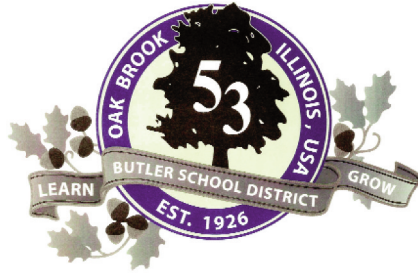


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Butler School District 53

# Board Report

## A news report of the Dec. 12, 2016 Board of Education meeting

### Tax levy approved lowest CPI in 5 years

The Board approved the 2017 tax levy following a presentation by Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin. The levy is estimated to increase 1.43 percent over last year's levy. The total levy requested is \$10,139,500 but the District expects to only receive \$9.8 million. That translates to \$138,059 in new revenue. There are significant constraints in levying what is needed to run the schools, said Martin. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is used to calculate the levy is .7 percent, at its lowest in five years. Also used to determine the levy is any new construction in the District. That is estimated to generate about \$70,402.

The District requests more than it expects to receive because of unknowns in the calculation, including the value of new construction and the growth in the tax base. "No matter how much we levy, we will only receive what the tax cap will allow us to receive," said Martin.

### Auditor review

In related financial news Nick Cavaliere from the District's auditing firm Baker Tilly presented the results of its yearly audit. Cavaliere said the company gave the District its highest marks, called "an unmodified audit opinion." That means that financial statements are presented, in all material respects, in accordance with applicable financial reporting framework, he said. Board President Alan Hanzlik praised Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin and Business Coordinator Sandi Moore for their work.

### Annexation request

The Board said they would not yet comment or take action on the initiative of residents of Midwest Club subdivision to annex into the District. Most of that area is within District 53, however, there is a small area that is within Downers Grove school district. One resident representing Midwest Club addressed the Board on Monday about the possibility. To detach from one school district and annex to another requires a petition and request to the DuPage Regional Board of School Trustees, which then conducts a hearing on the impact to the districts.

The District 53 Board's action, said Board President Alan Hanzlik, could be to support or not support the request or remain neutral. He said the District needed to conduct more analysis because of space concerns at the elementary school and also because the full board was not present. He noted that Brook Forest has the highest enrollment currently on record and is at its maximum capacity.

### Board elections

Three persons addressed the Board and said they plan to run for open positions on the District 53 Board of Education. They are Terri Arain, Eric Gasche and Rahma Hasan, who currently have or will have children in Butler schools. Additionally, recently appointed Board member Ahmad Sulaiman said he plans to run for election. There are five positions open on the Board – four of them are four-year terms, one is a two-year term.

Board members congratulated them and noted that the board work was challenging at times but fulfilling. Interested candidates can file with the DuPage Election Commission from Dec. 12-19.

## Schools honored as models in literacy

Both schools were honored as Model Schools by Schoolwide and presented banners and plaques. The schools are the only Model Schools in Illinois. The award recognizes the schools' Reading and Writing Workshop as an inspirational instructional prototype on literacy. As a Model School, Brook Forest and Butler educators will share their program and work with other educators. Already, more than 100 teachers and administrators have visited the schools to observe the program. Superintendent Heidi Wennstrom praised the work of teachers "whose practices have transformed the educational environment."

## Calendar, survey, holiday projects

In other news:

- The superintendent outlined plans of the calendar committee to develop a school calendar for the next two years. She said there are a lot of complexities involved in drafting a calendar. A draft will be forwarded to the Board in January.

- The parent community was reminded to complete the 5 Essentials survey. Not only does it provide valuable feedback from parents, but it also helps guide future improvements in the school. To take the survey, go to <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/Cal>

- The Board heard about holiday service projects in the schools. Brook Forest Principal said the mitten and glove giving tree, sponsored by the Student Council, is already very full. Butler Junior High Principal Amy Read noted that Trunks of Toys, a toy drive by the Service Board, was underway.

- The Board adopted revisions in nine policies following review and approval by the Policy Committee. All were related to changes recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

### Board Calendar

- Jan. 10** District Leadership Team - 4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 12** Buildings and Grounds Committee - 7 a.m.
- Jan. 23** Policy Committee - 5 p.m.
- Jan. 23** Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.  
Administrative Center
- Jan. 26** Technology Committee Meeting - 4 p.m.

### School Calendar

- Dec. 20** 5th grade at Oak Brook Library
- Dec. 21** BJH Winter Talent Show
- Dec. 21** BF Winter parties
- Dec. 22 - Jan. 6**  
Winter Break
- Jan. 9** School resumes
- Jan. 10** BJH Robert Crown Visit
- Jan. 13** School Improvement Day;  
Morning attendance only
- Jan. 13** BJH End of second quarter
- Jan. 16** Martin Luther King Day: No School
- Jan. 17** 8th Grade Winter Retreat
- Jan. 19** District Spelling Bee
- Jan. 20** PTO meeting - 9 a.m.



Want to learn more? Listen to the Board Meeting audio at [www.butler53.com](http://www.butler53.com) Click on the tab "Board of Education"