



**News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education**

## **Pattonville wins Environmental Excellence Award**

**T**he Pattonville School District recently received an Environmental Excellence Award from Choose Environmental Excellence-Gateway Region. Jim Siervo, director of facilities, accepted the award during a ceremony at the Missouri History Museum and presented it to the Board of Education on May 25. Pattonville was named the winner in the school, college and university category. The Environmental Excellence Awards are presented to businesses, organizations, schools, individuals and faith communities throughout the metropolitan area that have taken exemplary steps toward becoming more environmentally responsible.



The Choose Environmental Excellence program began in 1994 as a non-profit partnership of business, government and private citizens acting together to improve environmental awareness and actions in the daily choices that thousands of individuals and institutions in the area make. The mission of Choose Environmental Excellence - Gateway Region is to encourage and celebrate environmental excellence.

Pattonville was recognized for managing waste within its schools and mining a nearby sanitary landfill's methane gas to heat its high school. The program saves the district thousands of dollars annually in heating costs.

## **Budget for next year tightly balanced, CFO reports**

No increase in state funding and decreased revenues from the desegregation program means that Pattonville's operating budget for next year will be balanced, but tight, Chief Financial Officer Ron Orr told board members at a recent work session on the budget for the 2004-05 school year.

"The issues facing nearly all St. Louis County school districts are the same ones impacting our budget," Orr said. "We're seeing a flat level of funding from the state after already losing some state revenues this year. We also continue to see reduced revenues from the desegregation program as we take fewer students and receive less than full-funding for the first time next year. The bottom line is that our budget is balanced, but narrowly. We will continue to focus our budget on expenses that impact student achievement while looking at areas where costs can be contained or trimmed."

On May 25, the Board of Education lodged for action a budget for 2004-05 that contained approximately \$69 million in revenues and expenditures. The board will officially vote on next year's proposed budget during its June 8 meeting.

The budget was based on projections that the assessed valuation of property in Pattonville would grow by 2 percent.

"The biggest unknown for next year is our assessed valuation," Orr said. "We're projecting a 2 percent increase and that's based on history. We'll be down \$1 million in revenues if that does not hold true."

Other factors included in the budget were:

- A salary and fringe benefit package of 3.41 percent increase for teachers and 3.75 percent for all others (as agreed to by certified and support staff negotiating organizations);
- A 17 percent increase in health insurance costs;

- State funding held constant;
- A reduction in reimbursements for voluntary transfer students from the current \$9,800 per child to \$7,000; and
- Staff reductions through retirements and attrition (no one being laid off) of two support staff and 10 teachers. The reductions were due to a drop in student enrollment.

The budget was built using the following board-approved financial goals:

- 1) To maintain a balanced operating budget;
- 2) To maintain a beginning fund balance sufficient to avoid short-term borrowing, loss in desegregation funding and to address future changes to the state's foundation formula, which establishes how much local schools receive in state funding;
- 3) To provide competitive salaries for the employees of the Pattonville School District;
- 4) To maintain a level of staffing for classrooms that meets or exceeds desirable standards established by the Missouri School Improvement Program;
- 5) To provide funding to address the recommendations of the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan committees;
- 6) To provide adequate funding for the maintenance of district facilities; and
- 7) To provide funding for the replacement of district technology.

## Updated goals for A+ Schools program approved

Three goals were given approval by the Pattonville Board of Education to help guide Pattonville High School in its A+ Schools program. The updated lists of goals reflected slight modifications. The goals that were approved are show at right. One previous goal - that an A+ Steering Committee continues to meet regularly to oversee the progress of A+ - was deleted, as this is a standard part of the A+ program.

Through the A+ Schools program, Pattonville graduates are eligible to receive two years of paid tuition to any Missouri community college or vocational technical school, provided requirements for attendance, citizenship and volunteerism (tutoring and mentoring younger students) are met.

The A+ Schools Program was initiated by the state of Missouri to help high schools reduce the dropout rate, eliminate the general track curriculum and provide better "career pathways" for all students. The key goal of A+ Schools is to assure that all students, when they graduate, are well prepared to pursue advanced education or employment or both. A school that has programs in place to meet the goals of the A+ Schools program can be designated an A+ School. Pattonville High School received that designation in 2002.

