

**Board Meeting Highlights**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 18, 2011**

At its regular meeting on May 18, 2011, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

**Board of Education Recognition of Staff**

Heard from Board Secretary Lisa Houk who presented certificates of appreciation to Art McCoy, District Maintenance; and Ralph Kamphuis, Elementary Custodian for the hard work and due diligence for the recent Cook County inspection. Board Vice President Mark Mirabile presented a certificate of recognition to Business Manager Catherine Chang for a recently earned doctoral degree.

**Additional Items to be Placed on the Agenda**

Heard from Board President Leandra Sedlack who noted that the Board will review the pro forma calendar as part of the goal setting meeting.

**Open Forum**

Heard from a parent who had the privilege of working on the report card committee and wanted to stress that this was her own personal reflection of the outcomes. She was pleased that the new report cards will reflect the outcomes and give a more detailed analysis of what students are learning and what level they are at. She also advised that the Board might want to consider policy regarding report cards to ensure they continue with the alignment to outcomes. She also suggested that data collected from the common assessments will provide an additional option for measuring academic achievement.

Heard from a parent who asked the Board if they were aware of the ERO penalty that was assessed to the district for the retirement of an administrator last year. He would like the Board to be aware of the formula and possible future penalties to the district.

**Consent Agenda**

Voted to approve the consent agenda as revised consisting of: regular meeting minutes of April 20, 2011; closed session minutes of April 20, 2011; organizational meeting minutes of April 28, 2011; payment of April payroll/May warrants; milk bid; paper bid; hot lunch contract renewal; cleaning service contract renewal; appointment of auditor; student transportation agreement; and School Board (sec. 2) and Acceptable Use Policy.

**Reports and Discussions:**

**Curriculum Council Status Report**

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who shared that there has been extensive curriculum work this year in the district. Board Secretary Lisa Houk reviewed that the purpose of the Curriculum Council is to ensure all content area curricula meet Board approved Standards of Excellence (Board Policy 6:10) so that students develop the highest possible academic and social skills, as well as a passion for learning. Superintendent Fredisdorf reviewed the alignment from mission through the steps leading to the report card. Middle school math teacher, Mary Ann Wentzlaff, reviewed the sequential process of developing grade 8 math outcomes, components, scales, assessments and report cards. Kindergarten teacher, Erin Oskroba, and grade 4 teacher Bill Brade, reviewed the same process using a grade 4 language arts example. It will be requested of the Board that assessments and report cards be approved at the June Board meeting. Other tasks being addressed by the Curriculum Council include developing "further attempt" guidelines; implementing the Skyward student management software grade book and report cards; and refining assessments and scales. The Council is not recommending any changes to grading practices to begin next school year. The Superintendent commended the curriculum coordinators in attendance for all the progress and hard work this school year. Information about curriculum updates to be implemented in 2011-12 will go out in the May 27 Friday packet parents.

The Curriculum Council is recommending that the District transition to updated Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) norms in 2011-12. Cathy Lawrence of Riverside Publishing was in attendance to explain new features of the 2011 normed ITBS. She complemented the Board on curriculum development and academic progress to date. It was explained that the District currently uses 2005 norms which are outdated compared to 2011 norms. In addition, the 2011 ITBS is aligned with common core standards recently adopted by the State of Illinois. The revised ITBS also predicts student performance on the ACT testing based on grade 5 and 6 ITBS performance. The revised testing also offers several options for administration including hard copy and online.

### Board Orientation/Retreat

Board President Leandra Sedlack requested that the Board discuss scheduling a goal setting, orientation and/or retreat meeting. Board member Gina Scaletta-Nelson shared that she might be attending IASB Board orientation workshops in Springfield. It was the feeling of the Board that a formal orientation would not be necessary at this time. The Board decided to first schedule a goal setting meeting and subsequently decide if a retreat was desired. The Board will be contacted to see availability for setting a goal setting meeting.

