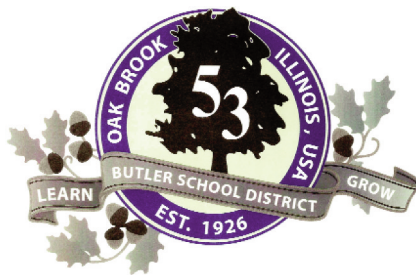


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Butler School District 53

Board Report

A news report of the Nov. 13, 2017 Board of Education meeting

Students show “remarkable” achievement and growth

The Board of Education heard its annual Student Achievement and Performance Report for 2016-17, which showed some remarkable test scores and student growth. Students continue to outperform the vast majority of school districts in the state, including those attending comparable school districts.

The report detailed three assessments: The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers or PARCC test, the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Performance (MAP) tests and the 5Essentials. Here is a synopsis of each:

PARCC

PARCC is a state test given annually that measures student performance in grades 3-8. The results look at attainment of student skills and growth. On this test, Butler District 53 students performed at a national percentile of 99.4 percent in both English Language Arts (ELA) and math. Overall, on ELA tests, 79 percent of students met or exceeded standards, which placed them in the category of “distinguished.” On math scores, overall 76.3 percent of District 53 students met or exceeded standards, again ranking them as “distinguished.”

NWEA MAP

NWEA MAP test is adaptive, adjusting to each student’s performance, and measures what students know and informs what they’re ready to do. Students K-8 are tested at the beginning of the year and at the end of year. Many students in Butler District 53 are performing two or more grade levels above their peers nationally. The test measures student growth over time and looks at whether students are sustaining growth related to their high levels of achievement. Overall, on the 2016-17 MAP, 63 percent of students in reading and 66 percent of students in math met their typical growth targets. That compares to the national average of 50 percent of students who meet their growth targets.

5Essentials

The 5Essentials survey was given to teachers, parents and junior high students. It looks at five areas of the schools related to organization and climate – ambitious instruction, effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families and supportive environment. Overall, results show that classes are challenging and engaging, families are highly involved, and the school is safe and supportive. The highest performing indicator was “involved families” followed by supportive environment and collaborative teachers.

Butler endowment event open to all Oak Brook residents

Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin reported on the Butler Endowment event, the performance of 42nd Street at Drury Lane Theater. Oak Brook residents may receive up to four complimentary tickets per household for the performance. Only 200 tickets are available. The complimentary tickets can be picked up on Monday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. – noon at the Butler School District 53 administrative offices at Windsor and York Rd., 2801 York Rd., Oak Brook. The tickets will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis with documentation of an Oak Brook address. The complimentary tickets are made possible through the generous community endowment fund created by the Paul Butler family.

Committee updates

In committee reports, the Board reviewed minutes of meetings related to each area. Reports included:

- Buildings and Grounds – A settlement agreement with Abbey Paving for Butler Junior High field and concrete replacement was discussed and later approved by the full board. The District is looking at replacing the pea gravel, matting and underlying concrete on the north side Brook Forest playground and replacing it with eight inches of mulch. Over winter and Thanksgiving breaks, the remaining floor cover at Brook Forest that was damaged in the flood this summer will be replaced. The committee also discussed changes to the audio/visual set up in the Board Room so that it is more conducive for presentations at board meetings, PTO meetings and other events. The committee is also looking at costs related to videotaping board meetings.

- District Leadership Team – The District will conduct training in June on a new social/emotional learning program at Butler Junior High, called RULER. Also, a committee of parents will meet with the administration to outline future events and speakers following the first meeting of the Parent Partnership group Oct. 25.

- Policy – The committee discussed proposed pros and cons of a potential new tutoring policy and new documents related to hiring and student records, among others.

- Technology – The committee discussed the need for a new digital system for registration, data analytics and finances; and tentative goals for the Strategic Plan.

Statement on performance goals approved

The Board approved an annual statement as required under Illinois School Code that administrators with multi-year contracts have met student performance and academic improvement goals. The statement outlined goals for full-time administrators in 2016-17: Butler Junior High Principal Amy Read, Buildings and Grounds Director Bob Jakupi, Director of Technology Farheen Beg and Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom. The statement notes that the administrators met the academic performance goals as based on the Annual Student Achievement and Performance Report as well as other documents of evaluation.

The benefits of public schools

The Board recognized American Education Week (Nov. 13-17) and the importance of public schools. “It’s a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education to ensure every child receives a quality education. All of our stakeholders play a huge role to ensure that our children receive a quality education and that they are truly successful when they walk in our doors,” said Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom. Related to that is School Board Members Day, where members are recognized for the countless hours and volunteer service they provide to the community. Dr. Wennstrom thanked board members for their service.

Superintendent, principals reports

In the superintendent and building reports, the Board heard an update on the timeline for involving stakeholders in strategic planning. They also heard activities at Brook Forest including Bully Prevention Week at the two schools, 2nd and 3rd grade musical, band and choir concert, food drive and toy drive. At Butler Junior High, the principals reported on parent visitation day, in which 100+ parents attended, parent-teacher conferences, Bully Prevention Week and plans by the PTO Sports Boosters to promote white-out games for athletic events.

Action items

In other news, the Board approved:

- A settlement agreement with Abbey Paving that related to construction work at Butler Junior High in 2016.

- Approved a contract with Weiss Snow Removal for snow removal at Butler Junior High from Dec. 1, 2017 through March 30, 2018, for \$2,300, plus \$195.30 for each salt application.

- Approved a resolution estimating the tax levy amounts. The estimated amount of tax levy for 2017 is \$10.3 million. The amount is less than 5 percent above last year’s 2016 levy extension and thus will not require a public hearing.

- Approved a contract with J.S. White and Associates for completing monthly bank reconciliations and related services, not to exceed \$9,200.

Board Calendar

- Dec. 7** Building and Grounds Committee - 7 a.m.
Dec. 11 Policy Committee - 5 p.m.
Dec. 11 Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
Administrative Center
Dec. 12 Technology Committee - 7 a.m.

School Calendar

- Dec. 1** PTO meeting
Dec. 4 Butler endowment ticket distribution,
9 a.m. - noon, administrative offices
Dec. 4 Community Focus Group, 9:00 -10:30 a.m.
Butler Junior High
Dec. 5 Community Focus Group, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Butler Junior High



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