### Pattonville's goals for the A+ Schools program

#### **Goal A: All students graduate from high school.**

Pattonville's standard: *The dropout rate will be 3 percent or lower each year.*

#### **Goal B: All students complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for which there are identified learning expectations.**

Pattonville's standard: *All students will take a rigorous challenging course of study with identified, measurable learning outcomes.*

#### **Goal C: All students proceed from high school graduation to a college or post-secondary vocational or technical school or high-wage job with work-place skill development opportunities.**

Pattonville's standard: *The percent of graduating students who continue to either post-secondary educational institutions or high-wage jobs will increase compared to the 2004 graduating class.*

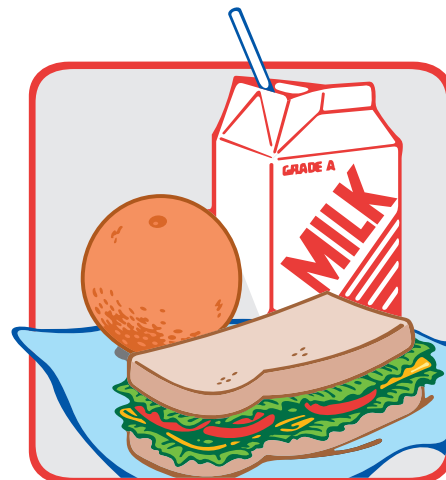
## Board approves new lunch prices for 2004-05

The rising cost of food supplies is resulting in the first increase in lunch prices in Pattonville in seven years. The Pattonville Board of Education approved the new prices during its May 25 meeting.

Nationwide, the cost of raw goods increased by more than 3.5 percent over the previous year. In addition, personnel costs have increased significantly in Pattonville over the last seven years.

“Through careful planning and belt-tightening, we have been able to absorb the majority of the increased costs until this point,” said Rick Mariam, director of food services. Pattonville’s lunch prices will be comparable to what other districts in St. Louis County are charging for the same services. Most fees will be either at the same price or less expensive than other districts in the area.

Lunch prices for elementary and middle school students will increase 25 cents to \$1.75. The cost of lunch for high school students will remain unchanged at \$1.75. Staff at all grade levels will be charged \$2.25 for lunch. This reflects a 50-cent increase for elementary staff and a 25-cent increase for middle and high school staff. Price changes will take effect in the 2004-05 school year. The prices are based on regulations set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



## Guidance program nets positive evaluation

Every day, guidance counselors in Pattonville schools play an important part in the total educational program by assisting students in planning their education, learning decision-making and developing skills for college, career or other post-graduation opportunities. These tasks are accomplished by a staff of 10 high school guidance counselors, six counselors at the middle school and 10 at the elementary level.

A report to the Board of Education on May 25 showed the Pattonville guidance program is meeting its goals in its services to children. Dr. John Heskett, assistant superintendent for pupil services, and several school counselors were on hand to give the report. Five goals guide the educators in the program:

- 1) Comprehensive responsive services are provided to students based on individual needs. Counseling groups are offered for students based on their needs.
- 2) Guidance counselors provide consultative support for the educational program.
- 3) Guidance counselors consult and provide support to staff and parents regarding the needs and development of students. They provide appropriate information to these persons.
- 4) Students are provided support to plan their post-secondary education or employment opportunities. Counselors provide information and assistance to students regarding their after-graduation options.
- 5) Students are provided instructional opportunities that foster the development of their personal, social and educational development. This is done through classroom lessons presented by guidance counselors or classroom teachers.



Three recommendations were made and approved for the coming year:

- Continue to focus efforts on providing educational supports to assist in student learning;
- Analyze student survey data to determine what adjustments may be needed to better respond to the needs of students; and
- Continue to assist individual students through individual or small group counseling or through referrals to outside agencies for long-term counseling support.

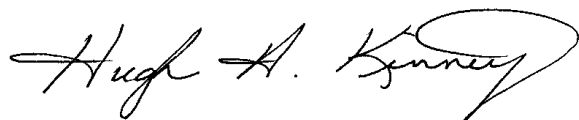
# Kinney's Corner

An Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

Here's a look at what's going on in Pattonville:

- Last Friday, a neighbor in our community experienced a crisis and saw just how giving and helpful our staff in Pattonville can be. A gas leak at Fee Fee Manor, a senior citizens housing complex, made it necessary to evacuate elderly residents to Pattonville Heights Middle School. Both Fee Fee Manor staff and the American Red Cross were very complimentary of the hospitality and assistance we showed. I commend everyone involved for their prompt and kind response. You showed them what Pattonville is all about.
- Last week, we honored a dedicated group of individuals who volunteer time each week to work one-on-one with our elementary students - our OASIS (older adult) tutors. Several of these individuals have been working in our schools for 10 years or more, some for as long as the program has been in Pattonville (13 years). These men and women are great partners in our quest for academic excellence for all.
- Congratulations to two staff members- Lisa Kickbusch, a teacher at Drummond Elementary who was just voted the new president of the Pattonville National Education Association (PNEA), and Aida Greenberg, English as a Second Language teacher at Pattonville High School, who was named a STAR teacher by the state of Missouri.
- Last Thursday, more than 300 seniors crossed the stage at UMB Bank Pavilion to receive their Pattonville High School diploma. This is a tribute to every educator, support staff member and volunteer who played a part - big or small - in the education of these children. We have you to thank for their success. It was a wonderful ceremony that capped off a great year focused on children and learning. Thanks to everyone involved.