### Student Transportation from High School Classes

Board member Karen O'Halloran stated that she had requested transportation information to show that the District is being fiscally responsible in the transportation of students from Lyons Township to Pleasantdale. Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf explained that Kids Kab was selected based on a recommendation from LADSE and that all of their drivers are certified as school bus drivers which is required by State law. It was recommended that Business Manager Catherine Chang obtain additional cost proposals for the 2011-12 school year.

### Early Childhood Special Education Program Recommendation

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who is recommending to the Board that the District house a self-contained early childhood special education (ECSE) program at the elementary school for the 2011-12 school year. Director of Special Education, Kelly Voliva, provided the Board historical information regarding LADSE and Early childhood placement needs and costs. The Board was requested to approve the proposal at the May 18 meeting as student placement decisions need to be made as soon as possible.

### IASB ERO Retirement Option (ERO) resolution

Heard from Board member and IASB delegate Karen O'Halloran who composed a resolution for Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) consideration pertaining to the existing Early Retirement Option (ERO). Specifically, the resolution stated the Board supports IASB position statement 5.14 that generally supports local school board discretion in granting ERO to employees. Board President Leandra Sedlack requested that the item be a discussion item due to the wording of the resolution and the misperceptions that have been propagated about the Board's authority to limit ERO. Attorney Terry Hodges was present to advise the Board on the resolution and inform the Board that it does not have the authority to deny ERO to eligible employees within the 10% limit. The Board acknowledged that the proposed resolution did not go far enough to provide greater authority to limit ERO. Attorney Terry Hodges stated that Boards cannot prevent eligible employees from taking ERO in teacher or administrative contracts. At most, contractual language can provide incentives to not take ERO, but it cannot prevent it. Superintendent Fredisdorf pointed out that the Board has received unfair and unwarranted criticism this past year as it had no choice but to pay an ERO penalty. All Illinois districts must pay the ERO penalties of eligible employees. Board Vice President Mark Mirabile stated that former Board member Rick Rigley, in particular, was unfairly criticized for an ERO penalty as he served on the District's bargaining team for contract negotiations.

### Review Milk and Lunch Fees

Heard from Business Manager Catherine Chang who explained the recommendation for a slight increase in milk fees from \$35 to \$40 a year and lunch fees from \$2.30 to \$2.35 for regular lunch and from \$2.80 to \$2.85 for the Nutri-Track/Fresh Expectations lunch.

### Action Item

Unanimously voted to approve the annual milk fee at \$40; daily regular lunch fee at \$2.35 and Nutri-track lunch fee at \$2.85; and a self-contained early childhood special education program at the elementary school for the 2011-12 school year.

### Next Agenda

Items for the June Board Meeting: Approve Prevailing Wage Resolution; Approve Voluntary Student Insurance; Transfer of Interest; Payment of June 30 Warrants; Superintendent Performance Evaluation; Spring Testing Report; Appoint Imprest Fund Custodian; Approve Assessments; Approve Report Cards; Approve ITBS 2011 Norms; and District 2011-12 Goals.

### Open Forum

Heard from a parent who is very happy with the assessments that have been created for the students. He questioned the grading that will be used for the assessments. He would like to see above level grading exceed 100% to reflect level 4 questions. He feels that this would motivate students to do more to earn higher grades. He does not want to see the grades reduced. He is not against the new assessments but would like implementation done carefully.

Heard from a parent who asked for clarification whether test questions would be labeled per level of difficulty. He feels that the levels should not be on the test as it could be intimidating to the students. In regard to the report cards for next year, he felt that parents should be notified at the end of this year about the changes and proposed training for parents on how to interpret them. In regard to the Board taking undue criticism about ERO penalties, he expressed that the district should have put out information about ERO. He feels that the Board does a great job, but desired more communication from the district.

Closed Session

The Board met in closed session from 10:01 to 10:52 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of personnel administrative and confidential employee contracts.

Action Item

The Board unanimously approved the May 2011 Personnel Report as revised.

Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 10:54 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be  
Wednesday, June 15, 2011  
7:00 p.m. in the  
District 107 Administration Building**