

**Board Meeting Highlights**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**November 19, 2008**

At its regular meeting on November 19, 2008, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

- **Board of Education Staff Recognition**  
Heard from Board President Leandra Sedlack who recognized Kindergarten teacher, Erin Oskroba, for her work with the elementary butterfly garden and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Jennifer Carnes, for her work with the middle school pond.
- **Board of Education Student Recognition**  
Heard from Board President Leandra Sedlack and Board Vice President Patti Essig who presented the 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball, 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys softball, IMEA participants and LaGrange Art League show winners with certificates for their accomplishments this year.
- **Open Forum**  
Heard from a parent who wanted to inform the administration and Board that LADSE has written the Preschool for All grant for other districts and requested that the district investigate grant opportunities.
- **Consent Agenda**  
Unanimously approved the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of October 15, 2008; payment of October payroll/November warrants; November 2008 personnel report; Board of Education Record Retention Policy; and 403b Retirement Plan.

**Reports and Discussions:**

- **Academic Goals Status Report Using Standardized Test Data**  
Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who introduced John Wick to present portions of the testing report. The testing report is available for the community on the district website. Superintendent Fredisdorf presented information showing that the ITBS scores are the highest they have ever been with substantial gains for students going from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to high school. Dr. Wick discussed the goal setting process and talked about how teachers were very eager to set high targets. He felt it was good that they set high targets emphasizing reading comprehension. Reading scores have been going up continually. Grammar and usage will be a focus in the year ahead. This will help students prepare for the ACT test. The grammar section of the ACT has similar content. Math concepts and problem solving are very solid. Math computation improved in grades 6-8 but remained weak in grades 3-5. For the students going from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, scores have gone down. The teachers for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade have been provided with error data on each 5<sup>th</sup> grader to determine specific areas of weakness. Kindergarten and grade 1 DIBELS scores were again very strong with very few students scoring in the "at risk" category. Dr. Fredisdorf commended 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher Brent Eldridge and his team for all the hard work they have done. Mr. Eldridge felt that the work the students are doing in Kindergarten involving Orton-Gillingham has helped the students be better prepared for 1<sup>st</sup> grade.
- **Audit Report**  
Heard from Bob Horstman who addressed the Board regarding the audit report. He reported that the district's financial position is very strong. There were some significant changes in accounting requirements creating a lot of extra work for the district and auditors. According to Mr. Horstman, Pleasantdale has one of the best reports in the area. He discussed that the material weakness comments in the report are the same for all school districts due to the new requirements. There was nothing in the report that the Board needed to take any action on at this time. Some of the new auditing standards will commence in 2010. Superintendent Fredisdorf commended Business Manager Catherine Chang on all her work on the audit report and in managing the budget.

- Strategic Planning Report from Core Planning Team

Heard from Board member Rick Rigley who shared the outcomes of the October 20 and 21 strategic planning meeting. The group came up with the following new strategic objectives and strategies.

Strategic Objectives (New)

By 2014:

\*each student will consistently exhibit behaviors that reflect our core values.

\*each student will meet or exceed individual academic goals consistent with district academic standards.

\*each student will demonstrate the desire, ability, and confidence to pursue and apply new learning.

Strategies (New)

We will:

Evaluate and adjust our communication system to efficiently and effectively convey information to our school community critical to the success of our strategic plan.

Create a system that focuses available resources to elevate our existing curricula so that each student attains our strategic objectives.

Set, monitor and adjust the pace of implementation to preserve the energy and commitment of our staff in order to achieve our strategic objectives and mission.

**Objectives and strategies were identified by consensus.**

Board member Mark Mirabile stated that he also thought the meeting was very productive and the team felt that there were no major issues in the district at this time. Superintendent Fredisdorf stated that the core values and mission did not change.

- Town Hall Meeting Planning

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf regarding the upcoming January 28, 2009 Town Hall Meeting. The Board decided that the Town Hall Meeting will consist of more than one topic. There will be a welcome and summary of strategic planning to begin the meeting. Subsequently, there will be two break out sessions on social emotional learning and academic goal predictions.

- Action Item

The Board unanimously approved the audit report as presented and strategic planning recommendations from the Core team.

- Next Agenda

Tax Levy Hearing; Adopt Tax Levy; Mid-term Superintendent review; Approve State Report Card; Strategic Planning Report; Town Hall Meeting Planning; Five Year Financial Projections; RTI Plan Approval; and District Contract Review.

- Open Forum

Heard from a parent who requested more information on the keys in the testing report and questioned why IEP and free and reduced students were broken into other categories on the testing reports.

- Closed Session

The Board met in closed session from 9:12 to 10:02 p.m. to discuss information regarding appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of personnel.

- Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 10:03 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be  
Wednesday, December 17, 2008  
7:00 p.m. in the  
District 107 Administration Building**