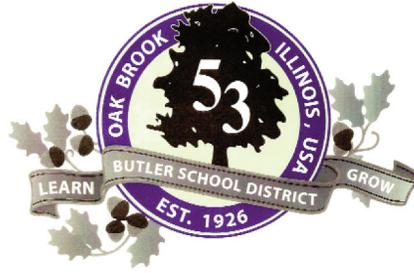


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Butler School District 53

Board Report

A news report of the Nov. 14, 2016 Board of Education meeting

Meeting starts off with celebrations

It was a night of celebrations for Butler School District 53. The new safety vestibule at Butler Junior High was opened to the public with a ceremonial ribbon cutting prior to the Board of Education meeting Nov. 14. The new District office entranceway, also newly constructed, was opened with a ribbon cutting.

Both projects were completed earlier this month as part of a five-year master facility projects to repair and improve the two schools.

Students who served as “superintendents for the day” presided over the festivities and cut the large blue ribbon. The superintendents of the day, from two Butler District 53 families, were the Rios family – Benjamin, Elise and Isabella Rios -- and the Saini family – Arjun Saini and Akash Saini.

Surrounded by his family, new board member Ahmad Sulaiman was sworn in. He was appointed in October following the resignation of Rajiv Advani, who resigned. The term expires April 2017.

Finally, in honor of American Education Week, Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom was surprised with a gift and a thank you. A student video was created with students querying “What does a superintendent do?” As a token of their thanks, the student council also presented Dr. Wennstrom with flowers, the PTO president spoke and the Board presented her with a vase. Students held cards spelling out “thanks” and read statements about the role of a superintendent.

“You put the best interests of the students first and foremost,” said PTO President Rahma Hasn. “Your collaborative attitude, your sensitivity to the needs of the students and their parents, your unwavering support of your staff, it all creates a culture in our district that is warm, inviting and invaluable.”

Student test scores released

Butler District 53 students fared well on the second year of the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) exams, Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom said in a presentation to the Board. Of 18 school districts that are similar in demographics and achievement in the Chicago region, Butler scored No. 2 in the State of Illinois with 80.1 percent of its students meeting or exceeding state standards on the PARCC. That percentage – or proficiency score – reflects all students grade 3-8 and both subject areas of English Language Arts and math.

Fewer than 30 schools in Illinois boasted scores of over 80 percent. Brook Forest and Butler Junior High were two of them.

“Our students are making growth every year,” said Wennstrom. “It is evidence of the quality instruction taking place in our classrooms with dedicated teachers and our excellent partnership with parents,” she said.

Analyzing Butler’s results by subject area, 79 percent of students met or exceeded state standards in math. An additional 16 percent “approached standards” in math, according to the School Report Card. In English Language Arts, 80 percent of students met or exceeded standards. An additional 15 percent “approached standards.”

The results are remarkable, given that Butler District 53 students already achieve at the highest levels, said Board President Alan Hanzlik. Moving higher is always difficult for top achieving schools.

Test scores (continued)

Last year's results showed that 78 percent of students met or exceeded standards. This year, 80.1 percent met/exceeded standards. Also notable is that more students overall exceeded expectations – 23 percent in 2015 to 26 percent this year.

Wennstrom noted there is always room for improvement on the test scores. "This is just one piece of data and we are examining the results in order to help all of our students achieve their personal best."

Construction work reviewed

The Board heard a report from the Buildings and Grounds Committee and reviewed a list of 2016 summer construction projects. Most projects and installations are complete, including installing new cabinetry at Brook Forest, new Smart TV's in both buildings and a new security system that is connected to the Oak Brook Police Department. The gym safety vestibule is about 97 percent complete.

Personnel, committee reports, new architect

In other news, the Board:

- Approved the employment of teacher's aide Deanna Dees at Butler Junior High.
- Approved a contract with Wold Architects for \$77,776 for summer 2017 roof work. Wold will be working on engineering and architectural plans for the Brook Forest roof replacement and the courtyard replacement at Butler Junior High.
- Heard a report from the Policy Committee and subsequently approved on first reading nine policies. All were recommended revisions from the Illinois Association of School Boards.
- Approved a resolution estimating the tax levy amounts. The estimated amount of tax levy for 2016 is \$10,139,500. The amount is less than 5 percent above last year's 2015 levy extension and thus will not require a public hearing. The projected levy is expected to be approximately 1.5 percent. The Consumer Price Index used to calculate the levy is .7 percent.
- Heard a report from the Technology Committee, which included recommendations to install more wireless access points, a review of the new Chromebooks for junior high students, and a move to standardize tech set up in classrooms.

Board Calendar

Dec. 6	District Leadership Team - 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 8	Buildings and Grounds Committee - 7:00 a.m.
Dec. 12	Policy Committee - 5:00 p.m.
Dec. 12	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Administrative Center

School Calendar

Nov. 17	Parent Teacher Conferences
Nov. 18	BJH Fall Sock Hop
Nov. 22	No School
Nov. 23	Veteran's Day: No School
Nov. 24-25	Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 30	BJH Geography Bee
Dec. 1	Parent Teacher Conferences, BJH
Dec. 8	2d-3rd grade Musical, BF



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