



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

January 15, 2003

## Pattonville earns 2<sup>nd</sup> “Distinction” award

**F**or the second year in a row, the Pattonville School District has earned a “Distinction in Performance” Award from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Gov. Bob Holden recently announced the names of 157 school districts statewide that earned this recognition for their performance on various academic performance measures. Only 13 school districts in St. Louis County earned the award this year. The state no longer awards the “Accredited with Distinction” title, but annually recognizes districts with the “distinction” award.

“This is a wonderful accomplishment for our staff and community,” said Superintendent Hugh Kinney. “But most importantly it is reflective of the great things that are happening for our kids in Pattonville. I commend all the staff, parents, board members, administrators and community members who work so hard each day to make a difference for our students. This shows their work is paying off.”

To qualify for Distinction in Performance this year, school districts that educate students in grades kindergarten through 12 had to meet 11 out of 12 possible performance indicators, including all of the standards that are based on the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) exams. Pattonville met ALL 12 out of 12 standards and earned a perfect 100 out of 100 possible points on its Annual Performance Report issued by DESE. The report measures a district’s progress on the MAP tests, reading proficiency, ACT scores, students taking advanced courses and vocational courses, college placement, vocational placement, dropout rate and attendance.

## Board approves budget revisions

The Pattonville Board of Education approved on Jan. 14 its annual winter budget adjustments for the current school year, a move that continued to maintain a balanced budget for the district.

The revised budget reflected better news regarding earlier concerns over lower-than-expected revenues. The decline in revenues was brought on by an unanticipated drop in assessed valuation of property in the district.

The district’s assessed valuation, which was projected to grow by 3 percent, actually declined by 1.6 percent. The drop resulted in a net loss of \$950,893 in revenue. Adjustments were made to the expenditure budget to offset the loss and maintain a balanced budget, when one-time expenditures are excluded. Specifically, the revenue loss was offset by lower-than-budgeted costs associated with salaries and fringe benefits, as well as sound management of the 2000 bond issue funds, which enabled about \$500,000 in roof repairs at the high school to be paid for with bond issue funds instead of operating revenue.

Included in the budget revision was approximately \$16 million of additional revenues and expenditures associated with refinancing the 1993 bond issue, a move that will save \$1.3 million over the next 8 years.

## Middle schools study changes to schedules

A joint committee from Holman and Pattonville Heights middle schools is studying possible changes to the school day schedules at each school in order to better meet students' academic needs. Principals Bill Modaff (Holman) and Scot Mosher (Pattonville Heights) shared the process the committee is using to study possible changes, as well as some of the areas the committee is addressing related to the structure of the school day. The presentation was made to the Board of Education on Jan. 14 after each school had outlined updates to their individual school improvement plans.

Mosher said the committee is studying ways to "get better use of the students' time." Some of the opportunities for change that are being looked at include: joint school collaboration, grading term lengths, advisory periods, blocking, foreign language classes, reading, elective classes, "double dosing" in core subject areas where students might need added instruction, increased enrichment opportunities and the needs of students served by Special School District. The committee is comprised of students, parents, teachers and administrators from both schools.

Mosher and Modaff said the staff and parents would have input into any recommendations and that the committee would be reviewing test data and other measures to see where the greatest needs arise.

In offering updates to their school improvement plans, both schools addressed goals related to improving academic achievement, especially in reading and writing, teaching students to be responsible citizens and increasing school ownership among students, parents and teachers.

## Board approves change in bond issue priority

The Pattonville Board of Education on Jan. 14 approved a change to Holman Middle School's bond issue priority list. The board approved the removal from Holman's bond issue "to do" list the construction of a canopy from Wing 3 to the gym. Instead, the school will spend the amount budgeted on this project, \$159,050, to convert the school's former wood shop (now a storage area) into a family and consumer science room and lab. The request for the change was made by Principal Bill Modaff after working with his school improvement team and PTA members. The funds are part of a \$37 million bond issue approved by voters in April 2000.

## Middle school curriculum change OK'd

School officials were given the green light by school board members on Jan. 14 to revise a middle school math course in their curriculum to provide more challenge for students. The change will enable Pattonville middle schools to offer an Algebra I/Challenge Mathematics 8 course to eighth graders. The course is the equivalent of the standard first-year high school algebra course and could lead to a student taking Algebra II in the ninth grade if math grades, test scores and teacher recommendations support this placement. Students in eighth grade will now have the option of taking the standard Math 8 or the Challenge Math 8/Algebra I during eighth grade.

## Board meeting date changed

The Board of Education on Jan. 14 approved changing the date of its first regular meeting in April from Tuesday, April 8, to Thursday, April 10. The change was made to accommodate laws regarding board reorganization after the April municipal election day, which is April 8. Under Missouri law, the board must reorganize with new or re-elected board members within seven days following the election.

## Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

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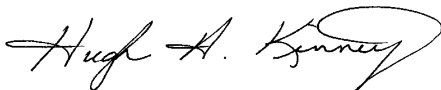
Dear Pattonville family,

Here's a look at what's happening:

- Congratulations to Rickey Jones, a driver trainer, who won first place in an adult oratory contest celebrating the life and values of Martin Luther King, Jr. Rickey gave his winning speech at a Martin Luther King celebration at St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley on Sunday, Jan. 12.
- Our new high school library is officially open to the public after school hours. Our staff is doing a great job of getting the word out, and students are already beginning to take advantage of this new opportunity. I've even seen retirees there enjoying the new facility. Thanks to Carol Jobe and Michelle Raby, our after-hours staff members, for making our guests feel at home.

I was amazed as I reflect back over the holiday season at the generosity and giving spirit of our students and staff. The toys, food and money collected helped hundreds of families have a better holiday season. I want to thank all the students and staff for going above and beyond to help our neighbors. A special thank you to the Rose Acres second graders who also raised funds through a project that was part of an economics lesson. The students donated \$160 to our very own PattCare, which gives financial assistance to Pattonville staff and families in unexpected crises. PattCare is solely supported by staff and community donations.

Sincerely,



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

# Business Bits

## Approval of bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on Jan. 14 approved the following:

- Regular bills in the amount of \$1,415,930.08;
- Cafeteria bills in the amount of \$52,960.53;
- Cooperating School District dues in the amount of \$48,465 (40 percent of total dues); and
- Bond issue change orders in the amount of \$52,955.04.

## Bid Awards

The Pattonville Board of Education on Jan. 14 approved the following bid awards and contracts:

- \$10,545.64 for televisions and VCRs in the new high school science wing to Video Service of America; and
- Renewal of the district's property, liability and workers' compensation insurance for the 2003 calendar year with Missouri United School Insurance Council in the amount of \$656,921.

## Policy/Procedures

The Pattonville school board approved the following policies and procedures on Jan. 14:

- **Policy GBEB (Communicable Diseases- Employees)** – Approved revisions change a paragraph to read, “Employees with a disease have a right to privacy and a need for confidentiality. Only staff members and other persons in the school community who need to know, as determined by the administrative staff in consultation with medical/legal counsel, will be informed of such employee’s identity and condition. Except as provided above, unauthorized disclosure (willful or negligent) of confidential information about an employee’s medical condition will result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.”
- **Procedure GBEB-R-1 (Communicable Diseases)** – Approved revisions change a sentence to read, “The district’s policy and procedures on communicable diseases will be available in the district’s policy and procedure books and, at the discretion of the superintendent or designee, may also be posted at each work site.” Another sentence was revised to read, “The employee will be placed on sick leave in accordance with district policy until a decision regarding the safety of allowing the employee to return to work.” Other minor wording changes were approved.
- **Exhibit GBEB-E-1 (Communicable Diseases)** – Minor wording and grammatical changes were approved.

The board also lodged for action the following policies:

- **GBC (Staff Ethics)** – Proposed revisions change the words, “rules and regulations,” to read, “and procedures.” The following sentence will also be added: “Staff members also may use the grievance procedure.”
- **GCPB (Resignation of Professional Staff Members)** – A minor wording change is proposed.
- **IGBC (Parent/Family Involvement in Instructional and Other Programs)** – This is a new policy that addresses involving parents and families in the instructional program.
- **IGBCA (Programs for Homeless Students)** – This is a new policy that outlines policies and services for students designated as homeless.

The board is expected to vote on these policies during its Jan. 28 meeting.

## New Hires

- **Sheila Burks**, custodian, Pattonville Heights
- **Vivian Powell**, early childhood helper, high school
- **Michelle Raby**, library clerk, high school
- **Roosevelt Delaney**, custodian, high school
- **Timothy Fender**, English, high school

## Your Board of Education

- **Ralph Stahlhut**, President
- **Ron Kuschel**, Vice President
- **Pat Bryant**, Secretary
- **Keith Gillming**, Treasurer
- **Jeff Fitterling**, Director
- **Kathy Fitzgerald**, Director
- **Michael Stewart**, Director



## Pattonville Education Foundation Grant Recipients 2003

### Bridgeway

Kim Heumann

### Drummond

Michelle Wagner, Nisa Peters and Jennifer Rogers

### Remington

Kelli Risse, Jeannie King, Karrie Peters and Mary Kurth

### Rose Acres

Stacey Knes and Ginny Larson

### Pattonville High School

Sandi Bahr, Kathy Shearrer, Margaret Borgmann, Lanee' King, Brent Mueller, Susan Saputo, Kathleen Smith, Linda Bowers, Suzanne Walker, Don Schulte and Mark Ludwig

### Learning Center

Tammy Davis, Kathleen Smith, Debbi Head, Lori Connors, Janet Schweiss, Barbara Schultz, Patty Gould and Laurie Wenzel