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Butler School District 53

Board Report

A news report of the April 9, 2018 Board of Education meeting

Staffing plan approved for next year

The Board reviewed the staffing plan for the 2018-19 school year, which includes changes in the number of staff due to some student enrollment declines and staffing efficiencies. The total number of staff will decrease by 4.05 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions. At Brook Forest, the decrease encompasses 3.2 fewer certified (teacher) staff members than the current year and .75 reduction in non-certified staff. Enrollment at this time warrants two sections in grades K-2, instead of three, which has been previous tradition at Brook Forest in recent years. At Butler Junior High, projections show an increase in .4 for a teaching position and .5 decrease in non-certified position. Other changes include increasing the guidance position at Butler Junior High to one full-time faculty member. All of the changes are based on needs of students.

Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom said that the class sizes are consistent with the guidelines set previously by the Board. She also said that registration numbers are being monitored closely and that she will recommend additional changes to the Board if the need arises.

Board thanks PTO for donation

The Board accepted a \$25,000 donation from the PTO to help fund the new playgrounds at Butler and Brook Forest. PTO President Kelly Greco presented the check at the meeting and thanked chairs of the recent PTO fundraiser Denim is the New Black as well as parents and business supporters.

Board President Dr. Elizabeth Chun thanked the PTO for their generosity. "The partnership we have with the PTO and parents is very special," she said.

School reports

In the principals' reports:

■ Brook Forest Principal Dr. Chad Prosen said the school reviewed security procedures with the Oak Brook Police Department and members of the department debriefed with staff at a later faculty meeting.

■ Brook Forest continues to have teachers visit from other school districts who are observing the school's Reader's and Writer's Workshop model for language arts and talking with teachers. Recent visitors were from Kenilworth and Huntley School Districts.

■ The Board heard about plans to honor Assistant Principals Lisa Owen and Alison Prochaska as part of National Assistant Principal Week.

■ The Board heard about upcoming Brook Forest events including Health and Fitness Week, 4th and 5th grade musical and Science Expo.

■ Butler Junior High Principal Amy Read announced that C.C. Huber earned a Silver Medal in the 2018 National Scholastic Art and Writing competition, which is won by less than 1 percent of those who enter the regional competition.

■ Principal Read also announced that students Atif Kamal and Athena Koulouris will be honored for making positive contributions to Butler at the DuPage Principals' Association Student Recognition Breakfast.

Personnel action

In personnel news, the Board:

- Accepted the retirement/resignation of Christine Tomasino, teacher on special assignment for curriculum and instruction, effective June 30.
- Approved two medical leaves under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).
- Approved changes in two teachers' time. One from .83 FTE to .67 FTE for the 2018-19 school year and another from .6 FTE to .4 FTE. This required honorable dismissal and reassignment, according to school code.
- Approved the honorable dismissal of a non-tenured teacher due to enrollment declines.

Buildings & Grounds, technology, policies and other news

In other news, the Board:

■ Heard a report from the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Chair Lou Paskalides reported on summer projects planned, including updating the Butler Junior High teacher's lounge, installing new playgrounds at each school and purchasing a new handicap lift at Brook Forest. He noted that a ramp could not be installed in place of the lift because of ADA requirements for space. Also discussed at the committee meeting were challenges with a new keyless entry system for internal doors at Brook Forest, which was postponed because of cost increases. The work may need to be phased in over several years. Also discussed was the committee's recommendation not to rent the Butler Junior High fields to outside soccer groups because of potential damage to the fields. Other discussions centered on the challenges of renting the multi purpose room to groups that don't follow the guidelines. The Board also heard a complimentary report on an insurance inspection and noted that the schools received a top rating for safety of its facilities.

■ Heard a report from Technology Director Farheen Beg on the new student registration system, which will go live April 13. The program, which was the least expensive option through PowerSchool, also required customization by the technology department. She said student registration packets will go out to parents this week. Walk-in hours to assist parents in the new system will be available at both schools, she said. Early bird registration ends May 15.

■ Adopted two new policies. One that requires the superintendent to establish an organizational chart and chain of command. Another policy requires establishing a succession plan in case an administrator is temporarily away.

■ Ratified and adjusted the 2017 tax extension via the DuPage County Board. In all, the extension is for \$10.27 million with \$8.82 million for the education fund. Under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Act ("PTELL"), the Board of Education is allowed to adjust the amounts of taxes to be extended on its 2017 levy so as to come within the limiting tax rate in each fund. This is done once the District's 2017 Equalized Assessed Valuation is known.

■ Approved engaging Baker Tilly to prepare the District's audit and Annual Financial Report for \$18,500.

■ Placed the fiscal year 2018 amended budget on public display beginning May 1 and established June 4 at 6:30 p.m. for the public hearing.

■ Approved an agreement with the Proviso Township Treasurer's Office to provide accounting services for \$1,825 a month from July 1 to June 30, 2019.

■ Approved a purchase agreement with Garaventa for a heavy duty platform wheelchair lift at Brook Forest for \$33,652. The current lift is not working properly and replacement parts are unavailable. It is additionally used to transport food carts from one floor to another for student lunches.

■ Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Oak Brook Park District that allows the park district to install the new playground equipment at Butler Junior High. The equipment was purchased by the School District and will be paid for, in part, through the donation by the Butler District 53 PTO.

Board Calendar

- April 16** Finance Committee meeting - 5 p.m.
April 16 Policy Committee Meeting - 6:15 p.m.
May 1 Buildings and Grounds Committee - 7 a.m.
May 1 District Leadership Team - 4:00 p.m.
May 14 Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting - 6:30 pm. Administrative Center
May 22 Technology Committee Meeting - 7 a.m.



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

School Calendar

- April 13** Half-day; Student dismissal

