



August 11, 2004

# Board at Work



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

## Wellness program assists students, staff

**P**attonville's health and wellness services program is designed to provide quality health services to students, to help students become responsible citizens and to assist employees in improving their personal well-being.

An evaluation of the health and wellness program presented to the Board of Education on Aug. 10 showed the district is meeting its goals in these area by providing consistent medical care throughout the district via school nurses, participating in a safe and drug-free schools grant program and providing wellness services to staff.

As part of the safe and drug-free schools program, the district gathers and interprets data regarding students' attitudes and behaviors around drugs and violence. In addition, the district works to identify and put into place effective drug and violence education and prevention efforts at all grade levels, especially focusing at the middle school level.

Claire Steiner, district wellness coordinator, also shared with the board that a new Web site has been developed to provide parents with drug/violence information and available resources to raise awareness of youth use and abuse issues. The Web site can be found by visiting Pattonville's home page at [www.psd3.org](http://www.psd3.org) and clicking on the button labeled "Especially for Parents - Safe and Drug-Free Children." Steiner said the district would also continue to engage employees in workshops on chemical dependency and related issues to raise awareness of youth trends.

Recommendations made for the future of the program include:

- Use a lead nurse (via a stipend) to coordinate district health services;
- Add a nurse to the district safety committee;
- Evaluate the need for a district-wide health advisory committee;
- Identify and create new ways to provide training for staff on drug and violence prevention;
- Continue to focus on programs to reduce student incident rates of alcohol/drugs, bullying and fighting;
- Annually update the parent drug/violence awareness Web page;
- Continue to promote and offer wellness opportunities for district staff;
- Update the district's wellness Web page monthly; and
- Evaluate the focus and timing of the annual Wellness Run/Walk.



## Board approves two options for health insurance

Pattonville's health plan through Cooperating School Districts with United Health Care increased 22 percent for the 2004-05 school year for the same level of coverage currently offered. Due to the large increase in health insurance rates, the Cooperating School Districts Trust developed a second, lower-cost/higher-deductible option for member districts.

On July 20, the Pattonville insurance committee unanimously approved recommending that the Board of Education offer both of these plans to district staff members and retirees. The board approved the committee's

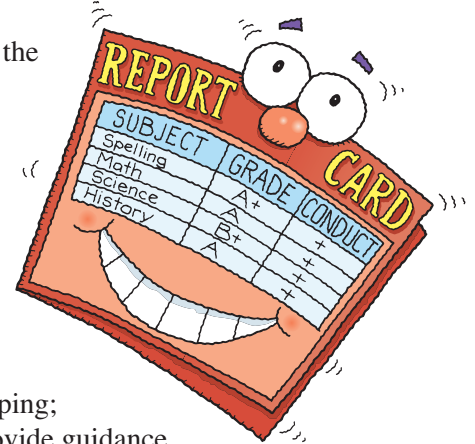
recommendation on Aug. 10. The lower cost plan would be offered as Pattonville's standard plan, and staff members will have the option of using a component of an insurance rebate they receive to purchase the higher level of coverage for the plan year. The monthly rate for the coverage plan that was provided last school year was \$331.58 for an individual, and that same plan will be \$405.22 in 2004-05. The lower-cost plan will be available at a cost of \$359.84.

No rate increases were made for dental insurance with the Essex Dental Plan, however dental insurance with Cigna had a rate increase of 4 percent. There were no increases for the following district plans: vision, employee counseling, prepaid legal, long-term disability and life insurance.

