

Board Meeting Highlights

Regular Meeting

October 19, 2011

At its regular meeting on October 19, 2011, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

Additional Items to be Placed on the Agenda

Heard from Principal Matt Vandercar who introduced Connor Durkin the new social worker at the elementary.

Recognition of Board Member

Heard from Board Secretary Lisa Houk who presented a plaque to former Board member Patti Essig and thanked her for her 10 years of service to the children of Pleasantdale. Mrs. Essig reflected on her 10 years on the Board commending staff members for their hard work and noting the excellent facilities expanded and renovated during her tenure. She also commented that she is very proud of having been a part of the Board that hired Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf and how he has done wonderful things for the district. Catherine Chang has done an excellent job with the finances of the district including the elimination of registration fees as a great accomplishment. She also complimented Board President Leandra Sedlack for the superb job she does as Board President. Mrs. Essig praised Leandra Sedlack for her fairness, efficiency, and leadership. She stated that her time with Pleasantdale will always be cherished.

Consent Agenda

Voted to approve the consent agenda as revised consisting of: regular meeting minutes of September 21, 2011; closed session meeting minutes of September 21, 2011; payment of September Payroll/October warrants; Finance (sec. 4) and 7:285 Board policies; Audit Resolution for GASB 54 requirements; 2011-14 Superintendent Contract; and "Rollover Settlement" with Edgewood Valley Country Club.

Reports and Discussions:

Technology Plan Status Report

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who introduced Technology Specialist John McAtee who presented the update of the current Technology Plan. The plan is currently in its first year of a three year plan. Deployment projects completed to date include: upgraded and replaced office computers at elementary; upgraded and replaced student laptops at middle; and the adoption of Skyward software. Deployment projects still remaining include: upgrading servers; SharePoint; and student personal computing devices. The Board will be updated as the Technology Committee researches the use of student personal computing devices. Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf acknowledged the wonderful job that John McAtee and Technology Specialist Judith Stevens have done since June with the deployment of Skyward.

Elementary and Middle School 2011-12 Improvement Plans

Heard from elementary Principal Matt Vandercar who presented the 2011-12 elementary school improvement plan. In one year the amount of students requiring remediation in Action Math has been cut in half. This was accomplished due to the increase in attendance and program quality. Attendance has been near 100% since moving the program from before school to after school. Math scores have improved for remedial students and parent feedback has been very positive. Changes in the remedial reading services last year included implementing new direct instruction reading programs. One of the top priorities for the 2011-12 school year include the use of Skyward for communicating with students and families. Remediation improvements include individual student improvement profiles, Action Math, and Reading Lab/Explorers. For the 2011-12 school year, the focus will be on improving instruction in Guided Reading; Kindergarten teachers are working with an early childhood curriculum specialist; revising and updating assessments. The elementary social/emotional learning program will now include new activities for the students including Buddy Day; service projects; and whole school theme/activities. Middle School Principal Meg Pokorny presented the 2011-12 middle school improvement plan. In the past year, students at either end of the achievement spectrum were provided increased opportunities to be challenged or obtain support where it was needed. These included peer tutors, Math Lab, Corrective Reading Programs, Rewards Reading program; Envision math; and Midwest Talent Search. Bullying education for students was addressed through the advisory curriculum, class meetings, parent training, anti-bullying speakers and grade level meetings. For developing the 2011-12 building improvement goals the following were considered: staff discussions; principals' goal setting; and Board/District Goals. Five goals will be addressed this school year: 1. Improve the academic growth of each student currently enrolled in Math Workshop and Reading Workshop – as measured by ITBS; 2. Ensure that ITBS and Explore scores for each cohort continue to improve; 3. Ensure that Skyward is implemented properly to provide additional information to students and parents; 4. Ensure that implementation of our revised district assessments

results in increased achievement, coordinated instruction and improvements to instructional techniques; 5. Ensure that the social skills of our students, specifically related to bullying prevention, improve over last year.

Common Assessment Implementation

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who introduced Curriculum Coordinators: Erin Oskroba, Tanya Kim, Judy Johnson, Dana Wallner, and Mary Ann Wentzlaff. Erin Oskroba reviewed the common assessment improvements implemented this year. The assessments assure that each curriculum outcome is accurately measured by valid and reliable assessments; curriculum outcomes align with assessments and report cards; students academic performance systematically assessed by level of complexity; parents, students, and teachers get more information about performance strengths and weaknesses, and all students have the opportunity to attempt higher level questions. Middle school science teacher Tanya Kim reviewed the make-up of a common assessment including the different levels of questions. The assessments also enable teachers to evaluate the validity and reliability of assessment items; use individual feedback to monitor and improve student learning; collect data to inform and adjust instruction; improve communication and collaboration between educators; and clarify teaching and learning objectives. Staff members feel that overall coursework is more challenging and all students get the opportunity for higher-level performance.

Schedule Special Board Meeting re: Communication

Heard from Board President Leandra Sedlack who solicited dates for a special Board meeting regarding communication goal 4. Board members will email the superintendent availability dates for the special meeting between November 1 through the 11th by Friday, October 21.

Residency Procedures

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the steps that may be taken to investigate residency. Notification of a pending residency dispute was requested to go to all Board members but keeping anonymity to the family. The guidelines will be added as Administrative Procedures for Board policy 7:60 *Residence*.

Electronic Board Communication and Open Meetings Act

Heard from Board President Leandra Sedlack who felt the Board needed to review policy 2:140 regarding electronic communication (email) between Board members to create a better understanding of limitations to electronic communication among Board members. Terry Hodges, Hodges Loizzi, shared background with the Board regarding current laws that the Board is under regarding electronic communications. She felt that the Board policy that is currently in place is appropriately restrictive to protect the Board from being in violation of the Open Meetings Act. The Board will review Board policy 2:140 at the special Board meeting regarding communication.

Tax Levy

Heard from Business Manager Catherine Chang regarding the proposed 2011 tax levy. There will be a public hearing regarding the tax levy on December 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Action Items

Approved to adopt proposed tax levy/authorization re: Public Hearing Notice; approve amendments to Board protocols, policy 1:16; and approve commitment by signature to Board protocols in Board policy 1:16.

Next Agenda

Items for November Board Meeting: Fall Testing Report; Five-year Financial Projections; Audit Report; Approve Library Grant; Approve Audit Report; Communication Goal Discussion.

Open Forum

Heard from a parent who expressed a concern about grading practices concerning her daughter in grade 2. She expressed that the change in numeric grading from a three point scale to a four point scale was confusing. She questioned whether this had anything to do with standards-based grading. The parent requested a response for clarification on the matter.

Heard from a parent who commented on middle school further attempts. She said that her son at the middle school has taken three further attempts and has been given the same exact test all three times. She expressed that the issue needs to be revisited.

Board member Gina Scaletta- Nelson wanted the Board to be aware that she has fulfilled her commitment to attend Board training.

Board Vice President Mark Mirabile would like to see an adjustment made to the heat in the Board room for subsequent meetings.

Closed Session

The Board met in closed session from 10:27 p.m. to 11:40 p.m. to discuss appointment of a new Board member.

Action Items

Appointed Rick Rigley as Board member to fill the unexpired term of Patti Essig until the Board election in April 2013.

Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 11:42 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be
Wednesday, November 16, 2011
7:00 p.m. in the
District 107 Administration Building**