



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

June 26, 2002

Achievement for students with disabilities increasing

Students with disabilities in the Pattonville School District are seeing improvements in their academic achievement according to an evaluation of the special education program in Pattonville. Services are provided by Special School District staff in Pattonville schools.

“On the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP), there are 24 areas that we look at for improvement,” said Dr. John Heskett, assistant superintendent for pupil services. “We saw positive progress in 20 of the 24 areas. We have more kids going into the advanced and proficient levels from one year to the next and fewer children remaining at Step 1 and progressing. We are seeing kids move out of the bottom and into the top.”

Heskett said the scores of students on the MAP are also better than the state average, as are the graduation rates and dropout rates for Pattonville students with disabilities. The graduation rate for Pattonville students with disabilities was 72 percent last year and 92 percent this year, while the state average was about 57 percent.

In addition, Pattonville’s dropout rate for students with disabilities was 4.2 percent last year and about 4.1 percent this year, while the state average for students with disabilities is about 8 or 9 percent, Heskett said. Parent satisfaction with the programs and services for disabled children was also high, according to a Parent Satisfaction Survey, Heskett added.

Several recommendations were made for the coming year. They are:

1. Successfully implement early childhood special education;
2. Continue to increase the number of students with disabilities scoring proficient and advanced and decrease the number scoring in Step 1 and progressing on the Missouri Assessment Program;
3. Develop additional opportunities for school staff to encourage the development of self advocacy skills for students with disabilities;
4. Develop additional opportunities for school staff to teach students about career options;
5. Expand opportunities for parents to participate in training sessions;
6. Identify and implement additional areas of cooperative efforts between the Special School District and the Pattonville School District consistent with the Partnership Plan of the Special School District and the 23 partner school districts; and
7. Work with staff to prepare for special education monitoring which will be conducted with the Missouri School Improvement Program accreditation team visits in 2003.

Vocational programs meeting goals

The vocational education program in Pattonville offers 21 different courses in family and consumer sciences and 16 different courses in business and marketing education. A recent evaluation of the program found that the program is meeting its goals for improving student achievement.

Among the accomplishments of the program:

- All vocationally approved program areas meet the programs standards as required by the Missouri School Improvement Program;
- 85 percent of students enrolled in these programs earned a grade of “C” or better;
- The program meets the standard of 85 percent of the students being placed into employment, further education or military training and almost meets the standard of 65 percent of graduates of the program being placed into related employment or education;
- The vocational programs prepare students for work in the areas of high demand occupations;
- Students are participating in career and technical student organizations; and
- Vocational education programs provide students with assistance and transitions to the work place or continuing education.

Recommendations made for the future include:

1. Increase the placement rate into related education and employment based upon graduate follow-up information to meet the 65 percent standard;
2. Complete articulation agreements for marketing, accounting and culinary arts at local post-secondary institutions;
3. Increase membership and participation in Future Business Leaders of America and in Future Community and Career Leaders of America. Membership and participation in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America could include a higher percentage of non-traditional students by increasing the diversity of gender;
4. Collaborate with counselors to present career information to vocational education classes at least once during the year;
5. Add proposed vocational program target to the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP); proposed target reads, “vocational education is an integral component of the educational program;”
6. Monitor and report student mastery of course competencies at the end of each semester or year course as appropriate to increase student mastery of course competencies; and
7. Prepare for Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) accreditation review to insure all standards for vocational education programs are met.

Board approves changes to behavior guides

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 26 approved changes to behavior guides for elementary, middle and high school students. A summary of the approved 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;
- Notice that school administrators may request police canine units to assist in random searches for illegal drugs on school campus; and
- Notice that school staff have the responsibility to report any suspected child abuse or neglect to the Division of Family Services.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

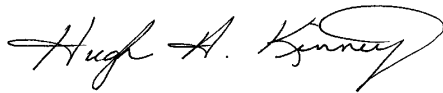
Dear Pattonville family,

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

- Missouri Gov. Bob Holden was in Pattonville last week, visiting Willow Brook Elementary School to sign two major education bills related to funding and accountability. This is the governor's third visit to Pattonville, and he had high praise for the work our staff does on a daily basis for kids. While visiting Willow Brook, Gov. Holden said, "As I travel around the state, I tell them (other districts), 'Come to Pattonville and see what can be done.'" What a great tribute to our outstanding staff, parents, students and community. Thanks to Willow Brook staff, Principal Robin Whitacre and the fourth and fifth grade summer school students who made such a wonderful impression on Missouri's leader.

Our work this summer has been going well. Summer school has seen a record number of students sign up for extra learning during their summer vacation, and I commend staff and students for adjusting to new or different summer school locations necessitated by bond issue work at various schools. Bond issue work is progressing quite well. The high school library and the new elementary school will be ready for students in August, and the science wing, as anticipated, will open shortly after school begins. We're also working steadily on preparing for the coming school year and have only 4 or 5 positions left to fill for the coming year. I'm looking forward to a great year ahead.

Sincerely,



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

Business Bits

Bills Paid

The Board of Education approved the following bills on June 25:

- \$1,843.80 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum for legal services.

Contracts Awarded

The board awarded the following during its June 25 meeting:

- \$12,331 for the development of an evacuation plan and the installation of evacuation signage for Drummond Elementary School to Facilities Solution Inc.;

- \$32,500 to Solar Contracting of Missouri for roof finishing of transportation buildings; the bid was previously awarded to the Rainbow Painting Company, but the company was unable to fulfill the terms of the contract by supplying the required performance and payment bonds;
- \$200,690 to Byrne & Jones Construction for asphalt paving for bond issue projects;
- \$17,748 to Interface Security Systems for the renewal of the alarm system monitoring and maintenance agreement for 2002-2003;
- \$4,890 to Kenny's Auto Parts; \$7,204.90 to Reliance Automotive; \$39,201.40 to National Bus Parts; \$1,080 to Auto-Jet Muffler and \$16,545.50 to Truck Pro for automotive parts and supplies;
- \$32,714 to Interstate Brands; \$186,594 to Valley Farm Dairy; \$4,000 to McKee Foods Corp; \$689,743.02 to Droege Wholesale; \$24,000 to Theodoro Baking Company; \$42,000 to Papa John's Pizza; \$9,400 to St. Louis Julep; and \$11,000 to Jackson Produce Company for food products for the 2002-2003 school year; and
- The purchase of supplies and equipment from vendors represented in the catalog discount agreement book.

Change Orders

The board approved the following change order on June 25:

- \$41,375.07 for bond issue projects.

New Hires

- **Mary Ann Toohey**, reading specialist, Briar Crest
- **Jill Whitman**, fourth grade, Rose Acres
- **David Kim**, fifth grade, Rose Acres
- **Linda Becker**, first grade, Parkwood
- **Owen Fine**, English as a Second Language, Bridgeway

In other human resources business, the board:

- Approved adjusting the time worked by the clerical assistant in the early childhood education department from 9 months to 10 months and placed on hold a request to reclassify the position from clerical assistant to secretary until the fall to determine need;
- Approved the reclassification of the high school registrar from clerical assistant to secretary, effective July 1;
- Approved a rate increase for individuals who interview employee candidates by 4 percent, thereby increasing the hourly rate from \$20 to \$20.80; and
- Approved changing the pay rate for the in-school suspension teacher assistants to \$109.55 a day, the same rate paid permanent substitute teachers, beginning in 2002-2003.

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