

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Christopher Edmonds, President
Dr. Sally Beatty, Vice-President
Mr. Ahmad Sulaiman, Secretary
Ms. Laura Bieselin
Mr. Keith Carlson
Mr. James Chow
Dr. Sanjay Rao
Dr. Heidi Wennstrom, 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 May 13, 2019 Board of Education meeting

Committee updates

In committee news:

■ Outreach Committee Chair Dr. Sanjay Rao noted that the first priority of the committee has been completed – a highlights sheet. The sheet was distributed via the Oak Brook Civic Association newsletter and will be made available during discussions with community groups. The committee is also developing a calendar of meetings with stakeholder groups.

■ Finance Chair Keith Carlson said during the most recent meeting, the group reviewed progress with the implementation of Skyward, a general ledger and human resources software program. They also reviewed an early draft of next year's budget and upcoming major expenditures. He commended the staff for adhering to the budget requirements.

■ Education Committee Chair Laura Bieselin noted that the committee heard information on work with math and English Language Arts (ELA) consultants who are collaborating with teachers to fine tune instruction and develop unit assessments. They also reviewed the District's proficiency maps, noting that they should be fluid and serve as a guide.

■ Policy Committee Chair Ahmad Sulaiman reviewed the work of the committee, noting that later in the meeting the Board will approve the overhauled policy manual that parallels policies from the Illinois Association of School Boards. One policy will remain unique to Butler – the residency policy.

■ Infrastructure Committee Chair Laura Sulaiman reviewed the work of the most recent committee meeting. The committee discussed summer work, project updates and a pilot redesigned classroom at Butler Junior High that would have more flexible seating and configuration. Research shows that these classrooms increase student engagement.

Enrollment, stipends, policies

In other news,

■ Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin said that enrollment is down 47 students compared to projections, in nearly equal numbers at both schools. She said this is not unusual and that typically they will receive new student registrations throughout the summer. Currently, there are 478 students enrolled compared to 525 this year.

■ The Board approved changes to stipends for the 2019-20 school years. Some extra duty will change slightly at Butler Junior High because the Southeast DuPage Athletic Association (SDEAA) has realigned the schedule. In all, extra duty assignments costs the District roughly \$190,000. The changes for next year will cost an additional \$1,580.

■ The Board approved on second reading a customized policy manual developed in conjunction with the Illinois Association of School Board consultants. The manual will be uniform and be searchable on the web page.

■ Board member Keith Carlson was officially sworn in as a board member. He and two other board members were elected to the board in the April consolidated election. The two other board members – Laura Bieselin and Dr. Sanjay Rao – were sworn in at a special meeting April 25.

Board comments

Board of Education President Christopher Edmonds responded to some questions from the audience about administrative leadership and said that superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom, while retiring at the end of the school year, is currently taking vacation days, but is keeping the board apprised of issues and events regularly. Board President Edmonds said that the schools operate as they would just as with any other vacation. He added that former superintendent and current business manager Dr. Sandra Martin has stepped up during this time and noted that the District has two highly qualified principals who manage their respective buildings.

Principals' reports

In the principals' report,

■ Brook Forest Principal Chad Prosen said Fine Arts Week is underway with an art show and band concert. A reading incentive program encouraging students to read 500 minutes a month has been launched.

■ Butler Junior High Principal Amy Read noted that they are tweaking the revised master schedule and that staff have been updated on the changes and additional positions have been posted. They also surveyed students about their wishes and said staff will pilot a 2-minute passing period with 6th and 7th graders.

Contracts and textbooks approved

The Board approved a number of expenditures, many in preparation for the 2019-20 school year.

■ The Board approved several contracts with vendors related to technology, including a one-time fee of \$6,000 and \$850 a month for monitoring, tech support, planning and network infrastructure work to Heartland Business Systems; \$17,570 for replacing the core switching to Heartland, and \$14,959 to renew licensing for access points and access switches.

■ The Board approved contracts to purchase new student devices as part of its refresh cycle: \$25,049 to purchase 100 Chromebooks and \$37,373 to purchase 127 iPads.

■ The Board approved \$27,454 for new science textbooks for grades K-5 from Pearson Education and \$13,074 from McGraw-Hill for social studies textbooks.

Principal Amy Read to resign

Butler Junior High Principal Ms. Amy Read notified the Board of Education following its meeting on May 13, 2019 that she will be resigning effective June 30, 2019. She has accepted the role of principal of Herrick Junior High School in Downers Grove School District 58, effective July 1, 2019.

"On behalf of the Butler 53 Board of Education, I want to thank Ms. Read for her service," Board of Education President Christopher Edmonds said in a later letter to parents. "The entire district has benefited from her leadership and care for our students and we wish her all the best in this next chapter of her educational career."

The Board of Education will work with incoming Superintendent Dr. Paul O'Malley to develop the search plan to appoint a new principal at Butler Junior High. Additional information regarding the search process will be sent to the community in the coming weeks. Ms. Read has been principal of Butler Junior High for five years.

Board Calendar

June 4 Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 pm.
Sept. 3 Infrastructure Committee - 7 a.m.

School Calendar

May 24 School Improvement Day: Half-day student dismissal
May 27 Memorial Day: No School
May 29 Eighth Grade Graduation
June 6 Last Day of School



Want to learn more? Listen to the Board Meeting audio at www.butler53.com Click on the tab "Board of Education"