

Board Meeting Highlights

Regular Meeting

June 17, 2009

At its regular meeting on June 17, 2009, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

- Additional Items

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who thanked Maria Smith for her past 4 years of service to the district as the Director of Student Services. Dr. Smith has taken a position at Evanston High School.

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who introduced 8th grader Collin Thomas and 7th grader William Mertz. Collin explained that the 8th graders had several choices for community service projects this year. He participated in the trip to the Denada Equestrian/Wildlife Center. At the equestrian center students repaired and painted a fence so that the other volunteers could have more time working with the neglected horses. The students were exposed to the whole process of how neglected horses were obtained and cared for at Denada. William Mertz described his experience at PAWS in Tinley Park. Students collected food, blankets and rugs for the dogs and cats at the facility and then delivered them. The students were able to learn about the different categories of animals housed at PAWS.

- Open Forum

Heard from 1st grade teacher Judy Sarwark who thanked the Board for approving the Job Share proposal for next year. Judy had done Lucy's maternity leave and was very excited when the idea was presented to her for the Job Share program. She also thanked Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf, Principal Matt Vandercar and the Board for believing in the two of them. Lucy Leone-Arroyo also thanked the Board for approving the Job Share proposal. She stated that it is rewarding to be supported by staff, administration and the community. She could not have asked for more.

Heard from a parent who wanted to share thoughts with the Board before they start making requests of the administration for information when reviewing the remedial reading program and remedial math programs. She stated that the programs help most, but not all the students. She suggested that materials should be available for teachers for different methods. She hoped that the Board would ask for an assessment of other methods for reading fluency. She suggested to poll the families of reading workshop students to determine if they are receiving other services outside of the district. In addition, she wanted the Board to follow up on former Board Member Scot Orsic's request to review our remedial readers individual progress including the use of DIBELS after grade 1 up into middle school.

Heard from a parent who presented to the Board a written appeal and written complaint against Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf. The parent also provided the Board with bills from her insurance company and a copy of the complaint.

- Consent Agenda

With a vote of 5 to 1, approved the revised consent agenda consisting of: closed session meeting minutes of May 20, 2009; payment of May payroll/June warrants; prevailing wage resolution; voluntary student insurance; transfer of interest; payment of June 30 warrants; appointing imprest fund custodian; designation of depositories for school district funds; Communication and Curriculum Action Plans; June 2009 personnel report; and a change in the September Board meeting date from the 16th to 23rd. Board members Rick Rigley and Karen O'Halloran requested to go on record that they did not support the approval of the June 2009 personnel report.

Reports and Discussions:

- June Testing Report

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the Gates reading scores that were administered in May 2009. Dr. John Wick summarized the results of the 2007-2009 Spring Gates performance scores in reading comprehension and vocabulary using the national percentile ranks (NPRs) and average scaled scores. For all grades and both tests the scaled scores were up. The NPRs went up for all grades but grade 2 in reading comprehension. In vocabulary, the NPRs went up in all grades but 2, 4, and 8. Dr. Wick explained that this was due to the fact that the students are taking tests a year ahead of the grade they are currently in. Dr. Wick explained that reading comprehension is far more important than vocabulary. Superintendent Fredisdorf explained that Grade 2 also took the ITBS test this year in May which may have impacted both tests as they were administered one after the other. This is also the first time grade 2 students took any type of math standardized test. DIBELS scores for Kindergarten and grade 1 were also reviewed. The DIBELS is a one on one administered test that has yielded important data for improving instruction. DIBELS scores were at an all time high.

- SEL Program Evaluation Update

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who explained that the SSIS data collection tool was administered in grade 3 and 5. Dr. Wick explained the reliability of the SSIS test data. He was satisfied with the SSIS scores in terms of reliability and validity. The information can be used at an individual level. The new SSIS evaluation will help staff to more surgically improve our SEL program as we can now determine what social skills we need to improve upon. After obtaining longitudinal data in subsequent years, we will be able to compare the social skills scores and academic scores to determine how they may affect each other. Dr. Wick expressed that this is a solid survey and the cost/benefit will be greater than the survey used in the past. Grade 3-6 students will be administered the test in February so that teachers will have ample time to get to know them. Board member Karen O'Halloran questioned how honestly the students would be in answering the questions. Dr. Wick pointed out that reliability is measured by the consistency of answers. Dr. Fredisdorf reviewed the SEL behavioral data collected at the elementary and middle school. Matt Vandercar explained the results from the elementary school. Eagle's Nest is a very effective way to rectify negative behaviors. This includes an opportunity for students to process why they are at the "Nest" with a trained staff member. This year the SEL data were collected more efficiently which created an impression of increased problem behaviors. Mr. Vandercar stated that the staff discusses student behavior at the beginning of the school year and works on plans to address areas of concern. Rick Rigley requested that next year the middle school report be summarized to look more like the elementary.

- Review Status of 2008-09 District Goals

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the status of the 2008-09 goals. The SEL goal pertaining to community service exceeded expectations regarding meaningful learning experiences for students. Student feedback about the activities has been extremely positive. The Strategic Plan was evaluated and updated. Financial projections have been provided to the Board per conditions of satisfaction.

- Board Retreat Follow-up

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who stated that no follow up was needed at this time.

- Change in Board Policy 4.4

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who stated that Board policy 4.4 needed to be revised to be consistent with State of Illinois law. The bidding threshold in current policy is at \$10,000. The new state law has changed the limit to \$25,000. This policy will be up for approval at the July 15, 2009 Board meeting.

- UPS Tax Objection
 Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the current status of the UPS tax refunds. He pointed out that tax refunds returned to tax paying entities cannot be recouped in subsequent levies. Ares Dalinas, of Franczek, Radlet updated the Board on the status of the UPS tax objection. The Circuit Court has ruled that school districts can now intervene in Circuit Court tax objection complaints. The district is now allowed to have a voice in such cases. Lyons Township High School has already approved a resolution to intervene. It is the hope that other taxing bodies will also join. The purpose of objecting to the refunds is to reduce or eliminate them in the future.
- Action Item
 Unanimously voted to approve a resolution to intervene in UPS tax objection complaints.
- Next Agenda
 Establish Petty Cash Fund; Summer Academy Update (written); Hiring Status Report (written); Review Employee and Student/Parent Handbooks; Board/Superintendent Goals; Declassify Closed Session Minutes; Remedial Program Evaluation; Approve Board Policy 4.4; Review Personnel (section 5) and Student (section 7) Board Policies; and Review Conditions of Satisfaction for Remedial Programs.
- Open Forum
 Heard from a parent who had a question regarding the level three offense at the elementary school that was stated in the SEL offenses report.
- Closed Session
 Met in closed session (9:10 p.m. – 10:42 p.m.) to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of personnel and Superintendent performance evaluation/compensation.
- Adjournment
 Adjourned the regular meeting at 10:42 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be
 Wednesday, July 15, 2009
 7:00 p.m. in the
 District 107 Administration Building**