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Butler School District 53

# Board Report

## A news report of the May 14, 2018 Board of Education meeting

### Finance and facilities update

The Board heard an update on the financial status of the District and the District's Master Facility Plan. Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin noted that finances have consistently been given the highest Financial Profile Score from the Illinois State Board of Education for financial management. She also noted the challenge of increased costs for salaries and benefits and a low Consumer Price Index (CPI) that ties tax levy increases to the rate of inflation. Future challenges are a new Illinois funding model that would provide the District with \$1.34 per student per year, a potential property tax freeze, pension cost shift, increased tax levy objections from corporations and the high cost of student transportation. In light of those shifts, the District has revised its goals for fund balances. It will continue to provide stability and sound fiscal management and maintain an aggregate balance of 50 percent operating expenditures in its fund balance and designate any excess of that to the Capital Projects Fund to pay for facility needs.

Dr. Martin also outlined facility projects that need to be done in the coming five years, including new air conditioning at Butler Junior High, tuck pointing at Brook Forest, roof replacement and boiler replacement at Butler Junior High.

### Student safety and incident update

The Board heard an update on student safety from Oak Brook Deputy Police Chief Jason Cates on a recent concern about a student's threatening statement. A student at Brook Forest was overheard making a threatening statement that he was going to kill another student with a gun. After a detailed investigation by police, it was determined that the statement was made in jest.

Deputy Chief Coates said all statements need to be fully investigated to determine their credibility and praised the school for bringing it to the department's attention.

He said that Oak Brook Police interviewed staff members who were present, interviewed the parents and student and made their findings that evening. In reviewing the credibility of the statement, the police look at whether the child has a police history, what the student's demeanor was at the time, how the statement was taken, the perceived intent of the child and how staff members who overheard the statement perceived it, and finally whether the student and family have access to weapons.

"We believed it to be horseplay," said Deputy Chief Cates, also noting the full cooperation of the family and the remorse of the student. In response to questions from the audience Cates, principals and the superintendent outlined some areas of student safety, noting that police meet regularly at faculty meetings to review the crisis plan and discuss a variety of scenarios. They noted that they would not disclose all safety and crisis protocol in order to protect the integrity of the plan.

## Summer work and approvals

In other news the Board:

■ Approved the renewal of Voice Over Internet security camera support from Heartland Business Systems for \$9,947.

■ Approved parking lot resealing and restriping at both schools from Maul Paving for \$11,903. The work is done every other year.

■ Approved new chairs for audience members in the Board Room from Educational Environments for \$7,769.

■ Heard an update from the Buildings and Grounds Committee on summer 2018 projects, including new playgrounds at both schools, funded in part by the PTO; new audio visual equipment in the District Board room and a new handicapped lift at Brook Forest, among others.

## Committee work, legal update, policy

In other news, the Board:

■ Heard an update from its legal counsel on Senate Bill 100 regarding school law and policy as it relates to student behavior and suspension. Laura Sinars, an attorney from Robbins & Schwartz, noted that the law was very prescriptive about when and how schools can suspend and expel students.

■ Reviewed minutes of the Finance Committee, which discussed exploring potential operational changes, including developing a Request for Proposal for banking services, exploring investment management options and researching other options for accounts payable, payroll and needed software/training. The committee also discussed researching other districts' fund balance policies and plans to develop the FY19 budget.

■ Reviewed minutes of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, which discussed summer projects, reviewed data from other school districts on their rental of facilities, discussed beefing up their rental agreement to include mention of ADA compliance, washrooms and defibrillators. The committee also discussed Butler Junior High parent pick-up procedures, a request to install a sand pit for track and field and quotes to support the District's Voice Over Internet phone system.

■ Approved deleting three policies that were redundant, and approved on first reading 13 revised policies that address a variety of operational areas including incurring debt, resource conservation, instructional materials, and use of credit/procurement cards.

### Board Calendar

**June 4** Policy Committee - 5 p.m.  
**June 4** Board of Education Meeting- 6:30 pm.  
Administrative Center  
**TBD** Finance Committee

### School Calendar

**May 30** Eighth Grade Graduation - 5 p.m.  
**June 4** Last day of school



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