

## **Board Meeting Highlights**

### **Regular Meeting November 18, 2009**

At its regular meeting on November 18, 2009, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

- **Student Recognition**

Heard from Board Vice President Mark Mirabile who presented certificates of recognition to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners in the LaGrange Art League Competition. Board Vice President Mark Mirabile and Board member Karen O'Halloran presented the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball champions with certificates of recognition from the Board of Education.

- **Staff Recognition**

Heard from Board Member Karen O'Halloran who presented to John McAtee a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Board of Education for the extra time involved with installation of the Promethean boards. Judith Stevens and Art McCoy were also honored for the same at a recent staff meeting.

- **Additional Items to Be Added**

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who shared that November 15<sup>th</sup> was Board Member Appreciation Day. He took a moment to thank the members for all their hard work and dedication to the students of Pleasantdale.

- **Consent Agenda**

Unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of October 21, 2009; closed session minutes of October 21, 2009; payment of October payroll/November warrants; Financial and Operational Services (section 4) Board Policies; and \$17,000 Expenditure for HVAC Controls.

### **Reports and Discussions:**

- **Curriculum Council Update**

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who discussed Board approved action plans currently being implemented by the Curriculum Council. Curriculum Council Coordinators Erin Berwick and Niki Lasko; Board Secretary Lisa Houk and Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf explained the implementation status regarding curriculum action plans #2a and b, and #3a and b and discussed the new report card philosophy. The Council unanimously determined at recent meetings that to effectively implement a standards based report card (plan 3), along with meaningful goal-setting by students (plan 2), significant work needs to be done by all content curriculum committees. Specifically, each content area committee needs to change existing assessment and reporting practices in grades K-8. It is estimated this additional work will extend the timeline at least one to two more years to revise our grading and reporting system. Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf reassured the Board that they were not going in the direction of eliminating grades. On the contrary, a standards based grading and reporting system will create more consistency across grade levels and subject areas. Details of a revised timeline still need to be worked out by the Council.

- **Audit Report**

Heard from Robert Horstman of Virchow Kraus who presented the FY09 Audit. He commended Business Manager Catherine Chang for the outstanding job she has done managing the finances of the district. Mr. Horstman said he would be proud to be a part of the Board and District 107 Administration as to the financial status of the district. Board member Rick Rigley requested information on possible scenarios for eliminating the material weakness regarding internal controls that school districts now receive due to new federal auditing standards.

- **Academic Goals Status Report Using Standardized Test Data**

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who provided a status report on ITBS and ISAT testing results for the past year. Based on the data, improvements were made in middle school math computation and the majority of language arts subtests at most grade levels. Areas of concern include elementary school computation and erratic testing performance of fifth grade students in reading. Dr. John Wick discussed the student gain/loss ITBS data. He felt that performance is clearly up in the past 3 years. Dr. Wick presented the Individual Student Longitudinal Improvement Plan (ISLIP) that provides unprecedented information about standardized test performance of students in grades 3-8. It displays longitudinal performance levels of all ITBS subtests; predicts future scores if there is not change in academic behavior;

identifies errors that need to be corrected in order to exceed predicted scores. This new information will help students and teachers identify areas that need attention. ISLIP's have been sent to families for the first time this school year. The Board reviewed the complete testing report and questions were addressed regarding specific grade level data.

- Town Hall Meeting Planning

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who discussed topics for the February 3, 2010 Town Hall Meeting. It was determined that the focus of the meeting will be the new individual student learning profile (ISLIP) now available to parents and students. The presentation will include a demonstration of Promethean board use. Child care services will be offered.

- Action Item

Unanimously approved the FY09 Audit Report as presented by Robert Horstman.

- Next Agenda

Items for the December Board Meeting: Tax Levy Hearing; Adopt Tax Levy; Mid-term Superintendent review; Approve State Report Card; Town Hall Meeting Planning; Review Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Policies; Review Fees; Preliminary Discussion of Service Provider Contracts; and Auditing Procedures.

- Open Forum

Heard from a parent who shared with the Board his opinion that a thank you page should have been included in the Communication survey to better convey that the results were received in addition to the "done" button.

- Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 9:30 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be  
Wednesday, December 16, 2009  
7:00 p.m. in the  
District 107 Administration Building**