

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Elizabeth Chun, President
Dr. Sally Beatty, Vice-President
Mr. Ahmad Sulaiman, Secretary
Mr. James Chow
Mr. Christopher Edmonds
Mr. Cabin Kim
Mr. Lou Paskalides
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 Feb. 12, 2018 Board of Education meeting

Strategic Plan outlined

The Board heard a lengthy presentation on the proposed Strategic Plan, which focuses on three overarching goals:

- Strengthen exemplary teaching and learning by ensuring students are well rounded and emotionally and academically prepared for success in high school.
- Promote community engagement, advance partnerships and bridge understanding
- Create value by leveraging effective use of resources

Each goal has sub goals and action plans detailed over four years. The plan was developed after significant input from parents, community members, teachers and students through focus groups, interviews and surveys.

“This is a premiere school district, known for its high performance in every area,” said Steven Humphrey, executive vice-president of ECRA, which conducted the process for community engagement that formed the basis of the strategic goals.

He also noted that the survey results didn’t line up with data from the focus groups and individual interviews. The Strategic Plan report relies heavily on the information gathered from focus groups and interviews. In a Committee of the Whole meeting on Jan. 31, Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom also suggested that the survey data was inconsistent with the focus group data and didn’t match data from the 5Essentials survey.

The Board invited the community to offer feedback on the draft document before acting on the first year’s action goals at its March 12 meeting. The community can view the plan on the District’s website at www.butler53.com

Dr. Humphrey also noted the exceptionally strong commitment of all participants and paid special tribute to students, who he said were “so rich with insight and enthusiasm and desire to be successful.”

Administrators reviewed action plans for the next two years. Among the key elements are:

- Develop a framework for social-emotional learning
- Implement instructional programs that personalize student learning, advance rigor, promote creativity, and provide differentiated learning
- Enrich extracurricular and exploratory opportunities for a well-rounded experience
- Continue to integrate digital learning tools and support technology infrastructure
- Explore new revenue streams
- Build understanding of D53 workings with the greater community and increase transparency of the District and Board of Education

The District also plans to report on the progress of the Strategic Plan action goals by instituting a dashboard on its website later in the year.

Playground work moving forward

The Board approved a contract with NuToys Leisure Products for new playground equipment at Brook Forest and Butler Junior High. The total contract is \$66,247. They also approved a \$34,718 contract with Green-Up of Plainfield, to prepare the Brook Forest site for the new equipment and to install the equipment. The Brook Forest north playground has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. The Oak Brook Park District has offered to help install the new playground at Butler Junior High.

The PTO has expressed interest in helping fund some of the equipment, possibly by offering naming rights for smaller pieces. The plan was reviewed by the Board last month and also recommended by the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Fees to remain the same

The Board approved registration fees for the 2018-19 year after the Finance Committee recommended keeping fees the same for next year. This decision does not include some optional fees such as for school supplies, which will continue as usual. A decision on the transportation fee, however, has not yet been decided, said Committee Chair Christopher Edmonds. He noted that costs have escalated each year and that the District is shouldering 83 percent of the costs of ridership. He said the District is studying a number of options to reduce the District's burden and that the matter will be brought back to the Board this spring. In other Finance Committee news, the District is looking at creating efficiencies and reducing costs of its printers, has begun negotiations with the Oak Brook Education Association, and has recouped \$62,000 in expenses from summer roof leaks during roof construction at Brook Forest.

The 2019-20 school year calendar approved

The Board approved the 2019-20 school calendar. The first day of student attendance will be Aug. 20 and the last day will be June 3. Winter break will be from Dec. 23, 2019 through Jan. 3, 2020. Spring break will be from March 30 through April 3, 2020. In related news, the Board amended next year's calendar, the 2018-19 calendar, to move one Teacher's Institute Day from August to later in the year.

Other news: board meetings, contracts, committee work

In other news:

- In a report from the Building and Grounds Committee, the Board heard about corrective action taken after lead testing was conducted at the schools. The second set of test results have been completed and a letter containing the results was sent to parents via U.S. mail. Corrective actions include replacing a drinking fountain outside Room 301, shutting off water to a classroom sink, and designating a kitchen faucet for hand washing only. The Board also heard about plans to require outside facility rentals to pay the rental fee and submit their insurance in advance.

- The Board decided not to move its Board meetings to the Village of Oak Brook. The measure was proposed by a member in order to provide more room for presentations and guests. Some members said the move would be an additional burden to staff members to move materials and equipment, and an additional concern noted about the security of taping the meetings.

- The Board established its schedule for the remainder of the calendar year. Business meetings will generally be held on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole meetings will be held April 26 and Aug. 23.

- The Board heard a report from the Technology Committee. Chair Lou Paskalides said that Chromebook computers will not go home with 3-5 grade students next year. There are concerns about the amount of time it takes away from learning for start-up and charging devices.

- The Board approved the renovation of the Butler Junior High faculty lounge for \$65,000 as recommended by the Building and Grounds Committee. Work will include new cabinetry, flooring, paint, counter tops, furniture and selected appliances. The room is an old kindergarten classroom and has not been updated since it was first designated as a lounge. All of the work will be done in-house.

■ The Policy Committee reported on discussions of 17 updated policies, eight of which were on the agenda and approved on first reading by the Board. They were recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards policy service and reflect updates in language and new legislation.

■ The Board approved annual contract extensions for the following administrators:

- BJH Principal Amy Read for FY19-21 for \$155,363 in 2018-19
- Brook Forest Principal Dr. Chad Prosen for FY19-20 for \$141,105 in 2018-19
- Director of Student Services Andrea Prola for FY19-20 for \$106,087 in 2018-19.
- Director of Buildings and Grounds Bob Jakupi for FY19-21 for \$103,854 in 2018-19.
- Director of Business Services Dr. Sandra Martin for FY19-20 for \$73,007 in 2018-19.

■ In the Principals' Reports Brook Forest Principal Dr. Chad Prosen thanked parents for their patience and flexibility when the school suspended parent-teacher conferences on Feb. 8 after reports of heavy snow. He said conferences are rescheduled and that if the designated times won't work, teachers can meet individually with parents at another convenient time. He also reported on plans for a Family Reading Night Feb. 28, PARCC tests the week of March 12 and a shoe drive for children in Ukraine.

■ Butler Junior High Principal Amy Read announced that Butler Junior High students received a number of awards in the Scholastic Writing Contest. Students won 7 Gold Keys, 9 Silver Keys and 14 Honorable Mentions. Gold Key winners advance to the national competition. "It was a tremendous showing," she said. In other Butler news, 8th graders will travel to Washington D.C. on Feb. 23 and Career Day will be held April 20.

Board Calendar

- Feb. 16** Special Board Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
Feb. 27 Tech Committee, 7 a.m.
March 1 Buildings & Grounds Committee, 7 a.m.
March 6 District Leadership Team, 4 p.m.
March 12 Policy Committee, 5 p.m.
March 12 Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
 Administrative Center
TBD Finance Committee

School Calendar

- March 8** PTO meeting, 9 a.m.
Feb. 16 BF Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Half-day student dismissal
Feb. 19 President's Day: No School
Feb. 20 No School
March 2 Institute Day: No School
March 5 Pulaski Day: No School



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