## Elementary report card gets revisions for 2004-05

The Board of Education on Aug. 10 approved updates to the elementary report card. The revisions were recommended to the board by the district's report card advisory committee. The following actions regarding the report card will take place beginning in the 2004-05 school year:

- Complete the pilot of the reporting system for grades 3 through 5 during the 2004-05 school year;
- Adjust the summative grading scale from percentages to a four-point system; in fourth and fifth grades, the scale is A= 3.3 to 4.0, B=2.8 to 3.2, C=2.0 to 2.7, D=1.5 to 1.9 and F=below 1.5;
- Use one key for all checklist items; the key for grades kindergarten through two addresses end of the year expectations, while the key for grades three through five addresses end of the trimester expectations;
- Add tardies to the list of attendance criteria;
- Use PowerSchool to complete the report card;
- Conduct a voluntary pilot for teachers to use PowerGrade for record-keeping;
- Train parents on why the changes in the progress report occurred and provide guidance on how to use them with their children;
- Provide professional development for staff on grading and assessing in a standards-based system and how to conduct student-led conferences using portfolios; and
- Develop a progress report that can be used for each grade level at the mid-point for the second and third trimesters.



## Board gives direction on fitness center

Last school year, Pattonville board members and educators began discussions about building a weight room facility at Pattonville High School adjacent to the softball field. The goal was provide students in Pattonville's home construction classroom with a building project, while also giving physical education students a better facility to use. The current weight room is located beneath the high school football stadium, and is in poor condition due to constant leaks from rainwater.

"The current weight room is in a cavity under the stadium," said Chief Financial Officer Ron Orr, "but it is best designed for storage, not a classroom. We can't control the water leakage in there. There's a two-year-old carpet in the facility, and it looks like it's been there 20 years."

The facility is in use by students all day long, Orr said. Orr, Principal Jeff Marion and architects from Bond Wolfe Architects recently presented an update to the board on the proposed facility and asked for direction on proceeding.

Orr told board members that after discussing a design with high school staff members and architects, the nature of the project and the projected costs have changed. In order for the facility to blend in with the high school building and absorb impacts from softballs from the adjacent field, the building would need a brick exterior, something beyond the scope of the home construction class.

"With the scope of work we're talking about, there is still some work that can be done by the kids, but we're getting to a level where more of the work will need to be done by outside contractors," Orr said.

In addition, restrooms were added to the design (ones that could be accessed by those using the nearby softball field), and staff is looking at the feasibility of adding another room to the facility as part of a second phase, a room that could be used as a physical education space and for after-school activities.

“It’s a space that’s sorely needed in the district, but we have to weigh the financial impact,” Orr said. “We went from an estimate of \$220,000 for the facility to \$400,000 and we didn’t want to pursue this if you thought it was out of line.”

Orr said the district could make up the difference in the cost by using a one-time expenditure of \$200,000 from its fund balances. The remaining amount has already been budgeted.

Board members asked that the project be bid in a manner that would give them an idea if it would be more economical to build the entire project at once or to complete it in phases. In addition, the board asked the district to explore partnering with more trade groups so that students could do more of the work. This would involve drafting agreements between Pattonville and the trade unions and could take some time and could push the project’s completion to 2006, Superintendent Hugh Kinney said. In the meantime, the district will have other projects for the home construction students to complete, he said.

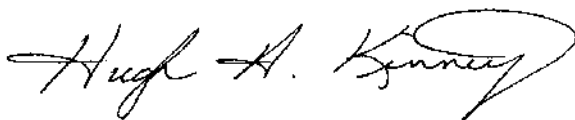
## **Kinney's Corner**

### **An Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney**

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

- I want to welcome all of our new teachers and staff members who are joining us for a new school year. I enjoyed meeting the new teachers during their orientation held this week and look forward to working with everyone in the year to come.
- Construction projects are well underway in the district and are scheduled to be completed, except for minor details, by the start of school next week. I hope everyone will agree that these new projects will make our work more efficient and our schools safer places to learn and grow.
- Congratulations to Randy Pierce, speech and debate teacher at Pattonville High School. This summer, some of his former students conspired to throw him a surprise party to celebrate this 30 years of making a difference for kids in Pattonville. They have also established a scholarship in his name.
- I want to send a personal thanks to Jennifer Schneider, assistant principal at Pattonville High School. Ms. Schneider stepped in at the last minute, in an hour of need, and spent some of her summer helping our cheerleaders prepare for competition. Thanks for going above and beyond the call of duty and congratulations to our cheerleaders, who are going to state.

