

Board Meeting Highlights
Regular Meeting
November 17, 2010

At its regular meeting on November 17, 2010, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

Board of Education Recognition of Students

Heard from Board members Karen O'Halloran and Beth Tegtmeier who presented certificates of recognition to the 7th grade girls' basketball division champions.

Board of Education Recognition

Heard from the 7th grade girls' basketball team who presented the Board of Education certificates of appreciation for all the hard work and considerable amount of time they volunteer on behalf of Pleasantdale students. Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf shared the many posters of appreciation that the students made for the Board. Board President Leandra Sedlack read a letter that she received from the IASA thanking Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf for his time and contribution for serving on the IASA Platforms and Resolutions Committee.

Open Forum

Heard from a parent who shared her version of an educational fairy tale with the Board regarding exit outcomes and standards-based grading. She discussed that the district in the past had worked on exit outcomes when she was on the Board. The parent expressed that the standards based grading is on the same path and has a strong potential to enhance the learning of the students of Pleasantdale. Despite parents having initial fear and frustration with standards based grading, it would help close some of the gaps students have in their learning. This will also benefit our enrichment program helping students to excel. She asked that the Board continue efforts to implement this system. It is not unusual to have implementation issues at the onset as the purpose of pilots is to address such issues. She also thanked the teachers who have been involved in the implementing the pilot.

Consent Agenda

Unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda as amended consisting of: closed session meeting minutes of October 20, 2010; payment of October payroll/November warrants; designation of board election representatives; library grant; 2011-14 Technology Plan and November 2010 personnel report.

Reports and Discussions:

Audit Report

Heard from Jim White of Baker Tilly who gave a brief presentation on the FY10 audit. The results were very positive over the year for the district. The district's fund balance increased by 1.8 million dollars. The district has very good controls in place and there are no deficiencies for the Board to be concerned with at this time. The only material weakness the district has is due to the changes that were implemented by the federal accounting regulations. In 2009, the Board reviewed its external reporting procedures to rectify this deficiency and it was not a fiscally responsible decision to change from the district's current procedures.

Strategic Planning Status Report from the Core Team

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who gave an overview of the recommendations from the Core Team who met on October 26th. Board Vice President Mark Mirabile and Board member Rick Rigley are the Board representatives on the Core Team. Regarding the communication action plans, it was decided that the district will research other student management programs to determine if a different program would fit our needs. The curriculum action plan regarding the standards-based reporting has issues with our reporting system in being able to collect all the data involved with the standards-based reporting. Parents are going to be surveyed at parent teacher conferences and via survey monkey regarding their experiences with the standards based grading and reporting. The curriculum council will meet on December 1st to discuss the results and revise next steps. The Council will have draft recommendations for a revised implementation schedule to the Board in January or February. Board member Rick Rigley suggested that work on researching a new student management system be done quickly so implementation for next year can be expedited. Board Vice President Mark Mirabile stated that writing assessments will continue, but the issues of grading and reporting would need to be resolved. Assessments are to be finished by April 2011.

Academic Goals Status Using Standardized Test Data

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who presented to the Board the fall testing report. The overall findings are as follows: 1) there were more significant gains than losses from fall 2009 to fall 2010 in math, language arts and reading; 2) math and reading gains overall were impressive; 3) special education (IEP) students scored low in reading ITBS and ISAT and the IEP subgroup did not make AYP on ISAT; 4) grade 5-6 cohort dropped 10 NPR in total reading and 6 NPR in total language; 5) grade 3-4 computation is low – 53 NPR. The following actions to be taken with regard to these findings; continue increasing research based direct instruction for at risk/IEP students in reading; change vocabulary instruction in grade 5; increase non-fiction reading in grade 5 ; administer Gates reading test in grade 5 and 6 in January and May; add more differentiated reading materials in grade 5; and align grade 3 math curriculum with ITBS.

Five-year Financial Planning

Heard from Business Manager Catherine Chang who presented revised five-year financial projections using the StratPlan program. Two projections were created. One is the “base case” using a 2.5% CPI and a “worst case” using a 1% CPI. The financial projections for the district are very positive even with the ‘worst case” scenario. The base case scenario indicates that revenues would slightly exceed expenditures at least until 2018-19.

Town Hall Meeting Planning

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who requested the Board to share their thoughts on the need for a Town Hall meeting. It is the feeling of the Board that there needs to be additional communication to the community on the status of standards-based grading and reporting. Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf was directed to bring the Board a proposal on the timeline for having the town hall meeting including an agenda for the meeting.

Review Board Policy 7:285 – Food Allergy Management Program

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the model policy which is required to be in place before January 1, 2011. The Board had no additional amendments to the proposed policy.

Early Retirement Option

Heard from Board President Leandra Sedlack who surveyed the Board on their wishes to take any further action on advancing a position statement on the Early Retirement Option (ERO) to advocate change. Board member Karen O’Halloran, an IASB representative, will determine the IASB process for advancing a resolution to eliminate ERO.

Action Item

The Board unanimously approved the FY10 Audit Report as presented by Jim White of Baker Tilly.

Next Agenda

Items for the December Board Meeting: Tax Levy Hearing; Adopt Tax Levy; Mid-term Superintendent/District Goals review; Approve Board Policy 7:285; Review Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Policies; Review Fees; Preliminary Discussion of Service Provider Contracts; Town Hall Meeting Planning; and ERO Update.

Open Forum

Heard from a parent who asked the Board if consideration regarding the new common core standards have been taken into consideration when writing the assessments. The parent suggested the quality of teachers at fifth grade should be investigated as the reason for a drop in test scores as they are constant. She is also concerned about using resource time for reading instruction as this time is supposed to be used for IEP goals and not to meet district goals.

Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 8:56 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be
Wednesday, December 15, 2010
7:00 p.m. in the
District 107 Administration Building**