

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Elizabeth Chun, President
Dr. Sally Beatty, Vice-President
Mr. Ahmad Sulaiman, Secretary
Mr. James Chow
Mr. Christopher Edmonds
Mr. Cabin Kim
Mr. Lou Paskalides
Dr. Heidi Wennstrom, Superintendent

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 Dec. 11, 2017 Board of Education meeting

Tax levy approved

The Board approved the 2018 tax levy following a presentation by Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin. The District is requesting a total amount of \$10,300,395, a 4.9 percent increase over last year's levy. Because of the tax cap laws, the district expects to receive less than that, about \$280,033 in new revenue over last year, or 2.85 percent. That increase will not keep up with cost increases in salaries, health insurance, utilities and others so the District is looking at cost cutting measures in order to balance next year's budget, Martin said.

The calculations that figure into each year's tax levy request are estimates, and are more positive than in the past. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is currently at 2.1 percent, higher than the 10-year average of 1.8 percent. New construction in the District and the growth in the tax base are also part of the formula.

Martin also provided a financial overview for the Board, noting that the District has benefitted from solid finances in the past, resulting in a top 4.0 rating from the Illinois State Board of Education, a AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's, and tax rates that are among the lowest in Illinois for school districts. She outlined challenges that will affect the District's finances such as the new Illinois school funding formula, which will likely mean less state funding for the District; pending legislation to freeze local property taxes, the high cost of student transportation; and an increasing number of corporate tax objections. The Finance Committee has recommended holding off on major capital improvements this upcoming summer. This year's budget shows expenditures exceeding revenues by \$330,000.

Board explores broadcasting board meetings

The Board discussed options and costs of videotaping future Board of Education meetings and moving the meetings to a more conducive site. Board member Christopher Edmonds said he had requested staff to examine options of broadcasting meetings and moving them to the village hall because space is cramped in the board meeting room. Some options were cost prohibitive and staff will continue to explore additional options, he said. The Board will continue to look for ways to increase transparency of the Board's and District's work.

Future and current building projects discussed

The Board heard a report from Buildings and Grounds Chair Lou Paskalides on a number of projects, both completed and planned. Work this summer could include replacing the handicapped lifts at both schools, installing keyless interior doors at Brook Forest and purchasing or leasing new copy machines. Installing some new playground equipment at Brook Forest is also being explored in partnership with the Oak Brook Park District and the Butler PTO. Larger projects would be delayed until the summers of 2019-2021. In spring, the Board will consider capital improvement projects for 2019 and beyond.

Over Thanksgiving break, carpeting was replaced in the Brook Forest Library, which had sustained water damage due to roof leaking. Also due to flooding, flooring will be replaced over winter break in the 4th and 5th grade wing, hallways, administrative office, faculty lounge and if time permits, the stage. Lockers will also be replaced in the 300-wing.

Committee updates, action items

- Heard a report on the Policy Committee, which recommended 17 revised and new policies for Board approval.

- Heard a report on the Technology Committee. The group is looking at setting up a portal for teachers and administrators to have improved access to student data, designing a new student registration system and conducting an ongoing review of firewall security.

- Heard an update on the Finance Committee. The committee is looking to reduce spending, balance the fiscal year 2019 budget and build in ways to fund approximately \$4 million in future capital projects. It is also reviewing student transportation costs, corporate tax objections and ways to communicate financial information to constituents.

- Approved the health insurance renewal for staff, which will cost an additional 3.49 percent this year. The District will again examine the benefits/costs to join an insurance pool for health insurance. It currently is a member of insurance pools for workman's comp and liability.

- Authorized legal counsel to intervene in tax rate objection proceedings and to defend, as appropriate, the tax rate challenges.

- Parents were encouraged to take the 5Essentials survey at <http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/> The survey asks questions related to the climate and culture of their child's school. It will be open until Jan. 31.

- The Board adopted on second reading six policies including a new policy on suicide and depression awareness and prevention; and another new policy on maintaining student discipline. The adoption followed review and approval by the Policy Committee.

In the Superintendent and Principals' reports:

- Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom detailed engagement efforts by the strategic planning consultant ECRA and thanked parents, staff, board members, students alumni and community members for their involvement. The survey window will be extended to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18 in order to obtain broader involvement.

- Brook Forest Principal Chad Prosen updated the Board on National Computer Science Week activities including 2nd graders who participated in a webinar with one of the founders of Seesaw. He outlined upcoming activities – 5th grade reading night, an all-school reading incentive and the Student Council's toy and mitten drive.

- Butler Junior High Principal Amy Read highlighted the Butler Math Team and Science Olympiad's recent competitions. She also noted how the reading specialist is advancing reading for all students and recently hosted a special guest, a golden retriever named "Buster," whom students enjoyed reading to during class.

Superintendent, principals reports

Board Calendar

Dec. 12	Technology Committee - 7 a.m.
Jan. 9	District Leadership Team - 4 p.m.
Jan. 11	Building and Grounds Committee - 7 a.m.
Jan. 22	Policy Committee - 5 p.m.
Jan. 22	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Administrative Center (Note revised date)

School Calendar

Dec. 25 - Jan. 7	No School – winter break
Jan. 8	Classes resume
Jan. 12	End of second quarter – BJH
Jan. 12	School improvement day
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King Day – no school
Jan. 19	PTO meeting – 9 a.m.
Jan. 26	End of second trimester – Brook Forest



Want to learn more? Listen to the Board Meeting audio at www.butler53.com Click on the tab "Board of Education"