



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

September 25, 2002

## Technology making an impact in Pattonville

Pattonville students are using computer technology more often than in the past to do things such as write a report, design a slideshow presentation, find information on the Internet, and learn about subjects such as math, history and science, a survey of students showed.

Information from the survey, along with other data, was shared with board members on Sept. 24 as part of an evaluation of Pattonville's technology services program.

More than 4,700 student and employee computers are supported by a team of 12 individuals in the technology department. This team also trains teachers and helps them integrate technology into student learning experiences. All teachers who receive a classroom computer are required to take 30 hours of technology training to achieve a district technology certification. Thanks to a bond issue in 2000, Pattonville now has a ratio of one Internet-connected computer for every three students. Many of the computers are portable laptops that can be moved from classroom to classroom for lessons or projects.

Dr. Marilyn Terry, director of technology services, said the student survey also showed that the majority of secondary students rated their computer ability as extremely good or above average.

The goals of the technology services program are to increase access and use of technology and to successfully implement the new PowerSchool student information management software. Teachers enter information into an electronic grade book, which sends this information to PowerSchool automatically. Parents will be able to access information about their child's grades, assignments, schedules, lunch balances and attendance by using a password to access a secure server via a web-browser such as Netscape or Microsoft Explorer. Parents can also sign up to receive weekly, monthly or even daily progress reports on their child via E-mail. Staff received training on PowerSchool before school began and are now using it daily. The district plans to pilot its use by parents - and students - in the second semester at selected schools.

Terry said the student survey showed that in most schools, at least 80 percent of families have Internet access at home, so parents will be able to easily access PowerSchool information at home.

Recommendations and major initiatives to be accomplished this school year are:

- Revise the district technology plan and submit it for state approval;
- Implement the new financial software and human resources software;
- Pilot parent access to the PowerSchool student information system the second semester of 2002-2003 and prepare for full parent access in the 2003-2004 school year;
- Continue PowerSchool implementation with specific emphasis on standards-based student reports, medical information, special programs information, Safe Schools information and advanced report generation;
- Pilot Technology Certification Level II –Teacher as Integrator during second semester of the 2002-03 school year;
- Fully implement the Parents As Teachers database and maintenance work order database;

- Facilitate the relocation of technology due to the high school construction;
- Create a technology replacement schedule;
- Create a disaster recovery plan;
- Implement SRI (reading scores) program; and
- Resolve Internet networking slowdowns.

## Board approves SSD contract

The Board of Education on Sept.24 approved an agreement with the Special School District of St. Louis County to provide early childhood special education services for students whose needs are such that they require services beyond those available through the Pattonville School District Early Childhood Special Education Program.

## Board sets "Community Walk for Hunger Day"

The Board of Education on Sept. 24 approved a proclamation declaring Sunday, Oct. 6, 2002, as "Community Walk for Hunger Day" in the Pattonville School District. The day is marked annually by a "CROP Walk for Hunger" that raises funds for the Community Helping Ministries, an organization that provides aid to Pattonville families in need.

## **Kinney's Corner**

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

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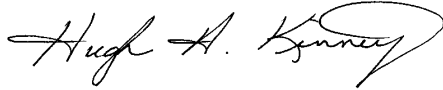
Dear Pattonville family,

Here's a look at what's happening:

- Once again, the Pattonville Board of Education is being honored in the state as Missouri's Outstanding Board of Education for the 2002-2003 school year. The board will be honored and a video will be shown about the board during a recognition banquet at the upcoming Missouri School Boards Association conference.
- I'm so pleased to welcome more than 20 new tutors to our older adult tutoring program for elementary students. These community members are undergoing two days of training this week so they may work one-on-one with our young students on reading skills and being a friend and mentor. Thanks to Miriam Kerns for coordinating the training for our OASIS tutors, as well as the many reading specialists and other building coordinators who are helping out this week to make a difference in the lives of these young children.

Now that we've had a chance to digest our MAP scores a bit more and look at how we fared compared to other St. Louis area districts, my message to you is the same! Well done! Our children performed extremely well when compared to other districts. What a great job you are doing for our kids. Please keep up the good work. You are really making a difference for our kids.

Sincerely,



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

## Business Bits

### Approval of bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on Sept. 24 approved the following bills:

- \$8,057.02 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum for legal services.

### Policy/Procedures

The Pattonville school board approved the following policy on Sept. 24:

- **Policy IGDJ (Interscholastic Athletics/Activities)** – The board approved a revision, which added the following wording regarding eligibility for athletic/activity programs: “Credits earned or completed after the close of the first semester will not fulfill this requirement. However, credits earned and completed after the close of the second semester during summer school will be allowed to fulfill this requirement for next fall semester. MSHSAA By-Law 213 provides that beginning with the summer of 2001, students may count up to one credit from summer school toward establishing their eligibility for the fall semester 2001. Only classes, which are required for graduation from the local school, may be counted toward meeting the academic requirement. Electives shall not count when earned during summer school.”

The board also rescinded **Procedure IIAB-R (Computer Software Review, Evaluation Recommendation Procedure)**.

The board lodged for action the following policy/procedure revisions on Sept. 24. A vote is expected on the revisions on Oct. 8:

- **Policy IF (Curriculum Development)** – Proposed revisions add three words and replaces the word “textbook” with “instructional materials.”
- **Procedure IFA-R (Deletion of Courses/Programs)** – The proposed revision removes three words, “are initiated by.”
- **Policy IGBA (Program for Students with Disabilities)** – Revisions propose to replace the adjective “handicapped” before the word “students” to “with disabilities” after the word “student.”
- **Policy IGBB (Program for Gifted Students)** – Suggested revisions are to add the following text: “The Board of Education, realizing the need for programs dealing with gifted and talented students, shall endeavor to provide the level of monetary support it deems proper to enhance programs for the gifted and talented. Procedures for the selection of programs and students will be developed by the professional staff and approved by the board.”

- **Policy IGBCB (Migrant Education Program)**- The proposed change corrects a typographical error.
- **Policy IGC (Extended Instructional Program)** – The proposed document is a new policy which outlines preschool and post-school programs the district will attempt to provide on a consistent basis, programs such as adult education, early childhood, reading improvement instruction and extended learning time.
- **Policy IGD (Co-curricular and extracurricular programs)** – Proposed changes replace the words “sex” with “gender” and “handicap” with “disability.” A typographical error is also corrected.
- **Procedure GCBB-R-2 (Extra Assignment Compensation for Vocal and Instrumental Music Teachers)** – The proposed change replaces the word “certificated” with “certified.”

The board also approved the review of the following policies and procedures on Sept. 24:

- **Policy IGAG (Teaching about Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco);**
- **Policy GCEA (Substitute Instruction);**
- **Policy IGAF (Physical Education);**
- **Policy IGBH (Alternative School Programs);**
- **Policy IGCA (Summer Schools); and**
- **Procedure IIACA-R (“Weeding” of Library Materials Procedure).**

## New Hires

- **Ami Myers**, paraprofessional, Briar Crest
- **Stacey Sagan**, paraprofessional, Briar Crest
- **Cheryl Arnold**, clerical assistant, Holman
- **David Besgrove**, personnel coordinator, Learning Center

## Your Board of Education

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