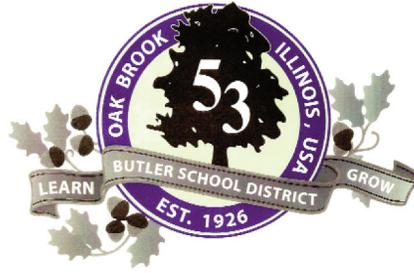


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Butler School District 53

# Board Report

## A news report of the Jan. 23, 2017 Board of Education meeting

### School calendars adopted

The Board of Education approved school calendars for the next two school years after vetting the dates with faculty, and parent and school leaders from the District Leadership Committee. The calendar was developed to provide the best possible educational experience for students, said Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom. Spring break and winter breaks match Hinsdale District 86. The calendars also reflect a similar structure as the current year for teacher training days (Institute Days and School Improvement Days) and parent-teacher conferences. Next year, the first day of student attendance will be Aug. 21, 2017 and the last day, barring any emergency days, will be Friday, June 1, 2018. The calendars can be viewed on the website [www.butler53.com](http://www.butler53.com)

### Registration fees approved

The Board approved student registration fees for next year, noting that some will increase because of tightening revenues and concerns about state and federal restrictions, but most will remain the same. Regular registration fees will remain as they have in past years, ranging from \$210 to \$290 per student depending on grade level.

Technology fees, however, will go up \$25 per student to \$175 to better reflect the District's hardware costs and give the District more latitude in performing minor repairs without charging families. In addition, the District will institute a new \$50 fee for online educational materials and subscriptions, which have dramatically increased in cost over time. The only optional fee that will increase is the transportation fee, which will rise from \$275 to \$350. Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom noted that the District incurred greater transportation costs when it added two more bus routes this fall.

The \$100 early bird discount will continue if families register between April 15 and May 15; and a \$300 late fee will continue per family for registrations received after July 1. Also remaining steady is the fee for full-time kindergarten, which is \$2,750, and half-day kindergarten, which is \$185.

Registration will begin this spring. Kindergarten registration has already begun.

### Annexation request

The Board heard information from an attorney representing homeowners in the Midwest Club, who are seeking to deannex from Downers Grove District 58 and annex to Butler School District 53. The attorney, who spoke during public comments, noted that the petition has been filed with the Regional Board of School Trustees. He asked the District 53 Board to remain neutral on the matter. He said all but one court or street in Midwest Club is within District 53 and they are asking that the one court of 22 homes be annexed into Butler District 53. He noted that there are only two families with school age children living on the affected court.

The issue was not on the agenda and not all board members were present, and as a result, board members said they could not yet consider the matter.

## 5Essentials, new staff, construction update

In other news:

■ Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom noted that the deadline for taking the 5Essentials survey by parents, junior high students and teachers, has been extended. To date, more than 20 percent of parents have taken the survey, which is the threshold for the state to collect and report on the data. Wennstrom said the data is valuable feedback for the schools. The deadline had been extended to Jan. 30, 2017.

■ The Board voted to extend a “tolling agreement,” which waves the statute of limitations in the right to sue regarding the investment fraud issue among area school districts and municipalities with the Illinois Metropolitan Investment (IMET) Fund. The agreement and extension allows the District the right to sue beyond the statute of limitations.

■ Approved the following employments: Laurie Murray as instructional aide at Brook Forest, Luan Sulo as custodian/maintenance at Butler Junior High and Noel Irizarry as custodian/maintenance at Butler Junior High and Catherine McGovern as permanent substitute at Brook Forest.

■ Approved the appointment of Michael Dudek as the Board’s hearing officer for residency cases.

■ Heard an update on the Buildings and Grounds Committee from Chair Lou Paskilides. He updated the Board on the status of past projects. He noted that the 2015 project to regrade the fields has not met specifications and that the top soil layer at Butler Junior High still contains a large number of stones. As a result, the field will need to be repaired and spring soccer will be relocated to the park district fields. Upcoming projects including reroofing of Brook Forest, replacement of the concrete in the Butler courtyard and improvements in the STEM lab.

## Math pathways discussed

The Board heard information on the math curriculum and the pathways students take in junior high. Principal Amy Read outlined what is taught at each level of math and the pathways to taking courses in high school. She recommended three pathways beginning with incoming 6th graders. Other recommendations are to increase the number of students who will take a higher level class and teaching students in the highest level of math at the junior high rather than busing them to Hinsdale District 86. The change is part of the Board’s effort to make continuous improvements in the program and the advent of now fully teaching the Common Core Curriculum in math. In making the recommendation, the District looked at MAP testing data, success of students in high school math classes and District 86’s placement test results.

Read said the recommendations will better meet the needs of all students.

### Board Calendar

- Feb. 7** District Leadership Team - 4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 13** Policy Committee - 5 p.m.
- Feb. 13** Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.  
Administrative Center

### School Calendar

- Feb. 8** BJH Washington D.C. Parent meeting
- Feb. 9** BF Parent Teacher Conferences
- Feb. 10** PTO Meeting, 9 a.m.
- Feb. 14** Food Allergy Team Meeting, 7:15 a.m.
- Feb. 17** BF and BJH Parent Teacher Conferences
- Feb. 20** President’s Day - No School
- Feb. 21** No School



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