

Board Meeting Highlights
Regular Meeting
July 20, 2011

At its regular meeting on July 20, 2011, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

Additional Items

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who provided the Board with revised copies to be referenced later in the Board meeting regarding Board policies and remedial program evaluation.

Open Forum

Heard from Board member Gina Scaletta-Nelson who read a portion of an email she had sent to Board President Leandra Sedlack regarding the Board agenda item from June pertaining to Honor Flight and the district's participation. She also referenced communication with the Honor Flight coordinator.

Heard from Board member Patti Essig who commented on Board member Nelson's statement and was requesting to know if an apology was made to the administration and Board regarding her speaking on behalf of the Board.

Heard from Board member Karen O'Halloran who provided Board orientation materials to Board President Leandra Sedlack to share with new Board members.

Consent Agenda

Voted to approve the consent agenda as revised consisting of: special meeting minutes of June 15, 2011; regular meeting minutes of June 15, 2011; closed session meeting minutes of June 15, 2011; payment of June payroll/July warrants; establish petty cash fund; July 2011 personnel report; declassify selected closed session minutes; parent/student and employee handbooks; West 40 Intergovernmental Agreement for 2011-12; and kindergarten reading program.

Reports and Discussions:

Review Personnel (sec. 5) and Students (sec. 7) Board Policies

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed model policy changes compared to existing policy. The review of Board policy 7:60 included the Residency Form appendix recommended revision. The frequency of requiring families to prove residency will be discussed at the August Board meeting. Implementation of the Food Allergy Management Program (policy 7:285) will begin the 2011-12 school year. This will involve discontinuing the serving of food to students at class parties and other events.

Remedial Program Evaluation

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the progress of students who participated in the elementary reading and action math program, and the middle school reading lab and math lab program.

Based on the data, the following conclusions were made:

Reading

- Of the 41 elementary students in reading lab who have at least two data points (e.g. May 2010 and May 2011), 31 out of 41 (75%) demonstrated reading gains of more than 1 year.
- Of the 23 middle school students in reading workshop who have at least two data points (e.g. May 2010 and May 2011), 12 of 23 (57%) demonstrated reading gains of more than 1 year.
- By grade eight, 7 of 8 (88%) students with remedial reading needs were reading at grade level or above by the time they graduated from Pleasantdale.

Math

- 19 of 21 (90%) grade 3 action math students demonstrated more than 1 year of growth from May 2010 to May 2011
- 7 of 13 (54%) grade 4 action math students demonstrated more than 1 year of growth from May 2010 to May 2011
- Elementary school parents conveyed largely positive perceptions of their children's action math experience per the survey results.
- 1 of 7 (14%) grade 5 math lab students demonstrated more than 1 year of growth from September 2010 to May 2011

- 3 of 6 (50%) grade 6 math lab students demonstrated more than 1 year of growth from September 2010 to May 2011
- 0 of 5 (0%) grade 7 math lab students demonstrated more than 1 year of growth from September 2010 to May 2011
- 2 of 5 (40%) grade 8 math lab students demonstrated more than 1 year of growth from September 2010 to May 2011
- Grade 5 and 7 math lab students were taught by maternity leave substitutes for part of the year which may have been a contributing factor to the lack of progress demonstrated by those students.

It was a suggestion from the Board that administration consider reviewing the structure of the middle school math program and classes currently offered. Principal Meg Pokorny will be meeting with the math teachers to review achievement data and plan for the programming of remedial math students at the middle school.

District 2011-12 Goals

Heard from Board President Leandra Sedlack and Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who drafted goals for 2011-12 based on items identified at the June 15 Board meeting and input subsequently provided by individual Board members. In all, five goal areas were drafted with corresponding conditions of satisfaction. The Board determined that specific timelines needed to be added to the goals and/or conditions of satisfaction. For the communication goal, it was decided that the board@d107.org email address would have an auto reply so that senders would know an email as been received. For the goal pertaining to Board operations roles, responsibilities, and protocols, it was decided that further research would be conducted to determine the cost of having an attorney at each Board meeting. Policy 6:40 was discussed in reference to the Board's role in curriculum review and approval. It was expressed that day-to-day operations are not the role of the Board. Curriculum modifications would be shared with the Board. Specifically, the Board will be copied on Curriculum Council agendas, minutes and other relevant information. It was decided that the Finance Committee would meet to discuss the budget and government transparency guidelines as part of ongoing operations. The review of early childhood/kindergarten curriculum is the responsibility of the Curriculum Council but not a Board goal. It was also determined that the Board was not interested in pursuing a full day kindergarten program. Mastery of Learning guidelines will be revised by the Curriculum Council on August 15 incorporating Board input. The guidelines will be advanced for Board approval on August 17.

Staffing Recommendations for Special Education Instructional Aides

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf regarding the need for an increase of instructional aides district wide. At the end of the 2010-11 school year, instructional aides district wide were reduced by 2.33 FTE due to retirement and RIF's. Based on emerging special education IEP requirements, there is a need to hire two (1.0 FTE) special education aides to be assigned to Bright Beginnings preschool and Kindergarten. Also, an existing preschool .50 FTE aide would be increased to 1.0 FTE. If approved, the total number of instructional aides district wide would be 13.84 FTE for the 2011-12 school year. This compares to a total of 13.17 FTE in 2010-11.

Action Items

Unanimously approved the hiring of two (1.0 FTE) and one (.50 FTE) instructional aides for the 2011-12 school year.

Next Agenda

Items for the August Board Meeting: Mastery of Learning Guidelines; Enrollment Report (written); Approve District 2011-12 Goals; Tentative Budget; Approve Personnel (sec. 5), Students (sec. 7) Board Policies; Residency Protocols; and Review Curriculum and Instruction (sec. 6) Board Policies.

Closed Session

The Board met in closed session from 10:08 to 10:45 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel.

Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 10:46 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be
Wednesday, August 17, 2011
7:00 p.m. in the
District 107 Administration Building**