

**Board Meeting Highlights**  
**Regular Meeting – November 15, 2006**

At its regular meeting on November 15, 2006, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

- Closed Session  
Met in closed session (6:04-7:02 p.m.) to consider information regarding (a) student discipline; and, (b) the discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees...the performance of the occupant of a public office pursuant to sections 2 (c) (1) and (3) of the Open Meetings Act.
- Open Forum  
Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf introduced Maggie Smith, the new elementary library information specialist. She will begin her employment on Monday, November 20.

Heard from Berny Lucas that the PTA has scheduled a presentation at 7:30 p.m. on December 5. The speaker, Cynthia Woods from the Illinois Association of School Boards, will provide information about running for a school board position in April 2007. All voting residents of the community are invited to attend. Mrs. Lucas also announced the PTA is sponsoring a school board candidates' forum on April 3, 2007 at the Pleasant Dale Park District building.

- Consent Agenda  
Unanimously approved the consent agenda consisting of the regular meeting minutes (revised) and closed session of October 18; payment of October payroll and November warrants; approved the November 2006 Personnel Report; and approved Board review of closed session tapes of October 18, 2006 as presented.
- Reports and Discussions:

Grade 8 Language Arts

Dr. Fredisdorf provided a chronology of events leading up to the scheduling changes to grade 8 upper level language arts classes. Of the options available, the best configuration was a team-teaching approach with 35 upper level students. Principal Meg Pokorny noted that the change is working well. There is no plan to make further changes to the upper level grade 8 language arts class. Consensus of the Board was to support the administration's scheduling decision.

FY06 Audit Report

Auditor Bob Horstman of Virchow Krause & Co. (formerly William F. Gurrie) presented the salient points from the recent audit of district funds as of June 30, 2006. According to Mr. Horstman, the MD&A (Management's Discussion and Analysis) summarizes that the district has the financial resources to fund educational services to advance the district's mission. He also provided information relative to the new federal law spawned by the Enron banking experience that will affect school auditing standards. His firm is planning workshops in 2007 for superintendents and business managers to better acquaint them with the new audit standards.

Strategic Planning Status Report from Core Planning Team

Dr. Fredisdorf and Board members Rosaria Becker and Leandra Sedlack presented recommendations from the Core Plan meeting of October 30:

1. A cross-sectional team (Board members, administrators, teachers, and testing specialists) will be convened to specifically address the measurement requirements of the Board. This team will be charged with the task of identifying appropriate measures which assure that District 107 is successful in meeting its mission objectives. The recommendations of the team will be presented to the Board at a later date.

2. The Partnership team will be reconstituted to address the threats and opportunities in relation to the Board elections next year, and more specifically, the creation of a caucus.

To address #1, it was decided that the current Board committee consisting of Scot Orsic, Mark Fredisdorf, and Leandra Sedlack would be expanded to include teachers and administrators. Regarding the creation of a caucus in item #2, the Board determined that the Board/District cannot be directly involved in this venture. The creation of a caucus would need to be a community-driven process. There was a difference of opinion as to whether a “caucus” had ever been mentioned during the deliberations of the Partnership team.

#### Protocols, Including Repercussions for Violations

After discussion, the Board reached consensus to approve revised Board of Education protocols as presented. Additional protocols suggested by Board members Mark Mirabile and Scot Orsic will be discussed at the December meeting.

#### Acceptable Use Policy Revisions

The Board discussed proposed revisions to both staff and student use policies pertaining to technology. Suggestions were made to reword certain areas of the policies. These policies will be placed on the December agenda for Board approval.

#### Board Communication with Stakeholders

Board member Rosaria Becker addressed the idea of increased communication from the Board to its stake holders. She was concerned that the Board did not know the thoughts/feelings of the general public and suggested “fireside chats” as a possible venue. The Board referenced previous work on Board communication compiled by members Leandra Sedlack and Patti Essig. Discussion of this item was deferred to the December or January meeting of the Board of Education.

- Actions

Acted unanimously to approve revised protocols (Policy #1.16) and the FY06 audit presented by Mr. Horstman.

- Next Agenda

Written construction update; written policy revision update; approve state report card; tax levy hearing; adopt tax levy; approve strategic plan recommendations; mid-term superintendent review; StratPlan/cost accounting progress report; data analysis proposal; standardized testing report; elementary and middle school improvement plans, approval of gym floor bid; approval of revised authorized use policies; Board protocols; and Board communication

- Open Forum

- Mrs. Rosanne Covey, parent, addressed the Board regarding the class size for 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts classes and resultant class sizes in other classes such as Social Studies
- Mrs. Margie Schuler, parent, said the large language arts class size for 8<sup>th</sup> graders does not provide the best learning environment for students. She said this particular class has been struggling since 2<sup>nd</sup> grade as a result of class size issues.
- Ms. Ruth Burke, community member and middle school teacher, spoke to the class size issue and said she has been in the affected classrooms and had observed that discipline was not an issue in grade 8 language arts. She further stated that the teachers were succeeding in creating an excellent learning environment for the students involved.
- Mrs. Bonnie Craggs, parent, expressed her dissatisfaction with the gym/stage area of middle school construction. Her comments questioned whether enough thought had been put into the planning of the facility to accommodate costuming, props, back stage area, lighting, etc.

- Board Self-evaluation  
The Board conducted its self-evaluation using the format provided by Board President Sandra Hannan. Items addressed included efficiency of Board meetings, appropriateness of topics, relating topics to Board policy, and contributing to learning climate and student achievement. Viewed as positive developments were the use of a timekeeper, and creation of a “parking lot” for items not discussed, but needing attention. The self-evaluation format will be refined prior to the next quarterly self-evaluation.
- Written Reports  
The Board received written reports on middle school construction progress and standardized testing results.
- Adjournment  
Adjourned the regular meeting at 10:40 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be  
Wednesday, December 20, 2006  
7:00 p.m. in the Pleasantdale Middle School Library**