

Board Meeting Highlights

Regular Meeting

March 16, 2011

At its regular meeting on March 16, 2011, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

Board of Education Recognition of Students

Heard from Board members Karen O'Halloran and Rick Rigley who presented certificates of recognition to the middle school students who scored 500 or above on one or more sections of the SAT test given through the Midwest Talent Search program. Also, receiving certificates, Jeffrey Dillon and Nick Gron, who were named Student Citizen of the Year through West 40.

Consent Agenda

Unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of February 16, 2011; payment of February payroll/March warrants; FY12 School Calendar; Continuation of Cooperative Transportation Agreement with St. John of the Cross; Grade 1 Job Share Proposal; Board Policies, Governance and Planning, Sec. 1; Annual Board Report to Community; FY12 Preliminary Staffing Recommendations; Pleasant Dale Park District Before and After School Program Intergovernmental Agreement.

Reports and Discussions:

EXPLORE Scores

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the current 8th grade EXPLORE scores. This year is the best that Pleasantdale has ever done on the EXPLORE test as a whole group. Pleasantdale's averages for all subjects are above the Township average. The district continues to score very high in science. Reading scores had the biggest jump from last year. The district's composite (score including English, reading, science and math) was 19.1 compared to the Township average of 18.1. The predicted vs. actual scores showed that students scored higher than their predicted scores in all areas. Pleasantdale has a higher percentage of students placed in higher level classes at LT than ever before.

Town Hall Meeting Review

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who discussed the Town Hall meeting which occurred on March 15th. The turnout was one of the highest of all the Town Hall Meetings in the past. There was a great deal of information provided by Tammy Heflebower, Vice President of Marzano Laboratories and Bev Clemens, Curriculum Coordinator of Douglas County School, Colorado. It was the intent of the presenters to answer all questions brought to their attention. The Parent Advisory Group and Curriculum Council will be discussing the information learned at their next meetings. Informal feedback from parents was that the information presented was very informative. Board Secretary Lisa Houk received a call afterwards from a parent who has children in elementary, middle, high school and college. The parent reported the presentation was very informative and wished all her children had the opportunity to be involved in standards based grading and reporting system. Board member Karen O'Halloran felt that the presenters insulted our teachers and that she has never felt that our teachers have been subjective. Board member Mark Mirabile shared that he also received a phone call from a parent who is very excited about the potential of standards based grading and reporting. Board member Patti Essig thought it was a great opportunity of the Board, Parent Advisory Group and teachers to hear about the whole program from the presenters.

Student Software Management System

Heard from Technology Specialist John McAtee who presented a brief overview of the Skyward School Management System including the selection process, parent portal (Family Access), grade book, report card, user groups in the area, and references. Skyward was the top selection in all areas over any of the other vendor that was reviewed by the selection group. Business Manager Catherine Chang presented the costs for the next 5 years with Skyward. Skyward has agreed to lock in an annual increase of 3.8% over the 5 year contract. The district will host the Skyward software on its own servers. The Board requested to see the actual contract from Skyward before approving the purchase of Skyward. Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf proposed that he will obtain the contract from Skyward for the Board to review including a provision to place source codes in escrow so that the District's interests are protected.

Review Board Policies 4:170 and 6:15

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who requested modification to our current Board policy 4:170 and the addition of model policy 6:15 per the State Board of Education. These two policies are mandatory for any school that receives Title I funds. It is recommended that Board approve both policies at the April Board meeting.

Action Item

No action took place due to lack of motion.

Next Agenda

Items for the April Board Meeting: Revise FY 11 Calendar; Review Service Contracts; Review School Board (sec. 2) Board Policies; Schedule Organizational Board Meeting; Skyward Software Approval; and Parent Advisory Committee Update.

Open Forum

Heard from a parent who commented that she believed the District was not moving forward with the implementation of standards based grading and reporting prior to receiving a recommendation from the Parent Advisory Committee.

Closed Session

The Board met in closed session from 8:45 to 9:21 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of personnel and contract negotiations.

Action Item

The Board unanimously approved the March 2011 Personnel Report as presented.

Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 9:22 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be
Wednesday, April 20, 2011
7:00 p.m. in the
District 107 Administration Building**