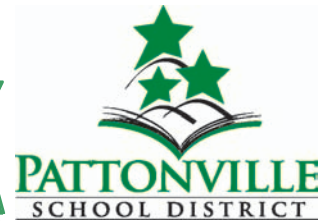




June 23, 2004

Board at Work



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

Board sets course of action for 2004-05 school year



The Pattonville Board of Education Areas of Emphasis are derived from Pattonville's strategic plan and set a course for the year to come...

Each year, the Pattonville Board of Education updates a list of areas that it will focus on for the coming school year. On June 22, the board approved its "Areas of Emphasis" for the 2004-05 school year. It reads as follows:

"The Pattonville School District Board of Education is committed to providing exemplary educational opportunities for ALL children. In order to accomplish this goal, quality professional development must be provided for all staff (new and experienced). Partnerships with parents, business leaders and district patrons must continue to be actively developed in order to engage the entire community as the district strives for educational excellence. In addition to the above, the board has adopted the following Areas of Emphasis for the 2004-05 school year:

- All students will continue to improve their performance on all measures of academic achievement.
- Student responsibility, citizenship and overall character will improve.
- Safety for students, staff and community will continue to be evaluated and improved.
- Parents, staff and students will continue to develop, modify and implement school improvement plans.
- The district technology plan will be updated and implemented as appropriate.
- The district facilities plan will be updated as appropriate and implemented utilizing bond issue and district operating funds.
- The district vocational education programs will become a more integral component of the total educational program.
- District maintenance and grounds operations will portray an excellent image of the district.
- Plan for future reduced state and local revenues."

Pattonville students with disabilities score above average

Students with disabilities in the Pattonville School District continue to score above average on achievement tests when compared to their peers on a statewide basis, according to an evaluation of the special education program in Pattonville. Services for children in kindergarten through 12th grade are provided by the Special School District of St. Louis County in Pattonville schools, while students enrolled in early childhood special education are served by Pattonville special educators. Approximately 1,017 school-aged students – nearly 17 percent of Pattonville students - received special education services last year. Pattonville served 122 children with disabilities and 120 children without disabilities in its early childhood program.

The report showed that achievement for Pattonville students with disabilities was significantly higher than the state average. In Pattonville, 76.5 percent of third-graders with disabilities scored satisfactory or above on reading

achievement tests in 2002-03, compared to 61.5 percent statewide. Ten percent more Pattonville seventh graders scored at the highest levels on the reading test compared to their state counterparts.

In addition, in 23 out of 24 areas where comparisons could be made, Pattonville's special education students scored better than the state average on the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests. In several areas there were significantly fewer students scoring in the lowest two levels of the test, compared to the state. Pattonville's graduation rate for students with disabilities is also well above the state average, nearly 83 percent in Pattonville, compared with 70 percent statewide. In addition, the dropout rate for students with disabilities dropped below 3 percent in 2003, compared to the state average of 5.4 percent.

The evaluation report also pointed out that significantly more Pattonville students with disabilities are educated in the regular classroom compared to students in other districts (76 percent versus 56 percent). Because of this, students with disabilities in Pattonville have more access to the general education curriculum. Finally, the report also showed that parents, as indicated on a parent satisfaction survey, are pleased with the services their children receive.

Several recommendations were made for continued improvement of services for students with disabilities:

- Continue successful implementation of the early childhood special education program;
- Continue to improve the number of students with disabilities scoring at the proficient or advanced levels on the MAP and decrease the number scoring in Step I and progressing (the lowest two levels);
- Reduce the percentage of students with disabilities using the oral reading accommodation for the communication arts assessment;
- Work with Special School District staff in the implementation of "Quality Decision-Making Procedures" in the identification of students with disabilities; and
- Implement recommendations from the Partnership Plan between the Special School District and the Pattonville School District.



Changes proposed to behavior guides for 2004-05

The Pattonville Board of Education gave a first look at proposed changes to the behavior guides for elementary, middle and high school students. Pattonville educators annually update the behavior guides, which are distributed to all families at the beginning of a new school year to outline student responsibilities, rights and consequences for violating rules in the guides. The board is expected to take a final vote on the changes during its July board meeting.

Major changes proposed at the elementary level are:

- Modification of the attendance section to specify the work schools will perform to encourage attendance and that attendance issues will be referred to the appropriate state or county office after 15 unacceptable absences.
- Modification to the Level II behavior offenses to specify as inappropriate sexually oriented written or oral communication.

