;
- Notice that students who have been suspended from school may not be on school property during the term of their suspension;
- Notice that school officials may require a Violence Risk Assessment for students who have been involved in threatening or dangerous behavior; and
- A descriptive listing of possible consequences for inappropriate behavior on a school bus.

Middle School:

- Notice to parents that professional school staff are mandated reporters for suspected child abuse or neglect;
- Notice that students who have been suspended from school may not be on school property during the term of their suspension;
- Notice that school officials may require a Violence Risk Assessment for students who have been involved in threatening or dangerous behavior;
- A revised fee schedule for the replacement of photo identification badges lost by the student;
- Notice that the consequences for a first fight will result in an out-of-school suspension; and
- Notice that school administrators may request police canine units to assist in random searches for illegal drugs on school campus.

High School

- Notice that school staff have the responsibility to report any suspected child abuse or neglect to the Division of Family Services;

- Notice that the high school will not allow make-up credit for students who have been suspended from in-school suspension or for a student who refuses to serve an assigned in-school suspension;
- Notice that the high school will limit make-up credit to 70 percent credit for students who have been suspended for fighting, assault or distribution of drugs, alcohol or drug paraphernalia;
- Modification of the in-school suspension guidelines;
- Modification of the consequences for failure to use photo identification badges;
- Addition of two new categories of Class I offenses – possession of tobacco products and disruption of the school environment;
- Addition of two Class II offenses – forgery/fraud and tampering with security/emergency equipment; and
- Notice that school administrators may request police canine units to assist in random searches for illegal drugs on school campus.

POSITIVE School

- Notice that the POSITIVE School will not allow make-up credit for students who have been suspended from in-school suspension or for a student who refuses to serve an assigned in-school suspension;
- Notice that the POSITIVE School will limit make-up credit to 70 percent credit for students who have been suspended for fighting, assault or distribution of drugs, alcohol or drug paraphernalia;
- A modification in the attendance and credit policy for students;
- Addition of two new categories of Class I offenses – possession of tobacco products and disruption of the school environment;
- Addition of two Class II offenses – forgery/fraud and tampering with security/emergency equipment; and
- Notice that school administrators may request police canine units to assist in random searches for illegal drugs on school campus.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

Dear Pattonville family,

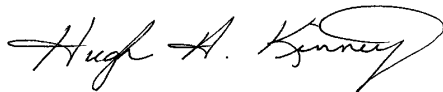
I would like to share with you a few of the great things happening in Pattonville.

- Congratulations to the men and women who volunteer on our Board of Education. The Pattonville Board of Education will be honored as one of two finalists for the Missouri School Boards Association's Outstanding Board of Education Award. MSBA will announce the winner at a banquet on June 28.
- Hopefully everyone had a chance to see one of our 2002 graduates appear on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" last Friday. Brittany Ann Boykin was featured on a segment titled "Beat the Odds Graduation Stories" on June 7. The episode featured students whose courage and strong spirit enabled them to overcome tremendous obstacles to graduate. Brittany shared the personal difficulties she faced on her way to graduation and attributed much of her success to the Pattonville staff she met along the way who helped keep her going. Although Brittany recently

received a “Commitment Counts” scholarship to attend Bradley University in Illinois next fall, she learned during the taping of show that Winfrey pledged the support of her charity, Oprah’s Angel Network, to pay for her college tuition, up to \$34,000 for expenses not already covered by scholarships. Parts of the Oprah segment were filmed at the schools Boykin attended in Pattonville: Willow Brook Elementary and Pattonville High School. Elaine DeArman, who was principal at Willow Brook when Boykin attended class there, was also featured in the segment. Boykin was also a student at Pattonville Heights Middle School. Congratulations are due to Brittany, as well as all the wonderful administrators and staff members who helped Brittany realize her dreams.

I hope your summer’s going well. I see a lot of faces back already, however, for staff development and training programs over the summer. Others are making great learning opportunities available for our students through our summer school programs and camps. Thanks to all our staff who continue to make learning and growing a priority even when school’s (officially) out!

Sincerely,



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

Business Bits

Bills Paid

The Board of Education approved the following bills on June 11:

- \$1,751,500.47 for regular bills
- \$60,691.23 for cafeteria bills

Contracts Awarded

The board awarded the following during its June 11 meeting:

- The renewal of a communications maintenance agreement with Technicom and Tel-Vi at the same terms and conditions as their original bid;
- The purchase of networking equipment for the new science wing and library addition at Pattonville High School to Boise Technology in the amount of \$18,538.35;
- The contract for high school caps and gowns, announcements, rings and diplomas for the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school years to Herf Jones, based on the recommendation of a committee of high school parents, students and staff; and
- A big for 18 Sony DCR-TRV25 digital video cameras to W. Schiller and Company in the amount of \$12,312.

The board also approved the renewal of employee benefits (insurance coverage) for the period of Oct. 1, 2002, through September 30, 2003. The district’s health plan for employees through Cooperating School Districts with United Health Care had rate increases of 12.5 percent. Dental insurance with BJC Dental Plan for Option 1 and Option 2 had rate increases of 7.5 percent. Dental insurance with Cigna had a rate

increase of 5 percent. Vision Plan coverage with VSP, employee counseling through Provident Employee Counseling, prepaid legal program through the Signature Group, long-term disability through Fortis Benefit Company and the Section 125 Plan through Marsh Advantage had no changes in their rates or premiums. Life insurance with Diversified Life Insurance had rate increases in basic life of 16.7 percent and supplemental life of 22.2 percent.

Change Orders

The board approved the following change orders on June 11:

- \$80,816.46 for a change order at Drummond Elementary; and
- \$62,174.76 for change orders for Pattonville High School, Bridgeway, Parkwood, Rose Acres and the print shop/maintenance facility.

New Hires

- **Marcia Brune**, art, Briar Crest
- **Tara Ashley**, third grade, Parkwood
- **Julie Finder**, second grade, Parkwood
- **Edmund Gregory Stoltz**, first grade, Parkwood
- **Krista Cross**, sixth grade, Pattonville Heights
- **Jerri Nahlik**, Pattonville Heights teacher at Missouri Baptist Children's Home
- **Debra Head**, early childhood special education program inclusion facilitator

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