

**Board Meeting Highlights**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**December 21, 2011**

At its regular meeting on December 21, 2011, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

**Discussion and action on matters relating to individual students determination of open or closed session**

Heard from Board President Leandra Sedlack regarding conducting the discussion regarding an issue of a student in open or closed session. Board member Gina Scaletta-Nelson requested that the issue to be heard in open session. She acknowledged that issues involving a student were typically discussed in closed session to protect privacy rights of the family but because the issue concerned her children, she requested discussion in open session. Board member Scaletta-Nelson expressed that other families may also have the same issue now or in the future. She also wanted the option to discuss her feelings about religious beliefs and standardized testing with others and does not want to be in violation of the Open Meetings Act by discussing a topic designated for closed session. Board President Sedlack sought clarification on whether this was regarding her family or the community at large. Board member Scaletta-Nelson stated that she would like her children opted out of standardized testing because such testing was against her family's religious beliefs. She requested the discussion be held in open session in the event others were interested.

**Closed Session**

The Board met in closed session from 6:40 to 7:02 p.m. to consider matters relating to individual students.

**Board of Education Recognition of Staff**

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who commented on the success of the implementation of the Skyward Student Management Software due to the diligent work of Judith Stevens and John McAtee. Board Gina Scaletta-Nelson presented to Judith Stevens and John McAtee.

**Board of Education Recognition of Students**

Heard from Board member Beth Tegtmeier who presented certificates of recognition to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team for winning the conference championship.

**Tax Levy Hearing**

Held a hearing on the 2011 tax levy (7:12-7:20 p.m.) and acted unanimously to adopt the 2011 tax levy as presented in public hearing and authorized the President and Secretary of the Board to sign all appropriate documents and the tax levy resolution to proportionately reduce each fund where the levy exceeds the tax cap limitation.

**Open Forum**

Heard from a parent who commended teachers for going above and beyond in furthering the district mission. Mrs. Crist and Mrs. Duvall were complimented for implementing the grade 4 Sumdog program. Mrs. Lewellyan was commended for all her time and hard work to organize donations for families in need this holiday season.

Heard from a parent who commented that the Board might have heard about her email that she sent out regarding her belief that two Board members and staff members were treated wrong in the eyes of the community. She wants the best for her son and feels she needs to stand up for the students. She feels that the middle school does not want any parent input or involvement. She feels that the Board needs to provide a better environment and more technology for students and feels the School Board needs to work together.

**Consent Agenda**

Voted to approve the revised consent agenda consisting of: special meeting minutes of November 9, 2011; regular meeting minutes of November 16, 2011; closed session meeting minutes of November 16, 2011; and payment of November payroll/December warrants.

**Reports and Discussions:**

**Review of Fees**

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who discussed the current fee structure for Bright Beginnings preschool and extended day Kindergarten that was reviewed by the Finance Committee. It was recommended that a slight increase in fees be implemented the 2012-13 school year of: Preschool 2 day \$1,300 to \$1,378; Preschool 3 day \$1,950 to \$2,067; Preschool 5 day \$3,250 to \$3,413; and Extended Kindergarten \$3,250 to \$3,413. The increase for the 5 day program would be less

than the 2 or 3 day program to encourage enrollment in the 5 day program. Superintendent Fredisdorf will provide the Board with the amount that the district is reimbursed for special education students from the State Board of Education.

#### Preliminary Review of District Contracts

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the current district contracts and made recommendations. Transportation: In 2010-11, the Board agreed to a two year extension of our transportation contract with First Student that limits cost increases to the consumer price index (CPI) through 2012-13. No action is required at this point in time. Cleaning: Superintendent Fredisdorf recommended continuing with the same cleaning service for 2012-13. The District will know 2012-13 rates by May 2012. GCA has provided excellent service at competitive rates for 13 years. Food Service: The Finance Advisory Team will continue to explore options. The Finance Advisory Team will be investigating vendors providing similar food service programs at other schools comparing costs, menu selections, and gathering other information as needed. The Team will also determine if our current provider has other menu options available now or in the future. Auditing Services: Superintendent Fredisdorf recommended continuing with Barker Tilly for auditing services next school year assuming 2012-13 rates are acceptable to the Board. Requests for proposals conducted two years ago did not yield better options at lower costs. Data Analysis and Interpretation Contract with John Wick: Superintendent Fredisdorf recommended approval of an additional year at an annual cost of \$20,000. Dr. Wick's contractual period is by calendar year and action will be needed to approve the contract at the January 18, 2012 meeting. Dr. Wick's contractual fee remains the same as in prior years.

#### Review Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Policies

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who shared policy revisions that he and Board President Leandra Sedlack adopted from model policy. The policy will be presented to the Board for approval in January.

#### Communication Committee Charge and Operating Procedures

Heard from Board President Leandra Sedlack who reviewed the charge of the communication committee. When the committee appointments were made at the November Board meeting for this Superintendent's committee, she felt there has been some misinterpretation of how the committee functions. She expressed that there were some possible violations of the Open Meetings Act. The Board understood that this was a Superintendent's committee and that the committee was going to recommend what the charge of the communication committee should be. Board member Karen O'Halloran suggested having the State's attorney conduct Open Meetings Act training. Terry Hodges explained to the Board that a Board committee is subject to the Open Meetings Act. The volunteer Board members of the committee said that it was never their intent to violate the Open Meetings Act. Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf shared the history of how these committees were established 8 years ago beginning with Strategic Planning. Committees including curriculum council, SEL, action teams, etc. These entities worked as Superintendent committees and not Board committees. This approach has worked well over the years as much has been accomplished. Board Vice President Mark Mirabile stated that if it was going to be a Board committee, then all the members should be on it. The meetings would then be subject to all the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. It was the thought of a majority of Board members that the Communication Committee would remain as a Superintendent's committee. Terry Hodges shared that the Superintendent is the one who presents information to the Board and the Board liaisons who work with him are there to expand ideas and work with assisting the Superintendent in meeting his strategic objectives. The Superintendent will work with the Board liaisons to work on the Superintendent's Communication Advisory Team.

#### Mid-team Review of Superintendent/District Goals

Heard from the Superintendent who reviewed the Superintendent/District goals. Timelines of the activities, survey results, and correspondence to parents related to goals were provided for Board review. Surveys that were received regarding the report cards were reviewed by the Curriculum Council and guidelines regarding comments and the format of report card were items that will be addressed due to survey results. In regard to the anti-bullying goal, additional class work has also been done through homerooms. Superintendent Fredisdorf addressed legal fees that the Board has incurred since May regarding Board governance. The fee for Board governance issues totals \$5,517 not including charges to have Terry Hodges attend all Board meetings.

#### Next Agenda

Items for the January Board Meeting: Mid-Year review of Non-tenured teachers and administrators, Approve Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Policies; Abatement of Bonds; Curriculum Council Update; Approve Annual Contract with Dr. John Wick for Data Analysis and Interpretation; Approve Fee Increase for Bright Beginnings and Extended Day Kindergarten; Food Service Contract Recommendation; Elementary School Roof Project; Communication Update; ITBS Results; and Declassify Selected Closed Session Minutes.

Closed Session

The Board met in closed session from 9:20 to 10:49 p.m. to discuss matters relating to individual students.

Action Item

The Board did not approve the action on appeal to Board relating to individual students.

Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 10:58 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be  
Wednesday, January 18, 2012  
7:00 p.m. in the  
District 107 Administration Building**