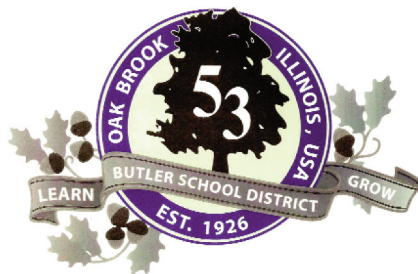


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**Butler School District 53**

Board Report

A news report of the Feb. 8, 2016 Board of Education meeting

Budget planning

The Board of Education authorized the administration to begin developing the budget for fiscal year 2017 (2016-17 school year). The budget is constructed using a zero-based budgeting process and will be presented to the Board in the summer. Next year, it is expected that there will be continued financial constraints due to a low Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is part of the formula for determining the tax levy, and reduced funding from the state. In related financial news, the Board authorized its treasurer to invest school funds in the following institutions: Northern Trust, MB Financial, Illinois Funds, Signature Bank, PMAA Financial/Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus, Associated Bank, Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund, Evergreen Bank.

Facility updates

The Board heard a status update on capital improvements that were conducted last summer and asked the contractor to prepare a plan for final completion. The Board also heard an update on plans for this summer, including reconfiguring the driveway on the south side of Butler Junior High and adding a narrow lobby area to the gym; adding casework and cabinetry to classrooms at Brook Forest and repaving and restriping the parking lots. Board members noted that these are must-do items and that funds had been saved up for years to allocate for these and other projects in the Master Facility Plan. "I want to stress that this board has efficiently saved so it can allocate money for these infrastructure projects," said Buildings and Grounds Chair Lou Paskalides.

In a related move, the Board approved an addendum with FGM Architects for summer 2016 projects. Members noted that while a specific site plan for BJH has not been approved, planning for these site improvements are complex and more monies are needed for site visits and other initial work related to many of the summer projects. The addendum is for \$130,238 with an allowance of \$38,902. In addition, samples of casework and shelving will be installed in two Brook Forest classrooms. Teachers can then review the items and give feedback on which ones are most useful before ordering later this year.

Safety during pickup, drop off

The Board talked about concerns of a few drivers disobeying safety rules and traffic laws while picking up students at Butler Junior High. The Board discussed whether to add additional police officers to enforce the rules. Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom noted that even with staff members asking cars not to park in emergency areas, some continue to disobey the staff members' directives. She said the administration will come back to the Board with information on the cost for more police presence during drop off and pick up times.

Superintendent, principals report

In the superintendent's and principals' reports:

■ Brook Forest Principal Kelly Voliva gave an update on the District's Wellness Institute. The Institute grew out of the District's Wellness Committee, and will take place March 4. Staff members will hear more about "Food as Medicine," nutrition, sleep, plant-based diets, yoga and others. The Wellness Committee is required by District policy and the initiative is part of the District's lead on social emotional learning, said Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom. "As we are advancing in our work with students, we are also want to ensure the building blocks of wellness in place for our staff." She also noted that "it is critical that staff and faculty remain healthy because they care for our students everyday." The Committee is chaired by Todd Beyer and includes members Mike Frink, Ann Wolff, Mike Divelbiss, Kim Bayer and Nina Angelillo. "I am so proud of the work they have accomplished as a leadership team," noted Wennstrom.

■ Brook Forest Principal Kelly Voliva noted that tryouts began and rehearsing is beginning for the 4th and 5th grade musical *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. She said though a lot of students have tried out, there is a place for everyone. She commended music teacher Richard Sobak for his thoughtfulness in choosing a play that has roles for many students.

New policies, retirements

In other news, the Board:

■ The Board reviewed 17 revised policies that range from personnel to student issues. In addition, the Board adopted on second reading revisions in nine policies. The policy changes were recommended for all schools by the Illinois Association of School Boards press program. Tech Committee Chair Dr. Alan Kumar also noted that the Board is considering a revised policy on technology use related to student use of technology in the 1:1 program.

■ Approved the future retirements of Jon Frink, science teacher for the 2019-2020 year, 3rd grade teacher Colleen Tarantino for the 2019-2020 year;

Board Calendar

March 1 District Leadership Team - 4:00 p.m.
March 1 Finance Committee Meeting - 7:45 a.m.
March 14 Policy Committee Meeting - 5 p.m.
March 14 Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
Administrative Center

School Calendar

Feb. 15 President's Day: No School
Feb. 26 No School
Feb. 22 BJH Solo & Ensemble Contest
March 3-5 8th grade Washington D.C. trip
March 4 Institute Day: No School
March 11 PTO Meeting



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