

Board Meeting Highlights

Regular Meeting

October 15, 2008

At its regular meeting on October 15, 2008, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

- Additional Items Placed on the Agenda

Heard from Lisa Houk who presented Board member Patti Essig with recognition from the Illinois School Board Association for obtaining Level I and II Master Board member status and Board President Leandra Sedlack for obtaining Level I Master Board member status. The recognition is earned based upon workshops attended and experience as a Board member.

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf regarding the school receiving the A+ Award from SchoolSearch. This award is based on academic performance. The district is among 60 out of 861 districts that received this award. The Superintendent stated that the staff, students and parents should be very proud of this accomplishment.

- Open Forum

Heard from a parent who is displeased that the current 6th grade will not have an art special this year. She requested the Board to reconsider the decision and felt that there could have been better communication to the parents ahead of time regarding this decision.

Heard from a parent that there could have been better communication in the Friday packet regarding the change in the art rotation.

- Consent Agenda

Unanimously approved the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of September 17, 2008; payment of September payroll/October warrants; appointment of designated Board election representative; and October 2008 personnel report.

Reports and Discussions:

- Grade 6 Art Change

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the decision making process for making the middle school special rotation change. It was pointed out that all members of the technology committee and curriculum council reviewed and approved the change. Over 25 teachers, administrators, and parents participated in the decision. After some discussion, the Board decided that they would not be revisiting the curriculum change and the current specials rotation would stay in effect. Art teacher Dianne Washburn has been offering 6th grade students before and after school opportunities as part of the transition process. Dianne is also working with Deb Cummens to incorporate art in the current 6th Grade Health Curriculum.

- Technology Plan Overview

Heard from Technology Specialist Judith Stevens regarding the current technology deployment plan for the next three years. Technology Specialist John McAtee also discussed the future plans for technology and instruction. The Board was informed of many new technology related initiatives that have been implemented as a result of the plan.

- Staff Recognition

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf regarding the proposal for Board recognition of staff. Board members Patti Essig, Beth Tegtmeier, and Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf met with staff and one administrator to gather input regarding the staff recognition nomination process. It was recommended by the group that

administrators will identify staff for Board recognition. The Board decided they will go forward with the plan for Board of Education Staff Recognition.

- Elementary and Middle School 2008-09 Improvement Plans
Heard from Principal Matt Vandercar regarding the Elementary School Improvement Plan. The priorities for the upcoming year will be social/emotional learning and technology. The elementary staff will continue to integrate laptop usage in the classrooms, set challenging test targets, advance Orton-Gillingham phonics instruction and Writer's workshop. Principal Meg Pokorny presented the Middle School Improvement Plan. The goal areas for the upcoming year are improving ITBS and EXPLORE test scores, social skills, student writing, and improving student organizational skills. Teachers will be working with students to set and improve challenging academic goals. Teachers will also be implementing various tools to improve student writing.
- Record Retention Plan
Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf regarding the Record Retention Plan that was drafted by Board Member Mark Mirabile and himself. The plan specifies guidelines for retaining materials in addition to those records mandated by the Local Records Commission of Cook County. The policy will be up for Board approval at the November Board meeting.
- Town Hall Meeting Planning
Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who suggested the topic of social and emotional learning for the upcoming January 28, 2009 Town Hall meeting. After Board discussion, it was decided that the planning of the meeting would be moved to the November meeting as to gain input from the Core Team on topics that could be discussed at the Town Hall meeting.
- Input to the Core Team
Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who requested Board input to forward to the Core Team. Board Member Mark Mirabile asked that the Core Team discuss communication of information to the community. Board Member Scot Orsic would like the Core Team to look into what education will look like in the next 10 years so that we keep up with the trends.
- Tax Levy
Heard from Business Manager Catherine Chang regarding the process of developing the tax levy. The levy is finalized at the December 17, 2009 public hearing.
- Action Item
The Board unanimously approved to adopt the proposed 2008 tax levy and authorize publication of the public hearing notice.
- Next Agenda
Strategic Planning Status Report from Core Planning Team; Review of Progress toward Strategic Objectives using standardized Test Data; Five Year Financial Projections; Audit Report; Town Hall Meeting Planning; Approve Board Policies; and Board Recognition.
- Adjournment
Adjourned the regular meeting at 9:25 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be
Wednesday, November 19, 2008
7:00 p.m. in the
District 107 Administration Building**