



Nov. 25, 2009

Board At Work



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

Pattonville reviews proposed 2-year calendar

Board of Education is expected to vote on proposals on Dec. 8

The Pattonville Board of Education on Nov. 24 reviewed proposed calendars for the next two school years. The calendars for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years were drafted by Pattonville's Calendar Committee, which included a board member, parents, a student, teachers and support staff. The board is expected to vote on the calendars during its Dec. 8 board meeting.

When developing the proposed calendars, the committee focused on improving student achievement. Other factors discussed during the development of the calendars included family considerations, professional development needs, staff considerations, transportation logistics, and holidays/special events. The committee also worked to ensure that parents, students and staff had a voice by gathering comments and feedback on the proposed calendars.

Highlights of the proposed two-year calendar are:

- Balanced number of days for semesters at the middle school and high school levels;
- Four early dismissal days were scheduled so that elementary and middle school students would have early dismissals on the same day in order to assist parents with child care needs (early dismissal days are used for staff training and development and/or collaboration between teachers at the same grade level);
- School starting during the third week in August for family considerations;
- A four day first week of school for students;
- Six emergency days (snow days) were built into each calendar, as required by state law (the ending dates of school will be rolled back if these days are not used); and
- No school for students on Nov. 2, 2010 due to midterm elections; the day will be used for professional development for staff.



Important dates for proposed new calendars

2010-2011 School Year

- Aug. 16 - First day of school
- Dec. 23-Jan. 2 - Winter break for Grades K-5 and Remington
- Dec. 23-Jan. 3 - Winter break for middle and high school students (Jan. 3 is a report day for staff)
- March 21-25 - Spring break
- June 1 - Last day of school (will end earlier if six emergency days required by law not used)
- June 2 - Graduation

2011-2012 School Year

- Aug. 15 - First day of school
- Dec. 23-Jan. 2 - Winter break for Grades K-5 and Remington
- Dec. 23-Jan. 3 - Winter break for middle and high school students (Jan. 3 is a report day for staff)
- March 19-23 - Spring break
- May 31 - Last day of school (will end earlier if six emergency days required by law not used)
- May 31 - Graduation

Note: All school calendars are subject to change to be in compliance with state law, including the required number of emergency days and the agreed upon number of contractual days for staff.

Board of Education announces resignation

Pattonville School Board President Ruth Petrov on Nov. 24 announced she had accepted a letter of resignation from Board Vice President Cindy Candler, effective Nov. 23. Candler, who was in her fifth year on the board, resigned due to family and job responsibilities. The board will discuss the vacant position at a later date. As a result of Candler's resignation, the April 6, 2010, school board election will include one, one-year term and two, three-year terms. Board members expressed their thanks for Candler's service over the last five years.

Board examines minority achievement report

A report on minority achievement in the Pattonville School District shows that while gains have been made in a number of areas, a gap still exists between the achievement scores of white students and other minority groups. The only group that consistently outperforms white students is Asian students, according to Pattonville's annual minority achievement report. In the past, the district has reviewed data comparing scores of black and white students. Because Pattonville's student population has grown more diverse, the report was expanded this year to include Hispanic and Asian students and to analyze the effect of poverty on the student achievement of all four subgroups.

Each school in the district is working to address student achievement for ALL students in their school improvement plans. The schools look at individual student data to assess academic needs and monitor progress.

The minority achievement report, presented to the Board of Education on Nov. 24, showed:

- Although the percentage of black and Hispanic students scoring at advanced and proficient is predominantly lower than the percentage of Asian and white students, a reduction in the achievement gap from 2006 to 2009 in communication arts was achieved at many grade levels and an improvement in achievement from 2006 to 2009 in mathematics was achieved for black students at the 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade levels and for Hispanic students at the 6th, 7th, and 9th grade levels.
 - Asian students consistently scored higher than white students in 2009 at all grade levels with the exception of the ninth-grade Algebra I end-of-course exam, where they scored just a fraction below white students.
 - Out of 14 similar school districts in St. Louis County, Pattonville ranks fourth overall in having the smallest achievement gap between white and black students in communication arts. Out of 12 similar school districts in St. Louis County, Pattonville ranks second in mathematics.
 - The grade point average for black and Hispanic students continues to be lower than the population as a whole. Grade point average for Asian students is consistently higher than the overall grade point average.
 - The dropout rate for Asian, black, and Hispanic students was lower than the district rate, and white students' drop-out rate was slightly higher.
- The report also looked at the impact of poverty on student achievement. Over the course of the last six years, Pattonville's free and reduced-priced lunch rate has increased. Last year, 36 percent of students qualified for free or reduced-priced meals due family income levels. This year, the anticipated rate will be slightly more than 40 percent. In each of the four subgroups (white, black, Hispanic and Asian), the majority of students who qualified for free and reduced-priced lunches performed at a lower level than students whose families had higher incomes in the same subgroup.
- As the school year continues, schools will continue to use strategies to help improve achievement for minority students in all grade levels in communication arts and mathematics. Principals will work with school improvement teams to implement their plans developed for the 2009-2010 school year and beyond designed to improve minority student achievement. School improvement teams will continue focusing on the following:
- Develop, implement, and evaluate strategies to continue to increase the number of minority students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP), challenge, college credit, and honors classes;
 - Develop, implement, and evaluate strategies to decrease the number of discipline referrals, in-school suspensions, and out-of-school suspensions for black students;
 - Use the data team** and social justice** structures to identify research-based instructional strategies aimed at improving minority student achievement;
 - Monitor the implementation and evaluation of academic monitoring systems for early identification of students experiencing academic difficulties; and
 - Use research to identify, implement, and evaluate specialized instructional strategies and/or interventions to support the learning of all students with a focus on minority students and students in poverty.

**Note:

- **Data teams** are groups of teachers and/or administrators who meet regularly to review student data and collaborate on ways to help each individual student become proficient or advanced in his or her learning. The goal of data teams is to find out what works best to help each student learn and to alter instruction accordingly.
- **Social justice** activities cultivate and foster positive relationships through open communication that promotes understanding of diverse abilities, cultures, races and socioeconomic backgrounds while providing meaningful and relevant educational opportunities for ALL Pattonville students.

Superintendent's Update

Michael A. Fulton, Ed.D., Superintendent

Nationally Certified Teachers

Congratulations to Pattonville's newest National Board Certified teachers - Ben Schamber, a social studies teacher at Pattonville High School, Julie Linck, a kindergarten teacher at Remington Traditional School, and Kelli Risse, a first-grade teacher at Remington. National Board Certification is the highest professional credential in the field of teaching. The certification is awarded by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). These individuals took their personal and professional development to a new level by participating in this rigorous process.



Julie Linck



Kelli Risse



Ben Schamber

PHS Craft Fair Coming Dec. 5

The Pattonville High School Band Boosters Association will hold its annual craft fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5 at Pattonville High School. More than 200 crafters with handcrafted items typically display their crafts for sale at the event. The Boosters Association supports the band and flags programs at Pattonville High School. For more information, call Joan Arnett at (314) 422-4876 or (314)739-6730. Those interested in participating as a crafter should call Arnett. All items to be sold must be handcrafted.

Annual Report Online

Pattonville's annual report to the community is now online. The report is packed with information about the district, its performance, and its schools and programs. To view a copy, go to the district's Web site (www.psd3.org) and look under Seasonal Links in the right-hand menu. The PDF file of the report may take a few minutes to download due to its size.

Kindergarten Information Night set for Dec. 10

Pattonville will host a Kindergarten Information Night for parents of children who will enter kindergarten in the next school year (2010-2011). The event will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10 at the Pattonville Learning Center. The event will feature a panel of experts, including an elementary principal, kindergarten teacher, counselor, nurse, transportation director, a current parent of a kindergartner and a representative from the YMCA before- and after-school child care program. The experts will offer important information on kindergarten readiness and successfully transitioning into kindergarten. A question and answer session will be included. Those planning on participating are asked to RSVP by calling (314) 213-8105 or sending an e-mail to mwilliams@psdr3.org. Child care is available with RSVP. Pattonville will hold registration for kindergarten classes for the 2010-2011 school year on Tuesday March 9, 2010. Parents can enroll students for kindergarten on this day from 9 to 11:30 a.m., 12:30 to 3 p.m. or 5 to 7 p.m. in the office of the elementary school serving the area in which their home is located. Kindergarten students must be 5 on or before July 31, 2010 to enroll. Children enrolled in Pattonville's early childhood programs still need to register for kindergarten classes.

Paying the Bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on Nov. 24 approved paying:

- \$187,006.39 in purchases made on Pattonville's purchasing cards; and
- \$5,201.54 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis, and Giljum for legal services.