Next week, we will officially kick off a new school year with an all-staff orientation program Monday morning and classes beginning for students on Wednesday. I’m looking forward to a great year, with great kids, great parents and great staff, all working together to do great things for our children.





# Calendar of Events



## **Thursday, August 12**

New Teacher Orientation  
Drummond Early Childhood and Kindergarten Open House, 6 p.m.  
Willow Brook Kindergarten Information Night, 6:30 p.m.  
Bridgeway PTA, 6:30 p.m.  
Remington New Family Welcome and Orientation, 6 p.m.  
Remington Kindergarten Roundup, 7 p.m.

## **Monday, August 16**

All-Staff Orientation, 7:30 a.m., High School  
Briar Crest Meet and Greet Open House, 5 p.m.  
Bridgeway Meet the Teacher Night, 5 p.m.  
Bridgeway Kindergarten Roundup, 6:30 p.m.  
Drummond Meet and Greet, first grade, 5 p.m.  
Parkwood Meet the Teacher Night, 6:15 p.m.  
High School PTO, 6:30 p.m.

## **Tuesday, August 17**

Staff Orientation  
Early Childhood Open House, 9 a.m., Learning Center  
Willow Brook Meet the Teacher, 3 p.m.  
Rose Acres Meet the Teacher, 5 p.m.

## **Wednesday, August 18**

First day of school

## **Thursday, August 19**

ALPHA (elementary gifted) Orientation/PAGE PTA, 6:30 p.m., Holman  
High School Pre-season Parent/Athlete Meeting, 7 p.m.

## **Saturday, August 21**

Parents As Teacher Open House, 9:30 a.m., Learning Center

## **Monday, August 23**

Drummond Third-Grade Open House, 6:30 p.m.

## **Tuesday, August 24**

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

## Business Bits

### Paying the Bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on Aug. 10 approved paying:

- \$2,327,090.21 in regular bills;
- \$12,398.45 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum for legal services; and
- \$89,608.50 in change orders for Phase III of the bond issue.

### Bid Awards

The Pattonville Board of Education on Aug. 10 approved the following:

- \$36,250 to Pearl Computers for computers from a vocational grant;
- \$9,000 to C2C Technology for the CISCO 3745 router chassis and \$750 to Pro Networks for installation;
- \$5,879.10 to Global Government Solutions for the TrippLite UPS System;
- \$3,237.50 to Telewiring Inc. for wiring phone and data lines at the Briar Crest annex;
- \$21,816 to Pepco Educational Products for 72 science tables at Holman Middle School;
- \$11,900 to Lighting Services for auditorium lighting; and
- \$2,239.24 to Software Plus, \$1,149.62 to Educational Resources, and \$1,451.25 to CDWG for software to be used as part of a vocational grant.

### Other

The Pattonville Board of Education on Aug. 10 approved:

- Setting the tuition rate for the 2004-05 school year at \$10,504 for non-resident students in kindergarten through eighth grade and \$10,906 for non-resident high school students; and
- Paying 60 percent of the annual membership dues for the Cooperating School Districts in the amount of \$49,298, \$6,706.80 for staff development and \$3,144 for Characterplus for the 2004-05 school year.

### New Hires

- **Joan Mason**, clerical assistant receptionist, Learning Center
- **Steven Chisholm**, technology support specialist, Learning Center
- **Diana Suk**, third grade, Drummond
- **Ryan Witt**, social studies, High School
- **Joan Udziela**, early childhood speech/language therapist, Learning Center
- **Carrie Coleman**, music/Title I, Briar Crest/Rose Acres
- **Stephanie Jones**, music, Drummond/Willow Brook

### Your Board of Education

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