

Board Meeting Highlights
Regular Meeting
April 15, 2009

At its regular meeting on April 15, 2009, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

- **Student Recognition**

Heard from Board President Leandra Sedlack and Board Member Scot Orsic who presented certificates of recognition from the Board of Education for winning West 40's SCOTY award to Austin Graf and Michael Pajkos, and to Kole Sedlack for winning the IESA Scholar Attitude award.

- **Open Forum**

Heard from a parent who congratulated the incumbents on winning the election and thanked Board member Scot Orsic for his service on the Board. She also stated that the Elementary construction bid was up for approval and expressed her concern that there was no time to go to the architect to see if there is a less expensive route for the project.

Heard from a parent who stated that after attending her son's reading workshop she'd done extensive research into the many reading programs available. She would like the Board to consider looking into the "The Wilson Reading System" and "The Stevenson Program". She stated that she is grateful that we have the reading workshop and that we are working to give struggling students the ability to read.

Heard from a parent who shared the same feelings regarding the reading program and feels it is important to find out who is receiving outside instruction in addition to our reading program. She reported that her son is attending Huntington Learning Center and benefitting from the experience.

- **Consent Agenda**

Unanimously approved the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of March 18, 2009; closed session meeting minutes of March 18, 2009; payment of March payroll/April warrants; Revised FY09 School Calendar; Amendment to Student/Parent Handbook Pertaining to Electronic Devices on Busses; and Board Policies Relating to Curriculum Approval.

Reports and Discussions:

- **Elementary School Construction**

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who recommended the Board approve the elementary school construction bid. Mike Henderson from STR Partners explained the steps that took place to develop the plans, estimates and bids for the elementary school construction. Since the start of the base project, there were a few items that were added including an HVAC upgrade, windows and flooring. With the additional items, a revised estimate of \$254,000 was done by STR Partners. Construction Solutions' came in as the second lowest bidder at \$236,723 out of 15 bids submitted. The first bidder withdrew the bid because it was incomplete. Board President Leandra Sedlack questioned some of the additions and the rationale of them being added. Mr. Henderson explained that doing the additions at a later date would result in greater costs. Board Member Scot Orsic expressed that the renovation would not do anything regarding security and that it is more of a remodel. Board member Mark Mirabile requested more information regarding the HVAC and cabinets. Board member Lisa Houk asked Mr. Henderson if he felt that the bids were competitive in the current economy. Mr. Henderson explained that public projects must pay prevailing wages regardless of the economy, however the cost of materials have gone down. He felt that Construction Solutions' bid was very competitive. Business Manager Catherine Chang explained where the additional line item money would come out of the budget.

- **Math Textbook Adoption**

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who explained that the math committee and Curriculum Council have been working together to replace math materials in grades K-7. The publisher chosen is Pearson. The "enVision" series will be used for grades K through grade 6 on level. Prentice Hall will be used for above level grade 6 and above level grade 7. The Superintendent requested that the Board approve the order now so that training with the teachers can begin immediately. Grade 8 books were upgraded a year ago to align with the high school. The math committee will be meeting on May 18th to adjust the curriculum maps. Additional training might be needed the week before school starts, pending review by representatives from the Curriculum Council. Work on mastery statements was completed before the textbooks were selected. Five major publishers met with the math committee. The decision to choose Pearson was by consensus. Board President Leandra Sedlack requested more information regarding student access to textbooks by

electronic means. Board Member, Mark Mirabile requested additional information regarding the Student Edition CD Rom included in the Series relative to usage. Board also requested to know the cost of secondary textbooks.