Board Actions

The Pattonville Board of Education on Nov. 24:

- Approved an out-of-town trip for the Pattonville High School Future Educators Association;
- Approved paying \$22,750 to Unicom•ARC for professional public opinion research services;
- Awarded the following bids:
 - \$5,976 to Aalco Manufacturing for a windscreen for the baseball outfield at Pattonville High School;
 - \$11,062.50 to Xpedx for the renewal of an agreement for hand soap;
 - \$13,668.16 to Pavyer Printing Machine Works for a full-color envelope printer;
 - \$20,206.10 to Kannon Communications for the renewal of the First Class E-mail Support Agreement;
 - \$38,400 to Primary Systems for a clock synchronization system at Pattonville High School; and
 - \$301,445.96 to Rapids Food Service for kitchen equipment for bond issue projects at Briar Crest Elementary, Bridgeway Elementary, Remington Traditional School, Parkwood Elementary, Rose Acres Elementary and Pattonville Heights Middle School.

New Hire

- **Sharon Wood**, early childhood special education teacher, Learning Center
- **Julia Griffin**, paraprofessional, Willow Brook

Pattonville Online
www.psd3.org

Calendars

Pattonville maintains up-to-date calendars online. Click on the calendar tab in the left navigation column to view :

- An activities calendar of all school and district-level events; and
- An athletic calendar of Pattonville High School sporting events.

BoardDocs

Details of items discussed at board meetings can be found online. Click on any tab in the Web Tools menu on the right to find a link to Pattonville's BoardDocs page.

Your Board of Education

Ruth Petrov, President
Bob Dillon, Secretary
Ralph Stahlhut, Treasurer
Ron Kuschel, Director
Patty Polster, Director
Jeanne Schottmueller, Director

Making News

Special recognition of Pattonville students, staff and volunteers

Willow Brook Elementary

State Poster Contest

Sanjana Tatikonda, a second-grader, and Brooke Jenkins, a third-grader, each won first place in their grade-level division of the Missouri's Youth/Adult Alliance (MYAA) 2009 Red Ribbon Poster Contest. MYAA is a network of support empowering Missouri's youth to make healthy decisions about alcohol and other drugs. Red Ribbon Week is a national awareness week, which stresses the importance of staying drug- and alcohol-free and making good choices for a healthy life. Willow Brook first- through fifth-graders made posters featuring sayings to encourage a drug-free life and drawings of fun things for kids to do instead of drugs. Both students who took first place in the state contest will have their artwork printed in a Missouri calendar. First-place winners were also given the opportunity to choose their prizes. Tatikonda choose \$100 of art supplies, and Jenkins selected a digital camera. Their art teacher is Nancy Dixon.



Sanjana Tatikonda, left, and Brooke Jenkins are shown with Nancy Dixon, their art teacher at Willow Brook Elementary. The two won first place in their grade-level divisions of a statewide poster art contest.

Briar Crest Elementary

Apple Teacher Award

Tammarra Lewis, an instructional specialist, at Briar Crest, received the "Apple for the Teacher" Award from the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. Lewis received this award because of her work and accomplishments in the field of education.



Tammarra Lewis, instructional specialist at Briar Crest Elementary, earned an Apple for the Teacher Award from the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority.

Pattonville High School

Cappies Reviews Chosen for Publications

Rachel McCormick, Megan Jones and Erica Ream each wrote "Cappies" reviews for other high school plays in the St. Louis area and had their articles submitted for publication in local or school newspapers. McCormick and Ream both reviewed Northwest High School's production of "The Odd Couple." Ream also reviewed Bishop DuBourg's production of "Getting Away with Murder." Jones reviewed Hillsboro High School's production of "By Jeeves."

McCormick's review of "The Odd Couple" and Ream's review of "Getting Away With Murder" were both selected to be submitted to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for publication. Ream's review of "The Odd Couple" was chosen to be submitted to the Jefferson County Suburban Journal for publication. Jones' article was submitted to Hillsboro's school paper for publication.

The Cappies, "Critics and Awards Program," is a program through which high school theater and journalism students are trained as critics, attend shows at other schools, write reviews, and publish those reviews in local newspapers. At the end of the year, the student critics vote for awards that are presented at a formal Cappies Gala.

Pattonville High School

Girls Golf - Conference Champions

The girls golf team was named Suburban North Conference Champions. Members of the team were Brittanie Ferguson, Sydney Finn, Emily Gilmer, Kelly Gould, Kelly Hurlbut, Erin Leventhal, Morgan Mars, Alyssa Murray and Erica Nelson. They were coached by Leslie Anderson.



