

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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2801 York Rd., Oak Brook  
District Office: 630-573-2887  
Fax: 630-573-5374  
www.Butler53.com



Butler School District 53

# Board Report

## A news report of the July 11, 2016 Board of Education meeting

### Board, administration comment on recent lawsuits

At the July 11 Butler School District 53 Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom and Board President Alan Hanzlik made brief statements regarding two recent isolated allegations of academic dishonesty in the District and related litigation. The District 53 Board and Administration take the obligation to protect the District's long-standing reputation of academic excellence built upon exceptional teaching and parental support very seriously. While the Board cannot discuss the specifics of this matter, they reassured the community that academic integrity is of the highest priority.

### Staffing for 2016-17

In personnel news, the Board approved several appointments and heard updates on the process for hiring new staff.

- They approved the employment of Diane Chaps as Registrar in the District office.
- They heard the process for hiring a replacement for Brook Forest custodian Anthony Santiago.
- As it does yearly, the Board reappointed several administrative positions: Marybeth Marinier as Assistant Principal at Butler Junior High; Michael Finke as Athletic and Activities Director of Butler Junior High; Lisa Owen as Assistant Principal at Brook Forest; and Melissa Wills, Teacher on Special Assignment, supporting curriculum, instruction and assessment for the 2016-17 school year.
- They heard that the District is currently interviewing for a half-time special education position due to the number of students at Butler Junior High.

### Update on 2015-16 financials

The Board heard an update on finances and the closing of the books for 2015-16. Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin reported that the District was in line with its revenue projections, within 1 percent.

On the revenue side, they projected a planned deficit of \$3.3 million, but ended with \$2 million. The "savings" were due to unspent contingencies in construction projections, contingencies across all funds and a mild winter with reduced costs for gas, electricity, supplies and overtime.

In addition, there is about \$380,000 in payments that are being withheld until last summer construction work is adequately finalized. In all, the District showed a positive fund balance of \$13.3 million at the June 30 fiscal year end. At the end of 2016-17 year, the fund balance is expected to equal \$10 million. Board President Alan Hanzlik commended the administration, saying the projection models and plan are working so that education is adequately funded and there is enough extra so that it can be put aside monies to fund capital projects related to the aging buildings.

## Summer work on track

The Board heard an update on construction projects this summer. Casework and furniture is currently being installed at Brook Forest and will be completed by the end of the summer. At Butler Junior High, work is continuing to build a safety vestibule onto the gym and rework the driveways. Excavation, site work and the new steelwork on the addition have all begun. The new drives will not be in operation until October.

## Board meetings set for year

In other news, the Board approved Board meeting dates for the 2016-17 school year. Generally, the meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month. In 2016, they are: Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Dec. 12. In 2017, they are Jan. 23, Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 8 and June 12. Additionally, a Committee of the Whole meeting will be held Aug. 25, 2016. All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. Check the website for any changes.

### Board Calendar

**Aug. 8** Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.  
Administrative Center

**Sept. 12** Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.  
Administrative Center

### School Calendar

**Aug. 17-19** Teacher Institute Days:  
No School

**Aug. 22** First day of school



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