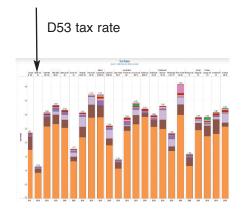# Butler School District 53

Board Report

A news report of the Sept. 8, 2019 Board of Education meeting

Board adopts budget

The Board adopted a $14.7 million budget for the 2019-20 school year with a small surplus of $156,000.

The adoption followed a public hearing and a presentation by Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin. She outlined the changes in the budget, the budget development process and how the District compares financially to other school districts. She noted that there were only two schools that performed higher than D53 on test scores, but the District is near the median in spending. She also noted that the District had the lowest tax rate among comparable school districts, at a tax rate of 1.145 per $100 of assessed value. There were no concerns or questions from the public voiced from the public during the hearing.

On the expenditure side, the budget reflects staffing levels that are slightly higher than last year, increased special education costs, a 3.5 percent yearly increase in salaries and benefits, a 5 percent increase in health benefit costs, a 3 percent increase in transportation costs, some additional instructional technology, including the development of a model classroom and tech infrastructure upgrades. The budget also reflects $445,000 in contingencies and $166,000 in capital projects.

The District uses a zero-based budgeting process to build the budget. On the revenue side the District receives 88 percent of its monies from property taxes, some state funding and very little federal funding. Year-end fund balances were projected to be $10.58 million. Investment income was slightly up as were revenues from registration.The presentation also outlined financial projections and upcoming facility projects. The projections show that the District expects $10.58 million in fund balances at the end of the year, but that will decline next year to $9.3 million. "Our budget projections show that we are keeping pace with planned expenditures," said Martin.

D53 tax rate

Goals outlined

In the superintendent's report, Dr. Paul O'Malley outlined the opening Institute Days with teachers. He reviewed goals for the year that included creating a Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC). Teachers will develop unit maps, year at-a-glance curriculum guides and common assessments. Year 2 goals include creating common homework and grading practices, year-at-glance curriculum guides for social and emotional standards and creating small learning communities for grades K-2. Year 3 goals include creating a personalized learning plan for students. He also said that the curriculum and instruction page of the District website is being updated and will support these expectations for the school year.

DEFINITIONS
A "Guaranteed" curriculum *is a mechanism through which all students have an equal opportunity to learn rigorous content. Viable means that there must be adequate time for teachers to teach the content and for students to learn the content.*

A Small Learning Community (SLC), *also referred to as a School-Within-A-School, is an organizational model that divides school populations into smaller, autonomous groups of students and teachers. This model increases collaboration and shared responsibilities among teachers.*

Personnel, praise, policies and reports

In other news, the Board:

■ Approved the hiring of a second supervisor during choir and band at Brook Forest School. Principal Chad Prosen said that with 54 students joining band and 67 students in elementary choir, there is a need for an additional adult to help supervise both practices. The Board approved $22/hour for the role, totaling $2,662 for the year.

■ Praised *Chicago Magazine's* recognition of Butler Junior High as one of the top schools in DuPage County. Superintendent Dr. Paul O'Malley said that the honor should also be celebrated by Brook Forest teachers as well, as students received their educational foundation from the elementary school.

■ Approved on first reading some minor wording changes in policies. The changes were made to reflect the wording of the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) standardized policies, called PRESSPlus, additional citing of legal references and spelling out time limits on how long the public can address the Board of Education on a topic.

■ Approved the 2017-18 Salary Compensation Report for administrators. The report lists salary and benefits in accordance with state law and is posted on the web page. In related news, the Board approved the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) pension limitations and transparency documents for two administrative IMRF employees.

■ Held a short reception for new faculty and staff in 2019-20 to welcome them to the new school year.

■ Heard updates on Board committees. The Community Outreach Committee will meet Oct. 9 at 4 p.m. Also, the Education Committee will meet quarterly and is seeking feedback from the administration on how it is structured.

■ Heard a report from Superintendent Dr. Paul O'Malley, who shared certified staff and non-certified staff handbooks with the Board. He noted that these are procedures based on the Board policies.

■ Heard an update on the start of school. Superintendent Dr. Paul O'Malley noted that bus service for students initially was not up to par and the administration has worked with First Student to improve the service, including practicing the routes, verifying and communicating all information with the District and providing regular feedback and communication with the school. In addition, the administration held a meeting with drivers to review expectations, and will create a bus driver appreciation day to honor drivers and further cement the importance of the role.

■ Heard an update on the Butler Bridge parent group. The first meeting this year was to discuss how to support students with stress and homework. The next meeting will be 10 a.m. Dec. 6 at BJH with a focus on navigating the difficulties of children and social media.

Schools' reports

In the schools' reports:

■ Brook Forest Principal Dr. Chad noted that students from Brook Forest and Butler will participate in the Village's Sept. 11 commemoration. He also said that a delegation from Shanghai will be visiting the schools again this year. He thanked the PTO for their work in organizing extra curricular clubs and noted that MAP testing concluded and results will be sent home to students later this month.

■ Butler Junior High Principal Ms. Andrea Prola gave a recap of Curriculum Night where staff showcased the school and curriculum. She also highlighted goals around team building, where students voted on a theme for the year – Beyond All Limits. "We are infusing positive incentives throughout our building. Our goal is to make BJH a caring and proactive school that focuses on teamwork each day," she said.

■ Assistant Principal Melissa Zaniewski gave a report on curriculum initiatives, including classroom walkthroughs and observations to help determine the need for professional development, meeting with teams to review student data on math and English Language Arts and meetings with English language arts teachers and an educational consultant, who is supporting teachers with curriculum and modeling best practices in instruction.

Board Calendar

Oct. 21	Board of Education - 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 4	Community Outreach Committee - 4 p.m.

School Calendar

Sept. 20	Parent Visitation, BJH
Oct. 11	Parent Visitation, BF
Oct. 11	School Improvement Day, 11:50 dismissal
Oct. 14	Columbus Day: No School
Oct. 18	End of first quarter, BJH
Oct. 25	End of first trimester, BF

Keep in touch!

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Butler School District 53

Board meeting audio
www.butler53.com

APP

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