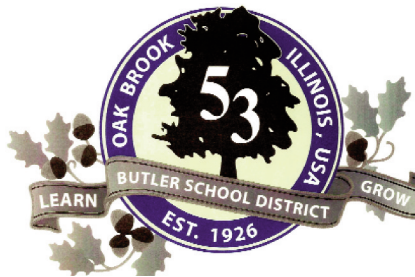


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Butler School District 53

Board Report

A news report of the April 8, 2019 Board of Education meeting

Three board members win election

The Board congratulated fellow members Laura Bieselin, Keith Carlson and Sanjay Rao, who won election to the Board of Education following the April 2 election. All three won election to four-year terms. The April 25 Board meeting will be held to officially certify the election results.

Board looks at STEAM

The Board heard a report from Education Committee Chair Laura Bieselin on the work of the committee. She noted that over the last school year the committee has studied a number of options to ensure that students at Butler Junior High have equal access to art education and STEAM-based curriculum. She outlined the steps of studying the issue since fall, listening to parents and teachers on the matter and reviewing myriad options. One model that accommodates all of the concerns would provide students with a study hall or additional elective and also guarantee a spot in fine arts, STEM and media technology music.

Of all the options discussed, Ms. Bieselin said this was the solution that doesn't sacrifice minutes in core content or lunch/recess.

A number of parents spoke on the issue and asked the Board to further study the issue and/or to survey of parents.

Last day of school set for June 6

The Board approved an amended calendar for the current school year, which marks June 6 as the final day of school. The action means that the Board approves the two alternative learning days that were held in place of the cold days in January. Prior to the action, superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom gave a report on the alternative learning days that detailed assignments and projects per grade level, the applicable school code and parent survey data. Two earlier snow days were taken in November.

Board members said there needs to be a plan with robust curriculum that can be used off-site in the future.

Committee reports

The Board heard an update on several committees:

Community Outreach – Chair Dr. Sanjay Rao said the group met in April and finalized a highlights flyer for area stakeholders. It will be inserted in the Oak Brook Civic Association newsletter. At the next meeting, in May, the group will discuss presenting to various groups.

Finance Committee – Chair Keith Carlson said the committee reviewed an overview of the new financial system, called Skyward, which successfully launched the district's accounts payable function recently. He thanked the administration and Dr. Martin for their prudent stewardship of finances.

Policy manual reviewed

The Board approved on first reading a new policy manual, a customized 371-page document developed in conjunction with the Illinois Association of School Boards. The project to customize and renumber the manual was launched to be consistent with the IASB developed policies. Committee Chair Ahmad Sulaiman thanked IASB representatives and attorneys who worked with the committee on the new manual.

Enrollment, bids, recognition, technology

In other news, the Board:

- Recognized Brook Forest art teacher Mike Divelbiss, who is a finalist for Art Teacher of the Year by the Illinois Art Education Association. The Board commended him for the honor and for moving to choice-based art, in which students have a number of ways to express themselves during art class.

- Rejected bids for summer construction work because there were only two bids and they greatly varied in cost. Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin recommended postponing the work until next summer to be rebid in conjunction with the larger HVAC project.

- Declined to consider a proposal for a new generator to back up two IT rooms containing phones, security, internet and clocks. The construction work and generator would cost \$325,000. Administrators and board members both cited the high cost and that currently the equipment is supported by battery backup that sustains operations for an additional two hours.

- Heard a report from Technology Director Farheen Beg on the study to pilot a future-ready classroom that address design, flexible seating and technology. She said members of the task force of 20+ educators from both buildings completed site visits, held several meetings and obtained input from staff. The task force, which is part of the Infrastructure Committee, is seeking input on next steps from the Board. A room could be piloted in the summer or fall.

- Approved auditing services for 2019-22 from Miller Cooper & Co. for \$61,500. The action was recommended by the Finance Committee.

Principals' reports

In the principals' reports,

- Dr. Chad Prosen and Ms. Amy Read commended assistant principals Lisa Owen and Alison Prochaska for their commitment. They were honored as part of National Assistant Principal Week.

- Dr. Prosen thanked the PTO for supporting STEM night and announced upcoming Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) tests, which replace PARCC tests. He highlighted plans for Health and Fitness Week on April 29 and a Reading Incentive in June.

- Ms. Read also announced testing dates for IAR, results of the National Spanish Exam and the April 16 Parent Night of cyber safety.

Board Calendar

April 25	Board certification of election results - 6:30 pm.
May 6	Infrastructure Committee - 7 a.m.
May 7	Education Committee - 7 a.m.
May 8	Community Outreach Committee - 4 p.m.
May 13	Board of Education Meeting- 6:30 pm.



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

School Calendar

April 18	School Improvement Day: Half-day student dismissal
April 19	No School

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