Major changes proposed at the middle school level are:

- Modification of the attendance section to specify the work schools will perform to encourage attendance and that attendance issues will be referred to the appropriate state or county office after 15 unacceptable absences.

Major changes to the high school level are:

- Modified the admittance standards for Step-Up (after-school program for students on suspension) to allow principals to decide if students involved with weapon possession, fights, assaults or threats may attend Step-Up.
- Removed various forms from the behavior guide (detention, student access, electronic communication). Policies and procedures for these areas remain unchanged.
- Deleted the summary of the juvenile code from the behavior guide.
- Developed criteria for assignment of effort and conduct grades.
- Added a community service requirement (on track to obtain 50 hours) to be eligible for a parking pass.

Major changes to the Positive School behavior guide are:

- Adopted a school schedule, which requires all Positive School students to begin the school day at 7:23 a.m.
- Students who obtain 20 demerits are referred to the high school at the beginning of the next semester.

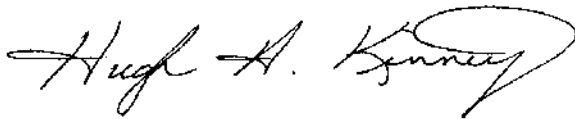
Kinney's Corner

An Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

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

- I want to take this opportunity to bid farewell to a longtime friend and advocate for children. Dr. John Heskett, assistant superintendent for pupil services, will be retiring at the end of this month. In his five years in Pattonville, his focus has been on ensuring that we do what's best for every child we encounter. His accomplishments will carry on for years, benefiting countless children. Thank you, Dr. Heskett, for your tireless work and dedication.
- Thanks and congratulations to Board Vice President Ron Kuschel, who was just elected vice president of the Governing Council of the Special School District. Mr. Kuschel serves a double duty as Pattonville's representative on the Governing Council.
- Congratulations to the school-community relations department. This very newsletter that you are reading has won an Award of Merit from the National School Public Relations Association.

Summer school has been going well. Students are actively engaged in wonderful learning experiences both in academic review, enrichment and camp programs. At the same time, construction projects are moving ahead full steam. Even in the summer, great things are happening for kids in Pattonville!



Calendar of Events

Friday, July 2

End of K-12 Summer School

Monday, July 12

Pattonville Surplus Sale, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Holman Middle School

Tuesday, July 13

Pattonville Surplus Sale, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Holman Middle School
Board of Education, 7 p.m., Pattonville Learning Center

Wednesday, August 18

First day of school



Business Bits

Paying the Bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 22 approved paying:

- \$3,929.81 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum for legal services; and
- \$1,670 for Phase II and \$12,367.25 for Phase III bond issue change orders.

Bid Awards

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 22 approved the following:

- \$30,568 to Spectrum Lawn & Tree Care for turf maintenance;
- \$59,000 to Petroleum Traders for diesel fuel purchase and delivery for the 2004-05 school year;
- A renewal of a contract for bank depository services with United Missouri Bank for the 2004-05 school year;
- \$76,175 to Corporate Express for the renewal of an office supply agreement;
- \$9,867 to Apple Computer for the purchase of 253 MAC OS X 10.3 Panther client licenses; and
- \$6,755.41 to MAB Paints for a paint and paint supply agreement.

Other

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 22:

- Approved a document titled, “Assurance Regarding Implementation of the Requirements During State Fiscal Year 2005 for Component Districts of Special School District – Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act Amendments of 1997,” which provides required assurances for the provision of special education and related services to school-age students with disabilities in partnership with the Special School District.
- Approved the “Assurance Statements for Sec. 611 (Part B) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as Amended by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997” for the 2004-05 school year; this document provides required assurances for providing special education services through the Pattonville’s early childhood special education program.
- Declared additional items as surplus materials to be sold in the district’s surplus sale on July 12 and 13.
- Declared a list of textbooks as surplus; the district will seek bids for the sale of these surplus textbooks.
- Approved paying \$3,250 for membership dues to the National School Boards Association for the 2004-05 school year.

New Hires

- **Charles Roach**, custodian, Holman
- **DeAun Blumberg**, reading/instructional specialist, Remington
- **Stephanie Jerden**, speech/language therapist, Learning Center

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