

Board Meeting Highlights

Regular Meeting

October 20, 2010

At its regular meeting on October 20, 2010, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

Board of Education Recognition of Staff

Heard from Board Member Rick Rigley who presented Sharon Hartley, First Student Bus Driver, with a certificate of appreciation for her 18 years of hard work and service for the students of Pleasantdale.

Open Forum

Heard from a parent who read a letter from a middle school parent who was not in attendance at the Board meeting. The letter expressed concern about difficulties a student was experiencing in the 8th grade above level math class. It was further stated in the letter that the student was struggling with the pace of the content and the availability of extra help.

Heard from a parent with three students at Pleasantdale. One of the students is in the 8th grade above level math class. The parent reported that she met with the teacher. The parent indicated that extra help is available during rec time but not before or after school. It was expressed that rec time should be available to students to have fun with friends and that before school would be better for her student. The parent questioned whether additional help for grade 8 upper level math students could be made available before or after school.

Heard from a parent who has a student in grade 8 upper level math requesting additional assistance from the teacher outside of rec time.

Heard from a parent who has a third grade and sixth grader at Pleasantdale. Since the last Board meeting, he was able to become more informed of the standards-based pilot program. He received additional information and attended the elementary school presentation. The parent is now more in favor of the program and feels the system will be great once some concerns are addressed. He thanked everyone for all the help they have given him to better understand the new system and how it works. The parent also mentioned that his daughter attends the Pleasant Dale Park District's before and after school program housed at the elementary school. He expressed concern that students attending the park district's program do not get any food. He inquired if anything could be done to provide students in the before and after day program with food.

Heard from a parent who had sent a question to the board last month and she received an answer from Dr. Fredisdorf, she asked that if she submitted it again could she receive an answer from the Board.

Consent Agenda

Unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of September 22, 2010; closed session meeting minutes of September 22, 2010; payment of September payroll/October warrants; and Finance (section 4) Board policies.

Reports and Discussions:

Technology Plan Status Report

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who introduced the members of the Three Year Technology Planning Committee that was comprised of parents, teachers and administrators. The committee has been working on the plan since winter of 2010. Technology Specialist John McAtee reviewed the accomplishments from 2008-10 Technology Plan and the 2011-14 Technology Plan.

Highlights of the 2011-14 plan include:

- Creating grade level curriculum scales for technology
- Providing students with interactive personal devices and tools to enhance learning
- Increasing integration of technology into all areas of the curriculum
- Providing continued assistance to teachers in mastering the use of technology including interactive resources and tools
- Continuing to provide online information to the community and parents specifically

Board members Rick Rigley cautioned that providing students with personal interactive devices such as e-readers be well researched so that benefits are maximized and cost minimized. Subsequent to Board review and approval, the 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 plan will be advanced to the State Board of Education for review and approval.

Elementary and Middle School 2010-11 Improvement Plans

Heard from Principal Matt Vandercar who presented the elementary school improvement plan. Mr. Vandercar reviewed the current action math and reading lab programs. Action math is in its second year full year. Action math was moved from before school to after school. There has been definite improvement in attendance and students are more motivated to participate. This is the fourth full year of reading lab. New materials were purchased this year for teachers to use for direct instruction to address target reading issues. Standards-based pilots are currently taking place in 3rd grade science and 4th grade social studies. Middle School Principal Meg Pokorny reviewed the goals of last year and corresponding results. Explore results went up from 18.0 to 18.8 for the class of 2010; there was an 8% increase in the number of students in all grade levels combined who had zero conduct offenses; communication to parents was increased; there are now standards-based pilot programs in grades 5-7, and there has been promethean training for staff. Goals for the 2010-11 school year include: ensuring appropriate challenge and support for all students, especially those at either end of the achievement spectrum; ensuring that each of our students can demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage or resolve interpersonal conflicts in constructive ways; ensuring that ITBS, GATES and Explore scores for each cohort continue to improve.

Board Vice President Mark Mirabile asked a parent who was videotaping the meeting to please edit and take the pictures of the students out of the publications if she posts on the internet.

Communication Committee Update

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the conditions of satisfaction for the communication committee. Communication procedures have been developed and will be included in the school directory and the Board brochure; emergency procedures have been tested; students will be working on a service project with Hines Hospital; Veterans have been contacted to attend our Veterans day programs; and the Board brochure has been updated. Parents have been provided opportunities to attend standards-based grading and reporting information meetings. The Core team will evaluate the implementation of communication action plans and will provide feedback to the Board in November.

Tax Levy

Heard from Business Manager Catherine Chang regarding the proposed 2010 tax levy. There will be a public hearing regarding the tax levy on December 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Action Item

The Board unanimously approved adopting the proposed 2010 tax levy and authorized publication of the public hearing notice.

Next Agenda

Items for the November Board Meeting: Strategic Planning Status Report from Core Team; Review of Progress toward Strategic Objectives Using Standardized Test Data; Five-year Financial Projections; Audit Report; Town Hall Meeting Planning; Approve Technology Plan; Approve Library Grant; and Approve Audit Report.

Open Forum

Heard from parent who commented that the salary compensation report was not currently in compliance.

Heard from a parent who had two comments for the middle school. First, regarding the personal improvement guide, the family was unable to access the tutorials on Dr. Wick's website. Second, regarding after school activities, the parent requested extra math groups for students who do not want to be in math Olympics.

Closed Session

The Board met in closed session from 8:59 to 10:35 p.m. to discuss the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students.

Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 10:37 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be
Wednesday, November 17, 2010
7:00 p.m. in the
District 107 Administration Building**