

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Stephen Haszto, President
Stanley Pruss, Vice-President
Ameeta Bajaj
Patte Knuth
Tanuja Rathi
Pat Sidler
Kanwar Singh
Sandra Martin, Superintendent

2801 York Rd., Oak Brook
District Office: 630-573-2887
Fax: 630-573-5374
www.Butler53.com



Butler School District 53

Board Report

A news report of the March 13, 2006 Board of Education meeting

Board looks at new guidelines for meetings

The Board of Education agreed on protocols for running its board meetings that will give structured time for input from the audience, adhere to state law and allow the meetings to run more efficiently.

Board members said the guidelines were temporary until a more formal policy can be developed.

The protocols, developed by Board President Stephen Haszto along with the School District's attorney, are posted on the web page butler53.com.

Among the guidelines are:

- Comments from the audience will be taken only during the Reception of Visitors, and that portion of the agenda will be limited to no more than 30 minutes.

- Visitors will be asked to fill out a blue card and submit it to the president prior to the meeting and each individual will be limited to 3 minutes to speak.

- Board members may respond to visitor's comments during a section of the agenda called Board members comments.

- No personal comments about a District employee shall be allowed during the open meeting.

- The Board will enter into closed session no later than 9:30 p.m., three hours after the start of the meeting. Agenda items not discussed will be tabled to next month's meeting.

The protocols are needed to balance the importance and value of visitor input with the need for the Board to do its work and make decisions at a reasonable hour, said Haszto. He also asked residents, staff, parents and board to work together to do what's best for Butler 53 and its students.

Board member Patte Knuth said she would develop a draft policy on meeting protocols.

Later in the meeting, the Board also discussed committee meetings versus committee of the whole meetings and which would encourage greater board participation. Board members said some items on the regular business agenda could be put on a committee of the whole agenda.

Building Work Highlighted

In a report of the Building and Grounds Committee, Board member Stanley Pruss reviewed the performance contracting work to be done over spring break. He also reported on work planned to remodel two faculty washrooms at Butler Junior High, the purchase of new desks at Brook Forest and landscaping improvements with the help of the Project Serve (members of Christ Church of Oak Brook) and KidsKorp at Brook Forest.

Class size study presented

A study on class size and student enrollment at Brook Forest by Board member TJ Rathi and parent Jacky Parker was presented. It showed that enrollment is dipping slightly, raising the question of the number of sections and class size. According to the cohort survival method, which is commonly used in schools across the country, enrollment is expected to decrease slightly to 283 next year and rise again in 2009 to 292 and slowly decrease to 283 in 2012.

They suggested that the District increase the number of sections to 17 and add two teachers, which in effect would reduce class size. They said that smaller class sizes could further increase student achievement, allow more individualized instruction and increase student engagement. However, it was noted that more sections could add \$100,000 to the budget, result in wide class size swings year to year and that on some days, with children's illnesses, class sizes could drop to 12 or 13 children.

The administrative team will continue to examine enrollment numbers and the individual needs of particular grade levels and students. They will formulate a recommendation later in the semester.

Special Ed Extended Year Services reviewed

The Board discussed Extended School Year (ESY) services for special education students and reviewed the District 53 attorney's opinion on the provision.

Attorneys from Robbins, Schwartz, Nichols, Lifton & Taylor recommended that ESY services be provided by a certified staff member, that services be determined by each student's Individualized Educational Plan as warranted by law, and noted potential liability and conflict of interest issues in some of the District's past practices. ESY services are provided to a child with a disability who would suffer from significant regression in the summer that could not be regained during the next school year.

The Board asked Superintendent Martin to work with the Board's attorney's to develop a waiver for parents who wanted to deviate from the attorney's recommendations.

Team Places Third in Math Counts Competition

Four students were recognized for the Math Team's Third Place win in the Salt Creek Math Counts competition. The students, Nida Hamilton, Nathan Yan, Paul Osunero and Divya Pillai, were given plaques and honored by the Board.

Superintendent's and Principals' Report

In the administration's report, Superintendent Sandra Martin noted that the District earned the prestigious Bright A+ award from SchoolSearch, ranking fourth in the state. District 53 is among 61 out of 879 school districts in Illinois honored with the Bright A+ Award of Excellence. The award recognizes the academic achievement of students.

Superintendent Martin noted that the Girls' Basketball Team was undefeated in its season and ranked in First Place in the conference. They lost by two points in the conference championship. The girls will be recognized at the Board's April meeting.

Brook Forest Principal John Jackson noted that the 5th grades will visit the Robert Crown Center for the Life Begins program on April 5. He also reported that the Institute Day focusing on wellness and safety was well received.

Butler PTA announces online auction

The Butler PTA reported on plans for an online auction April 24 to May 5 that will operate much like e-Bay. Each family will receive a code number and can bid on donated items. Monies raised will be used for educational enrichment.

Board Calendar

- April 4** **Buildings and Grounds Meeting** - 8:15 a.m.
Administrative Center
- April 10** **District Leadership Team Meeting** - 4:00 PM
Administrative Center
- April 10** **Board of Education Meeting** - 6:30 PM
Administrative Center
- April 24** **Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting** - 6:30 PM
Administrative Center

Other Important Dates

- March 13-24** ISAT testing.
- March 24** End of Third Quarter
- March 27-31** Spring Break: No School
- April 3** Classes resume