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Butler School District 53

Board Report

A news report of the May 9, 2016 Board of Education meeting

Safety vestibule added at BJH

The Board of Education approved a contract for \$2,324,000 to build a vestibule for the gym at Butler Junior High and rework driveways and parking on the south side of the school. The vestibule will create a secure area for students to wait for pick up after school. It will also allow a place for visiting teams to assemble after games and matches. Before, students waited outside and propped open the doors in inclement weather, neither of which met current standards for school safety.

The plan was reviewed with residents of nearby York Woods and officials from the Village of Oak Brook, police and fire. "The plan will not only improve the safety and security of students during after school activities, but also it will be more energy efficient and improve the aesthetics of the building," said Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin. The District received four bids, all within 1 percent of bid proposals. The Board approved the lowest responsible bidder.

Work will begin as soon as school is out for the summer and should be completed in late fall.

Facilities Life Safety plan vetted

The Board of Education heard a status report on the updated 10-Year Life Safety Plan and subsequently approved the plan. State law requires that every school district survey its buildings and address any measures related to the health and safety of students, and file that report with the state. The plan, developed four years ago and updated this year, involves an assessment of the facilities, both indoors and out, by architects and engineers and subsequent recommendations on ways to meet new life safety laws. There are only a few items that are of the highest priorities, said Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin, and a good portion of the work can be performed in house.

In related news, Dr. Martin and Buildings and Grounds Director Bob Jakupi reviewed punch list items from last summer's projects. Among the concerns were uneven and discolored concrete work at Brook Forest, which will be replaced by the contractor at no cost to the District. Other work will be to re-grade and re-sod the north field at Brook Forest. The work will be coordinated with some sewer repair work.

Work focuses on English Language Arts

The Board heard an update on plans to focus efforts on continuing training in English Language Arts and the new Readers/Writers Workshop model. Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom noted that professional development will be a priority for the summer. She said with higher expectations and more rigorous assessments, moving to a more broader and more rigorous Language Arts teaching model was critical. She said the Reading/Writing Workshop model allows students to develop reading and thinking strategies that are more rigorous and that encompass all types of texts, not just novels. In addition to professional development, the District plans to hold information meetings with parents next year.

Updates, reports and appointments

In other news, the Board of Education:

- Heard an update from the Technology Committee, which reviewed student technology fees, laptop repair lists and costs, software and web site permissions and allocations of equipment.
- Heard an update on the Finance Committee, which included a review of the development of the 2016-17 budget, a discussion of how to budget for unknowns in state funding, tuition payments for out-of-district students and contracts for telephone work and summer construction, among other matters.
- Appointed Loretta Sterner as general music teacher, vocal music and band for the 2016-17 school year.
- Approved a contract with Heartland Business Systems for technology and wireless upgrades to the buildings for \$33,165.
- Approved a 36-month contract with At&T for telephone services beginning on July 1.
- Approved a change order with Abbey Construction for \$9,650 for additional work to complete remaining drainage issues following extensive construction last summer.
- Approved a one-year extension to the contract with First Student, Inc. for bus transportation next year, an increase of 4.5 percent. At its last meeting, the Board had asked the Business Manager to renegotiate the proposal.
- Approved on second reading and adoption six policies that were recommended by the Illinois Association of School Board for schools to meet changes in state laws and practices.
- Accepted the resignation of registrar Teresa Kikos effective May 20, 2016.

Superintendent, principals report

In the Principals' Reports, the Board heard updates on staff changes at Brook Forest. Reading Specialist Melissa Wills was appointed to the position of Teacher on Assignment overseeing Curriculum and Instruction. Aubrey Ignace was appointed to the position of Reading Specialist and Interventionist. Jen Traub will serve part-time in the role as 5th grade teacher in the Advanced Learning Program. Brittany Keuthe will serve part-time in the Advanced Learning Program for 3rd and 4th graders as well as serve in other enrichment and intervention activities at Brook Forest.

Board Calendar

- May 26** Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Administrative Center
- June 13** Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Administrative Center

School Calendar

- May 18** Service Awards & Retirement Celebration
- May 23** BHIL 8th Grade Academic Awards
- May 24** BHIL Athletic Awards
- May 25** 8th Grade Graduation
- May 26** Kindergarten Graduation, 2:15 p.m.
- June 1** Last Day of School



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