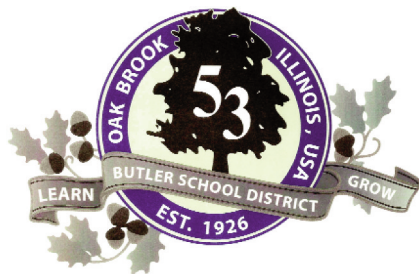


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Butler School District 53

# Board Report

## A news report of the Aug. 13, 2018 Board of Education meeting

### Action plans shared for 2018-19

Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom shared an overview of the Strategic Plan and said the staff and administration are looking forward to completing items in the action plan. She said the plan is a framework for resources that will be allocated, improvements that will be made and efficiencies that will be recommended. She outlined areas of the three goals: ambitious instruction, community engagement and exemplary value. “There’s a hallmark of excellence here and we need to continue to grow,” she said.

### Board hires new staff and faculty

The Board appointed new staff and faculty for the 2018-19 school year.

- Amanda Longtin, STEM Teacher, Brook Forest,
- Kristen Holtz Goerth, Speech Language Pathologist, Brook Forest,
- Stephanie Gust, Band/Music teacher, Butler Junior High,
- Brian Bresnahan – English Language Arts Teacher, Butler Junior High,
- Catherine Guerrero, School Social Worker, Brook Forest,
- Kimberly Antequino – English Language Arts Teacher, Butler Junior High,
- Jerilyn Murguia, part-time Library Media Specialist, Brook Forest,
- Kaylee Nakielny, Resource Teacher, Reading Specialist, Brook Forest,
- Jeanmarie Considine – part-time Curriculum & Instruction Specialist.

In related news, the Board approved job descriptions for an Elementary STEM teacher, English as a Second Language Teacher, Library Media Specialist, School Speech Pathologist and Special Education Resource Teacher.

The Board also accepted the resignation of the following Butler Junior High staff - Alyson Piagnarelli, Speech Language Pathologist; Joanna Lago, Language Arts Teacher; Dina Jones, Language Arts Teacher, Jessica Gunderson, PE Teacher and Aide, Jadda Castaneda, STEM teacher and Library Media Assistant.

They accepted the resignation of the following Brook Forest staff - Julie Siegenthaler, Instructional Aide, Laura Licata, Instructional Aide; Debbie Chiganos, Advanced Learning Facilitator.

### Enrollment update

Enrollment overall remains steady in the District and will likely be about the same as last year. As of mid August, enrollment has risen slightly at Butler Junior High and decreased slightly at Brook Forest. As of Aug. 17, 308 students were enrolled at Brook Forest and 212 at Butler Junior High with three additional students in the process of enrolling. Last year, 524 students were enrolled and todate 520 students are enrolled with projections showing a few more are expected. Dr. Wennstrom noted that there is higher enrollment than expected in first grade. As a result, the Board agreed to add one more section at first grade because the classes are near the top limit of Board guidelines and some classes are held in the smaller classrooms. Dr. Wennstrom said the District monitors enrollment daily. When sections are added, they are re-evaluated the following year. Brook Forest Principal Dr. Chad Prosen said that there are qualified candidates for first grade and Dr. Wennstrom added that the smaller class size would make a significant difference in children’s learning.

## Superintendent commended for leadership award

Board President Dr. Elizabeth Chun announced a recent award honoring Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom. Dr. Wennstrom was honored for her long-time advocacy for education and her child-centered leadership with a Distinguished Service Award of Excellence by the Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (INSPRA) at an award ceremony in May. “Our excellence starts at the top,” said Dr. Chun.

## PTO programming for the year

PTO President Kelly Greco and Brook Forest PTO Vice President Mary Beth Joutras updated the Board on upcoming PTO activities. They thanked staff and parents for their continued support and noted upcoming enrichment activities for students such as Sticky Fingers, Little Linguists, Girl Power Yoga, Stage Stars, Chain Reaction and TinkRworks, which will be held either before or after school. The PTO is seeking volunteers to help with those activities.

## Negotiating teams thanked

During Board member comments, Chris Edmonds commended the Board and the Oak Brook Education Association for its hard work in developing a new teachers’ contract. He said the group spent 11 Mondays, a 9-hour Saturday session and two 5-hour evening sessions in negotiations. “It was all about the kids all the time,” he said. “I think this contract will help us to grow to heights we’ve never seen before. We’ve been great for a long time but how do we do better for ourselves?” he asked. Board President Dr. Elizabeth Chun echoed the thanks and noted the dedication of both teams.

