

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Ms. Laura Bieselin
Mr. Keith Carlson
Mr. James Chow
Dr. Sanjay Rao
Dr. Heidi Wennstrom, Superintendent

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Butler School District 53

Board Report

A news report of the Jan. 14, 2019 Board of Education meeting

School fees approved

As it does annually, the Board approved school fees for the 2019-20 school year, including raising registration fees from \$10-\$15 depending on the grade level. The registration fee change is the first increase in general fees in five years. The fee for half-day kindergarten will go from \$185 to \$200, for grades 1-3 it will rise from \$210 to \$225, for grades 4-5 the fee will increase from \$235 to \$250 and in grades 6-8 the fee will increase from \$290 to \$300. There will be no increase in the technology fee, supply fee and online subscription fee and in optional fees such as transportation and yearbook.

Board approves school calendar for 2019-20

The Board approved the proposed school calendar for 2019-20. The calendar is approved at this time in order to help families plan for the coming school. The calendar is based on input from staff, parents, Education Committee and PTO and reflects specific guidelines from the state. The proposed calendar includes 176 days of instruction, four Institute Days, five emergency days and five School Improvement Days. Every effort is made to align winter and spring breaks with District, 2019 and end June 1, 2020 if no emergency days are used.

Board Committee reports

The Board heard updates on the committees that had met in the last two months.

Outreach Committee

Dr. Sanjay Rao gave a report on the Outreach Committee meeting. He said the group of parents, faculty and administrators discussed ways the District communicates with parents and community and proposed additional ways to reach constituents. The group also discussed creating a one-page highlight piece for various stakeholders. The next meeting is March 13.

Education Committee

Ms. Laura Bieselin outlined the work of the Education Committee, which will explore schedule changes at the junior high to allow additional time for math class as well as incorporating additional opportunities for students in art and music. The group also discussed the possibility of adding Spanish instruction at Brook Forest. She noted that the committee did not want to decrease class time in core areas in order to meet these goals. The committee will explore adding time to the school day, which would need further study and may require additional bargaining with the Oak Brook Education Association.

Infrastructure Committee

Mr. James Chow gave an update on the Infrastructure Committee, which incorporates the areas of facilities and technology. The committee is developing a purpose statement and framework for working with the Education and Finance Committees. The group also reviewed the project list for the summer and heard a presentation on flexible learning spaces for classrooms. A technology task force will be developed to obtain input from teachers and to develop a vision for educational technology in the next five years.

Committee updates continued

Policy Committee

Mr. Ahmad Sulaiman gave an update on the Policy Committee, which reviewed 45 policies and procedures. Dr. Wennstrom noted that the committee has begun to work with an Illinois Association of School Board representative in migrating policies to a new system that incorporates recent updates in school laws.

Superintendent search update

Ms. Laura Bieselin and Board President Mr. Christopher Edmonds gave a brief update on the superintendent search. They reported they were pleased with the caliber of candidates from around the country that were presented by the search consultants. Thirty-eight applications were received, 31 were deemed complete, and the Board reviewed online videos of six applicants in December. On January 12, the Board interviewed three finalists and are currently reviewing follow-up materials from the candidates. Mr. Edmonds noted the input of faculty, parents and community members through focus groups and surveys set the parameters that the consulting firm used to evaluate all submitted applications. "Everyone's input has driven the process with the candidates," he said. Current superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom will retire at the end of the 2018-19 school year.

PTO Carnival, budget, parent survey

In other news:

- The Board heard an update on the PTO Family Carnival, the group's largest fundraiser for the year. It will be held 6-9 p.m. on Jan. 26 at Butler Junior High. There will be carnival games, inflatables, magic show, bingo room, game truck, mobile escape room as well as other entertainment, a silent auction and raffle prizes.

- At its March 9 meeting, the PTO will host Hinsdale District 86 Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law, who will speak about the facility needs at Hinsdale Central and South and the proposed referendum. Community members are encouraged to attend the meeting, which will be held 9 a.m. in the Butler Junior High Multipurpose room.

- The Board approved a resolution authorizing Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin to prepare a tentative budget for 2019-20. The spending plan is built using a zero-based budgeting process.

- Parents were encouraged to take the 5Essentials survey, which is given by the state and measures components of school success such as instruction, organization and climate of the school. It can be accessed at <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/>

In order for the results to be viable, 20 percent of parents need to take the survey. The deadline is Feb. 15.

Principals' reports

In the principals' report:

- Brook Forest Principal Dr. Chad Prosen said the DARE program, Child Lures and Erin's Law programs have begun and thanked the Oak Brook Police for their involvement. He also noted that the PTO extra curricular clubs have started. He added that the school will hold a Family STEM Night Feb. 5 that would include 20 stations related to STEM.

- Butler Junior High Principal Ms. Amy Read reported on articulation meetings between Butler teachers and Hinsdale Central. These meetings focus on aligning curriculum, ensuring students are prepared for high school and determining student placement. "All the data and feedback from these meetings have been extremely positive," said Ms. Read. From these meetings, she noted that high school teachers have complimented the added focus on grammar and vocabulary taught in Butler's English Language Arts classes. She also said that 33 percent of Butler students are recommended for Spanish III honors (junior level) class in high school, 27 percent are recommended for Spanish II and 40 percent are recommended for Spanish II honors.

Board Calendar

Feb. 4 Infrastructure Committee - 7 a.m.
Feb. 5 Education Committee - 4 p.m.
March 13 Community Outreach Committee - 4 p.m.
Feb. 11 Board of Education Meeting- 6:30 pm.
March 13 Community Outreach Committee - 4 p.m.



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

School Calendar

Jan. 18 School Improvement Day, early student dismissal
Jan. 21 No School: M.L. King's Birthday
March 8 PTO meeting, 9:00 a.m.



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