Girls Golf Team Conference Champions are shown with Coach Leslie Anderson. They are, from left, front row, Morgan Mars, Alyssa Murray and Kelly Gould; back row, Brittanie Ferguson and Erica Nelson.

Girls Tennis - Conference Champions

The girls tennis team was named Suburban North Conference Champions and Suburban North Conference Tournament Champions. Lachelle Bent was named to the All Conference First Team. Members of the All Conference Second Team are Theresa Ford, Abby Bartram, doubles, and Melissa Bradford, doubles. Other members of the tennis team were Hope Benefield, Alexis Farrar, Ashley Mierkowski, Theresa Mullineaux, Arden Toney, Danielle Toney and Courtney Wildberger. They were coached by Jeff Grass and Denise Simon.



Girls Tennis Conference Champions included, from left, Danielle Toney, Arden Toney, Theresa Mullineaux and Alexis Farrar.

Boys Swimming/Diving - Conference Champions

Two members of the boys swimming and diving team earned conference championships. Tyler Rogers was the Suburban North Conference Champion for 50 free style, and Dylan Reigle was the Suburban North Conference Champion for diving. Reigle also was a state qualifier for diving. These students were coached by Anna LeBlanc.

Football Conference Honorees

Several members of the Pirate varsity football team earned All Conference honors. Named to the All Conference First Team were Jason Baker, offensive tackle, Dominic Greenlee, defensive end, Brock Montgomery, linebacker, and Kevon Johnson, special teams. Johnson also was part of the Second Team All Conference for wide receiver and defensive back. Members of the All Conference Honorable Mention Team are Tre'Von Bonds, defensive back, Jesse Farmer, offensive guard and defensive tackle, Lakeem Goode, linebacker, Marquis Keys, linebacker, Martez Mason, running back, Jake Reinagel, full back, Dion Scott, defensive back, Steven Seals, defensive end, Matt Wilkes, wide receiver, and Jeremiah Wilkins, linebacker. These students were coached by Steve Smith, Mike Moeller, Scott Hauser, Brent Mueller, Tyrone Roberson, Shaun Patrick and Vince Licamelli.



Football All Conference honorees are shown with Coach Steve Smith. They are, from left, front row, Kevon Johnson, Steven Seals and Dion Scott; back row, Jake Reinagel, Martez Mason, and Brock Montgomery.

Boys Soccer Conference Honorees

Several members of the boys soccer team received All Conference honors. Named to the All Conference First Team were Brian Hruby, Jimmy Benoist and Alex Amo. Members of the All Conference Second Team are Brian Bauer, Dustin Lum, Josh Gross and Robert O'Keefe. Members of the All Conference Honorable Mention Team are Max Browne and Aim Dedkhad. They were coached by Tom Iffrig.



Boys soccer All Conference honorees included, from left, Jimmy Benoist, Brian Bauer, Aim Dedkhad, and Josh Gross.

Girls Volleyball Conference Honorees

Members of the girls volleyball team who were named to the All Conference First Team were Katie Silver and Cassie Nesbit. Nesbit also received All District Team honors. Regan Cook and Marissa Bozik were named to the All Conference Second Team. They were coached by Becky Middendorf.



Cassie Nesbit

Girls Softball Conference Honorees

The following members of the girls softball team earned All Conference honors: Mikala McGhee, All Conference First Team; Alexia McGhee, All Conference Second Team; Rachel McDonald, All Conference Second Team; Kailey Utley, All Conference Honorable Mention; and Mary Cradick, All Conference Honorable Mention. These students were coached by Doug McGhee and Melissa Sparkman.

United Way Recognition

Pattonville staff members contributed and pledged nearly \$11,000 this year through Pattonville's United Way campaign. The following schools or departments saw a 10 percent increase in the number of staff members giving and the amount given: Briar Crest Elementary, Willow Brook Elementary, Pattonville Heights Middle School, the maintenance department, and the Pattonville Learning Center. The following schools and departments had a 10 percent increase in staff participation: Bridgeway Elementary, Drummond Elementary, Remington Traditional School, Rose Acres Elementary, Holman Middle School, Pattonville High School, and the transportation department.



Several representatives from schools and departments that had increases in participation and giving in the United Way campaign were honored. Shown are, from left, Steve Vargo, principal of Rose Acres Elementary, Steve Gerke, director of transportation, Bus Driver Roger Harlan, Jerona Washington, principal of Briar Crest Elementary, and Dr. Scot Mosher, principal of Pattonville Heights Middle School.