

Board Meeting Highlights
Regular Meeting
September 22, 2010

At its regular meeting on September 22, 2010, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

Board of Education Recognition of Staff

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who announced that the Board will be presenting certificates of recognition to the staff members who have been piloting the standardized grading and reporting system. Board members Beth Tegtmeier and Patti Essig presented certificates of recognition to Angela McGreal, Niki Lasko, Amy DuVall, Julie Crist, Eric Busch and Stephanie Macek. Board President Leandra Sedlack thanked the teachers on behalf of the Board for taking the initiative on this matter.

Budget Hearing

Conducted a Budget Hearing to approve amendments to the tentative budget and to approve the 2010-11 school district budget. The budget for FY11 is within the Board policy financial guidelines of the district. Business Manager Catherine Chang presented an outline of the major components of the budget. The FY10 budget exceeded projected revenues by 8.4% and under budget 3.6% in expenses. Mrs. Chang also reviewed line item changes from the tentative budget provided last month. Resident Barbara Lamb commented that she thinks it is fantastic that the school is in the position it is financially and commends the Board of Education, Business Manager Catherine Chang, Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf and administration for the great work they have done.

Additional Items

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf shared with the Board the Chicago Magazine article ranking Pleasantdale Elementary and Middle schools in the top 25 schools in the county. The rankings were based on academic achievement and class size. The district also received the A+ Award for ranking in the top 5% of all schools based on academic achievement in the district.

Open Forum

Heard from a parent who asked the Board if there would be a possibility to survey parents about interest in school uniforms. The parent expressed an interest in adopting uniforms at District 107 and requested parents be surveyed on whether or not they would be interested in requiring uniforms. The parent felt uniforms would have many benefits.

Heard from a parent who wanted to discuss the letter he received regarding the standards based grading pilot. He came from Poland and had the same type of standards-based grading and felt it was very subjective. He came to this country and was very happy with a letter grading system. He expressed concerns that the new system would be too stressful for the children. He stated that Pleasantdale is the best district on the south side and has had nothing but good experiences with the school. He expressed concern that the new system may pressure the children too much.

Heard from a parent who explained that she is having difficulty following her child's grades using a four point standards-based scale. She was not clear why some tests were limited to a scale score of 2 or 3.

Consent Agenda

Unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of August 18, 2010; closed session meeting minutes of August 18, 2010; payment of August payroll/September warrants; 2010-11 ISBE Application for Recognition; Instruction (sec. 6) Board Policies; District 2010-11 curriculum goal; hiring an independent UPS Appraiser; and September 2010 Personnel Report.

Reports and Discussions:

Curriculum Goal Status Report

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the conditions of satisfaction regarding the curriculum goal. Since there is an extreme amount of work that is being done, the Board will be updated quarterly on the status of the conditions of satisfaction. Middle school teachers Eric Busch and Angela McGreal presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board outlining the standards-based reporting and grading pilot. The standards-based reporting system accurately measures what students learn and reports how well they have learned it. Academic performance is reported separately from work completion, behavior, participation and group work (life skills). With academics and life skills separated, both

students and parents receive more accurate information. Students and parents are also clearly informed of curriculum components that students are expected to learn and to what level.

Finance (sec. 4) Board Policies

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the Finance polices that have changes based on Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) model policy and attorney review. The recommendations presented are scheduled for approval at the October Board meeting.

Communication Goal Status Report

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the conditions of satisfaction of the communication goals. Board member Beth Tegtmeier reviewed the communication procedures for the community that explain who to contact with concerns about a particular issue. Board Secretary Lisa Houk informed the Board that the Communication Committee members met with two senior citizens who are war veterans. The veterans provided contact information for establishing a community service project between the elementary school and Hines Veterans Hospital. The Communication Committee also sent out a survey to new families to gather data on their initial perceptions of Pleasantdale District 107. The Committee also plans to survey alumni parents after the winter break to gather additional feedback about the district. The Board was informed that two letters have been sent to parents of students participating in the standards-based pilot program. Parent informational meetings have also been scheduled to increase communication regarding the pilot initiative. The Committee presented possible changes to the Board of Education brochure. Board input was requested.

Next Agenda

Items for the October Board Meeting: Technology Plan Status Report; Elementary/Middle School Improvement Plans; Adopt Proposed Tax Levy; Approve Finance (section 4) Board Policies; Communication Goal Update; Review of Extra-Curricular Student Activities (written).

Open Forum

Heard from a parent who questioned whether district personnel contacted the Village of Willow Springs regarding the Safe School grant. She also asked if there were any parents on the communication committee and if there could be more Board meeting display copies available at meeting.

Heard from a parent who expressed he is very happy with Pleasantdale, but concerned with the standards-grading being too subjective. He asked whether research exists indicating that the new system is better than the current system. He wants the system to work, but would like to see more data that it is better.

Heard from a parent who shared she is all for students learning more, but questioned if there were deficiencies with the existing grading system. She felt that the pilot grading system may be confusing to students and parents.

Heard from a parent who feels that grading may be subjective. She would like to see comparisons of the existing and proposed grading systems to see how they might be different.

Closed Session

The Board met in closed session from 9:28 to 10:09 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations; and appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of personnel.

Action Item

Unanimously voted to approve the 2010-15 Contract with the Teachers' Association of Pleasantdale.

Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 10:12 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be
Wednesday, October 20, 2010
7:00 p.m. in the
District 107 Administration Building**