- Remedial Reading Program Review

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who explained the items in the Board packet regarding the remedial reading program. Board Member Scot Orsic asked the Board to share what they felt about the program. Board Vice-President Patti Essig asked about the one on one conferences with the students. Conferencing occurs on a daily basis. Principal Meg Pokorny stated that the students in the middle school will meet with the teacher or in small groups to discuss the materials that they are reading and to assess if the student comprehends the material. Board President Leandra Sedlack asked what criteria are used to see if a student is falling behind or on the edge of needing additional help. Board Member Lisa Houk asked if there was any parent training by teachers to help with their students at home and during the summer. The district does offer opportunities such as Orton Gillingham parent night and teachers will talk with the parents to give them strategies to use at home. Board member Mark Mirabile feels that we should have reading lab binders available with all the strategies for anyone who requests to look at them. There was discussion of what could be done during the summer for remedial reading students. Board Vice-President Patti Essig asked if we work with the high school to implement any programs to help the students in the transition from 8th grade to high school. The high school offers programs for 8th graders to attend LT's summer school. Even though summer programs are offered, many students choose not to attend. Board Member Scot Orsic wanted to know if interim testing was done and do we have a documented curriculum for the remedial reading program. He feels that there are not enough gains and would like to see better gains. The Board felt that their questions had been answered and that they would like to further review it in the near future. The remedial reading program will be looked at again in July.

- Board Policy Review of Section 2

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who asked the Board if there were any changes to the policy section 2 that was reviewed in June 2008. Board member Scot Orsic had questions on 2:140 pertaining to "Communications To and From the Board" and 2:70 pertaining to "Vacancies on the School Board- Filling Vacancies". Superintendent Fredisdorf will check with IASB and the district attorneys for clarification on these policies.

- Review Service Provider Bids/Contracts

Heard from Business Manager Catherine Chang who stated she had requested proposals from six auditing firms for services. Only four firms provided information. Our current auditor, Virchow Krause provided the lowest proposal for services at \$17,000. It is Business Manager Catherine Chang's recommendation that the Board approve the proposal to stay with Virchow Krause for the next school year. Business Manager Catherine Chang reviewed the list of contracts up for approval at the May Board meeting. Board Member Scot Orsic would like to see if there was anything that could be done about the fuel surcharge regarding the transportation contract with First Student.

- Action Items

By a vote of 5-1, approved the action item regarding the elementary school construction bid submitted by Construction Solutions for \$236,723. The Board unanimously approved the math materials purchase that was submitted.

- Next Agenda

(Organizational Meeting, April 29): Election of President, Vice President and Secretary; Appointment of Recording Secretary; Establish Regular Meeting Day, Time and Place; Readopt Board of Education Policy Manual; Appointment of IASB Representative; New Board Orientation.

(Regular Meeting, May 20): Curriculum Council Status Report; Strategic Planning Status Report; Approve Section 2 Board Policy Changes; Grade 1 Job Share Proposal; Approve Milk Bid and Fees; Approve Paper Bid; Approve Hot Lunch Contract Renewal; Appointment of Auditor; Approve Cleaning Service Contract; Information on Textbooks and Home Access; Math Action Parent Feedback (written); and Administrative and Confidential Employee Contracts.

- Open Forum

Heard from a parent who has a child in 1st grade and wanted to know if the students in the remedial reading program attended preschool. She felt the ones who have IEP's are receiving services and the ones who don't might be falling through the cracks. Her child is not able to receive outside services due to financial reasons.

Heard from a parent who congratulated all the winners on the Board and thanked Board Member Scot Orsic for his service to the Board. She stated that the elementary office windows face east, not south. The parent further expressed that there may be too many students in remedial reading.

Heard from a parent wanting to know the number of her student on the remedial reading example. She expressed approval to share with the Board his scores and how she helped her student improve. She offered her son to be tracked and volunteered his records to use as a sample.

- Closed Session

The Board met in closed session from 9:17 –11:27 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel and pending litigation.

- Action Items

Unanimously approved the April 2009 Personnel Report as presented.

- Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 11:29 p.m.

**The Organizational meeting of the Board of Education will be
Wednesday, April 29, 2009
7:00 p.m. in the
District 107 Administration Building**

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be
Wednesday, May 20, 2009
7:00 p.m. in the
District 107 Administration Building**