## Superintendent, Principal reports

In the superintendent and principals’ reports:

- Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom noted that the playgrounds at both schools have been installed, thanks to the partnership with the Oak Brook Park District and the D53 PTO. Summer school was an opportunity for students to use the playground. She has also seen families walk or drive to the playgrounds on weekends and after school. She said the District will present an award to the park district for their support of the school district and for providing the manpower to install the junior high playground.

- Brook Forest Principal Dr. Chad Prosen noted the enthusiasm of new teachers during new faculty orientation and thanked the PTO for their support of the new Brook Forest playground. He also noted two major goals at Brook Forest – an increase in STEM programming and deepening community partnerships. He said beginning this year a dedicated STEM teacher has been hired, which will allow students to deepen their learning and do some stretch thinking. He also noted the partnership with the Oak Brook Park District’s universal playground.

- Butler Junior High Principal Ms. Amy Read thanked the Buildings and Grounds Department for the new faculty lounge, which had not been updated in over 20 years and Team Tech and the school registrar for helping with the software to create a master schedule that meets the needs of students. She noted that enrollment at the junior high has increased. This year, the school will institute a new program called RULER for social emotional learning that was developed at Yale University and dovetails with Brook Forest School’s Eight Keys of Excellence.

## Village plan could impact schools

Board President Dr. Elizabeth Chun outlined a concept proposal by the Village of Oak Brook to develop the soccer fields across from the Oak Brook Post Office. One potential development could add 455-607 additional residential units and have a significant impact on the school system. She said that while the decision is not under the purview of the D53 Board, the District will work with the Village and communicate the school district’s impact. If the development is built, “we’d have to make changes and additions to our schools as we couldn’t handle a huge influx to our buildings,” she said.

# Finance Committee report

The Board heard a report from the Finance Committee, chaired by Board Member Chris Edmonds. He reviewed the financial management plan for the District, including the selection of Heartland Bank as the primary depository, PMA for cash management and investment, and Skyward for general ledger and human resources. Mr. Edmonds also outlined plans to conduct an evaluation of the new roof at Brook Forest, which has experienced some leakages since last fall's flooding. The committee also reviewed the close of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget and the development of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget.

# Budget, transfer, contracts

In other news, the Board:

- Approved a tentative budget for 2018-19 and established a public hearing for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 17. Some adjustments to the budget will be made and a final draft will be presented at the Board meeting Sept. 17.

- Approved an inter fund transfer of \$1 million, as part of an accounting process used to move monies in order to conduct facility improvements next summer. The process is required by the school code. Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin said the monies are needed in preparation for new chillers and piping for unit ventilators at Butler Junior High and new interior security doors. Another \$1 million will be transferred in Fiscal Year 2020 for improvements. The Board also conducted a public hearing on the inter fund transfer, as required by law. No members of the public spoke during the public hearing.

- Approved contracts with INSPEC to inspect and assess the roof at Brook Forest School, which was constructed in 2017 and has suffered some additional leaks. The work will include an analysis of construction related to the design and an infrared assessment of the roof and whether further investigation is warranted.

- Approved a contract with Skyward for general ledger and human resources software and training for \$57,948.

- Authorized Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin and Board Member Mr. Chris Edmonds to purchase natural gas at beneficial prices when market conditions dictate. The timing is critical in obtaining optimal pricing.

- Approved an agreement with J.S. White and Associates to provide financial and accounting services, as recommended by the Finance Committee for \$29,520.

- Amended Business Manger Dr. Sandra' Martin's contract from 100 days to 120 days per year. This will allow her to help manage the new general ledger software package, transition to new banking and finance protocols and prepare for major construction in the summer of 2019.

- Approved part-time administrative appointments and stipends including Mike Finke as Athletic Director, Lisa Owen as Brook Forest Assistant Principal, Alison Prochaska as Butler Junior High Assistant Principal and District Transportation Director. Learning Facilitators were also appointed: Adam Nicholson, Phyllis Sutton and Robbie Philipp; and Kristen Goerth as Inclusion Facilitator.

## Board Calendar

- Sept. 4** Special Board of Education Meeting - 6:00 p.m. Administrative Center
- Sept. 17** Regular Board of Education Meeting - 6:15 p.m. Administrative Center (**note time change**)
- Oct. 8** Regular Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Administrative Center (**note time change**)

## School Calendar

- Aug. 24** PTO playground dedication, 2:45 p.m.
- Sept. 3** Labor Day - No School
- Sept. 6** Butler Junior High Curriculum Night, 6:30 p.m.



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