This will be the last Board At Work newsletter to be published before school ends for the year, and I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Pattonville school community for their generosity, caring, dedication and hard work this year. We have one of the finest school districts in the state, one that puts children first in everything we do, and that's because of you. Thank you for everything you do. Have a great summer!



*OASIS tutors honored for service are, from left, front row, Betty Heath, 10 years, Louise Scott, five years, and Lois Crump, 10 years; back row, Marvin Radloff, five years, and Jim Crump, 10 years.*



# Calendar of Events

## **Wednesday, May 26**

Pattonville Heights Awards Night, 6:30 p.m.  
Holman Awards Night, 6:30 p.m.  
Remington Eighth-Grade Dinner, 6:30 p.m.

## **Thursday, May 27**

Remington Volunteer Appreciation Day  
High School exams, dismissal at 10:30 a.m.  
Briar Crest Volunteer Luncheon, 11 a.m.  
Willow Brook Fifth-Grade Recognition, 7 p.m.

## **Friday, May 28**

No school for Remington and elementary schools, report day  
High School exams, dismissal at 10:30 a.m.

## **Monday, May 31**

No school, Memorial Day - all offices closed

## **Tuesday, June 1**

High School exams, dismissal at 10:30 a.m.  
Last day of attendance for Holman, Pattonville Heights and Pattonville High School  
Pattonville Education Foundation, 7 p.m., Pattonville Learning Center

## **Wednesday, June 2**

Last day of attendance for elementary and Remington  
Report day for grades 6 through 12 staff members

## **Thursday, June 3**

Pattonville Alumni Association, 7 p.m., Pattonville Learning Center

## **Tuesday, June 8**

First day of high school summer school (ends July 2)  
Board of Education, 7 p.m., Pattonville Learning Center

## **Monday, June 14**

K-8 summer school begins (ends July 2)

## **Tuesday, June 22**

Board of Education, 7 p.m., Pattonville Learning Center



## Business Bits

### Paying the Bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on May 25 approved paying:

- \$5,400.48 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum for legal services; and
- \$157 to Tueth, Keeney, Cooper, Mohan and Jackstadt for legal services.

### Bid Awards

The Pattonville Board of Education on May 25 approved the following:

- \$9,600 to Rainbow Iron and Fence for chain link fencing at Pattonville High School and Parkwood Elementary;
- \$13,514 to Konica Minolta Business Solutions to purchase a digital color copier, with a guaranteed cost of .0535 cents per copy for a three-year period; and
- \$11,091.15 to Commercial Van Interiors for the purchase of equipment for the interior and exterior of the district's three new vans.

### Other

The Pattonville Board of Education on May 25 approved:

- Declaring furniture, equipment and other materials as surplus property; a surplus sale is scheduled to be open to the public on July 13 and 14 at Holman Middle School.

### Policy/Procedures

The Pattonville Board of Education on May 25 lodged for action the following procedure/policy updates:

- **Policy GDBB (Overtime/Extra Time Compensation for Support Staff)** – Minor word changes are being recommended, and the following sentence will be deleted: “The district recognizes that the Equal Pay Act as an amendment to the FLSA prohibits discrimination between employees on the basis of sex for the compensation received for work performed under similar working conditions that require equal skill, effort and responsibility.”
- **Policy GDJ (Work Schedules)** – Minor wording changes are recommended, and a section defining student employees is being added.
- **Policy GDQ (Employment and Re-employment of Paraprofessionals without Teacher Certification)** – The words “teacher assistant” are being changed to “paraprofessional,” and other minor wording changes are recommended.
- **Procedure GDQ-R-1 (Employment and Re-employment of Paraprofessionals without Teacher Certification)** – The words “teacher assistant” are being changed to “paraprofessional,” and other minor wording changes are recommended. References to the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction are being changed to refer to the assistant superintendent for human resources.
- **Policy JHCD (Administering Medicines to Students)** – The following sentences are recommended for addition to the policy: “Short-term medications may be given with an original prescription bottle and a parent/guardian note. Example: Antibiotic therapy for 2-4 weeks. Long-term medications may be given on a daily basis for the duration of the school year as long as the district policy is followed.”

The board is expected to vote on these updates on June 8.

### New Hire

- **Mary Jo Mansell**, cook, Holman

### Your Board of Education

- Pat Bryant, President
- Ron Kuschel, Vice President
- Jeff Fitterling, Secretary
- Keith Gillming, Treasurer
- Randy McArthur, Director
- Ruth Petrov, Director
- Ralph Stahlhut, Director