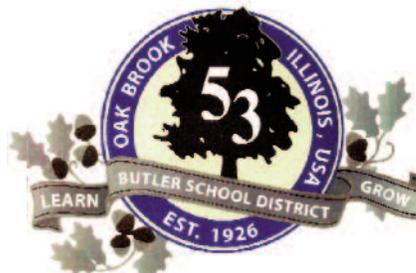


BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Dr. Sally Beatty, Vice-President
Mr. Ahmad Sulaiman, Secretary
Ms. Laura Biesel
Mr. Keith Carlson
Mr. James Chow
Dr. Sanjay Rao
Dr. Heidi Wennstrom, Superintendent

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Butler School District 53

Board Report

A news report of the Dec. 11, 2018 Board of Education meeting

Board adopts tax levy

The Board of Education adopted the 2018 tax levy following a presentation by Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin and a discussion by the Board.

The District expects to receive only 2.85 percent more than last year's revenue from property taxes. Any new monies the District receives over last year's levy is determined by two factors – the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and new construction in the District.

The CPI remains at low levels as it has the last 10 years, averaging 1.4 percent. The CPI combined with new construction in the District, will amount to an estimated \$262,024 in new revenue for the District. In all, the District expects to receive \$10,358,392 in tax revenue for its 2018 levy.

Martin noted that the District has solid finances, including 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 also provided a list of capital improvements planned over the next few years and said it is likely that the District will need to sell bonds in a few years to pay for them. The remainder would be paid through reserves and the regular budget.

Board committee reports

The Board heard a report on its standing committees, which had been reorganized this fall. All meetings are open to the public.

Community Outreach Committee – Committee Chair Dr. Sanjay Rao said the meeting will be held 5 p.m. Jan. 9 and the group will discuss community outreach initiatives, communications plans and messaging for each stakeholder group.

Education Committee – Committee Chair Ms. Laura Biesel said the group held a meeting Dec. 4 and will meet again at 4 p.m. on Jan. 8. Among the items to discuss are summer school, elective offerings at the junior high and to look at whether to bring back foreign language offerings to Brook Forest, among other items. She encouraged interested parents to attend the meeting.

Finance Committee - Committee Chair Mr. Keith Carlson reported that the meetings will be held quarterly and the next meeting date will be established soon.

Infrastructure Committee - Committee Chair Mr. James Chow reported that the group will meet at 7 a.m. on Jan. 7.

Policy Committee – Committee Chair Mr. Ahmad Sulaiman said the next meetings are scheduled at 5 p.m. on Dec. 12 and Jan. 16, 2019.

Superintendent search update

The Board heard an update on the superintendent's search. Board Vice President Dr. Sally Beatty reported that the Board will review taped video interviews of select candidates at a meeting 8 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15. The candidates are ones who more closely match the profile of a future superintendent that was based on surveys and focus groups of the school community. Because the meeting involves personnel, it will be closed to the public. She said approximately 40 persons have applied for the position.

Parent group meeting updates

Student Services Director Andrea Prola gave an update on the work of the parent group Butler Bridge. The next meeting will be held following the PTO meeting on Jan. 11. Topics are fostering independence, digital safety strategies and successful transitions within grade levels. The next Early Childhood parent session will be held at 9 a.m. on Dec. 18 at the Oak Brook Park District. The group will discuss social emotional learning and breathing strategies, early literacy and gross motor activities that can be used in the home.

Board looks at calendar for next year

The Board was presented an early draft of the 2020-21 school calendar. It will be considered for adoption in January. Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom noted that the state law had changed the definition of what constitutes a school day. The District attempts to coordinate holidays with Hinsdale District 86's calendar, but last year some dates on the D86 calendar had changed after District 53 approved its calendar.

District earns state award for whole child learning

The Board heard information on a recent award that will be bestowed on the District. The Illinois ASCD, an association of educators dedicated to excellence in learning, teaching and leading, has awarded Butler District 53 with its Whole Child Award for Healthy - one of the five tenets of whole child learning. The five tenets of whole child learning are healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. The award recognizes schools that have gone beyond a vision for educating the whole child to programs and actions that result in learners who are emotionally and physically healthy, civically active, artistically engaged, prepared for self-sufficiency and ready for the world. As a recipient, the District will receive a certificate of award and can send a group of teachers to the Illinois ASCD Whole Child Conference this summer.

Contracts approved

The Board reviewed plans and tabled a \$6,000 contract with BoardDocs, an online tool to manage board meeting agendas, public postings and minutes. In related news, the Board also approved a \$5,400 contract with the Illinois Association of School Boards to provide a consultant to work with the administration to update, renumber and provide cross references to state laws in its policy manual. That work will begin prior to publishing BoardDocs so the digital policy manual will be in place when BoardDocs goes live. The contract for BoardDocs will be approved at a later date.

Endowment performance Dec. 16

Thanks to the generous Paul Butler Endowment Fund, Oak Brook community members are invited to a performance of Beauty and the Beast on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. at Drury Lane Theatre. Each family may receive up to four complimentary tickets. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis on Wednesday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. – noon at the District 53 administrative offices.

Personnel action

The Board approved several personnel actions:

- Approved the employment of James Locigno, custodial maintenance, for Brook Forest,
- Accepted the resignation of IT Tech Specialist Jose Serrano,
- Approved job descriptions for administrative assistant to the superintendent, business coordinator, district support personnel, registrar/powerschool/SIS system specialist, IT Tech Tier I and IT Tech Tier II job descriptions.

Treasurer, audit and life safety

In other news, the Board:

- Approved the appointment of Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin as school treasurer. The position was previously held by Proviso Township School Treasurer Dan Coglianese. The Board also approved a surety bond on behalf of Dr. Martin.

- Approved the statement from auditors Baker Tilly and the auditor’s report for the year ending June 30, 2018. Auditors gave the District its highest rating but a problem with actuarial projections of school district liability for the state’s under funding of the teacher’s retirement insurance delayed audits and financial reports across the state.

- Approved an agreement with Wold Architects for \$41,644 to provide engineering for a series of designated life safety improvement items planned for the summer of 2019. This includes installing security doors and hardware, ventilating some sinks, replacing some ceilings to be more fire resistant and other mandated items under school code.

Principals’ reports

In the principals’ reports:

- Brook Forest Principal Dr Chad Prosen thanked librarian Jeri Murguai for spearheading November’s reading incentive program and teacher Courtney Whittaker for helping create book recommendation videos starring reading incentive winners. He also thanked Butler Junior High Principal Amy Read for bringing in her comfort dog for children’s read alouds. In other news, he noted that 92 percent of parents attended Parent Teacher Conferences. Finally, he congratulated the students and staff on the Student Council initiated toy and clothing drive and the performance of the 2nd/3rd grade musical.

- Butler Junior High Principal Amy Read praised the recent junior high production of “10 Ways to Survive A Zombie Apocalypse.” She also made note of the Dec. 19 talent show and plans to highlight staff and student winter memories on large screens throughout the school.

Board Calendar	
Dec. 12	Policy Meeting - 5 p.m.
Dec. 15	Board Special Meeting, 8 a.m.
Jan. 7	Infrastructure Committee - 4 p.m.
Jan. 8	Education Committee - 4 p.m.
Jan. 9	Community Outreach Committee - 5 p.m.
Jan. 14	Board of Education Meeting- 6:30 pm.
Jan. 16	Policy Meeting - 5 p.m.
	Finance Committee - TBD

School Calendar	
Dec. 20 - Jan. 4	Winter Break - No School
Jan. 11	PTO meeting, 9 a.m.

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