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Butler School District 53

Board Report

A news report of the March 11, 2019 Board of Education meeting

Art students recognized

The Board recognized students from all grade levels as part of Arts Month. Art teachers Mike Divelbiss, from Brook Forest and Nina Angelillo, from Butler Junior High, introduced each student with shared a sample of their art. The Board gave a certificate and ribbon to each artist: Andrew Callaci, kindergarten; Nathan Matthews, 1st grade; Adi Godla, 2nd grade; Xander Schooley, 3rd grade; Kaia Patel, 4th grade; and Nathan Wu 5th grade. At Butler Junior High, 6th graders Laith Badwan, Jessica Jerich and Vija Barber; 7th grader Sheza Shafi and 8th grader Mariya Bajwa were recognized.

The students will have their artwork displayed at the West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence's (WSCAE) Student Art Expo in April at the Cheney Mansion in Oak Park.

ABC Preschool teacher recognized

The Board also recognized ABC preschool teacher Kimberly Voltaire who was recently featured in the *Chicago Tribune*. The preschool is a community partnership with Butler District 53 and the Oak Brook Park District.

"Kimberly is amazing at building relationships with her students and parents and is also a great collaborator with her colleagues," said Student Services Director Andrea Prola.

Board approves intergovernmental agreements

The Board approved three intergovernmental agreements. The first was an annual agreement with the Oak Brook Park District to host the park district's before and after school program at Brook Forest School. The program began in the fall of 2016.

A second intergovernmental agreement with the Oak Brook Park District and the LaGrange Area District of Special Education (LADSE) was approved. It is to cooperatively operate the ABC Preschool held at the Oak Brook Park District. That partnership began in 2008.

A third intergovernmental agreement was approved by the Board. The agreement is with LADSE to operate a Communication Development classroom for students in special education, beginning with the 2019-20 school year.

Summer school plans

The Board heard a report from Student Services Director Andrea Prola on plans to again offer a Summer Academy program in July for students who need a jump start before the school year. The session will focus on language arts and math and be held the week of July 29. The location will move to Christ Church because of construction at Butler Junior High. In a related move, the Board approved an agreement with Christ Church to offer the program at their facility.

Enrollment projections for 2019-20

The Board reviewed early student enrollment data for the 2019-20 school year. Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom noted that projections right now show that enrollment will decrease next fall but that at any time new families could enroll. Dr. Wennstrom said registrations and enrollment will be monitored weekly. In related action, the Board approved the honorable dismissal of a first-year teacher because of the lower expected enrollment.

Policy manual reviewed

The Board reviewed a new draft policy manual, which was revamped to align with the Illinois Association of School Boards recommended policies. There are some policies that are unique to District 53 and board members indicated that those would be carefully reviewed. The Board will consider the 371-page manual for approval on first reading at its April meeting and final adoption in May.

Personnel, contracts, state assessment

In other news, the Board:

- Approved the employment of Robert Moore as a Teacher's Aide at Brook Forest and ABC Preschool in conjunction with the Oak Brook Park District. Previously, he served as a senior account manager with Dagaz Group and as a teacher's aide in the District in 2014-15.

- Deferred until next month review of the report on the alternative learning days report.

- Approved a contract with Heartland Business Systems for \$17,570 for replacement of three switches related to digital networking equipment.

- Approved a contract with AT&T for dedicated internet for \$1,405.50 per month. The contract is for five years.

- Heard from Brook Forest Principal Dr. Chad Prosen on plans to administer the state required test, the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). The test will be given to students in grades 3-8 and will measure the same Illinois standards as those in the last four years.

- Heard from chairs of Board committees on dates of next meetings. The committees have not met since the February meeting.

Superintendent's report

In the Superintendent's report, Dr. Heidi Wennstrom:

- Reported on the compliance audit, in which state officials review the District's operations to determine whether the District is in compliance with applicable state and federal laws. She said that there were no major issues of non compliance.

- Reviewed a draft of the Annual Report, which highlights accolades, test scores, finances and other areas of the school district. The 2018 report will be released this month.

- Noted that the District hosted two Golden Apple representatives as part of school visits related to Butler Junior High Principal Amy Read's finalist designation as a Golden Apple Leader. The group talked with students, parents and staff. "It's kind of like the Olympics of teaching and learning," Wennstrom remarked. To date, two other District 53 teachers have been awarded Golden Apples.

- Reported on the 5Essentials survey, which closes on March 15. Staff, students in grades 4-8 and parents are surveyed on the culture and climate of the school. More than 40 percent of parents from both schools have taken the survey to date. Results will be released next fall.

Principals' reports

In the principals' report Brook Forest Principal Dr. Chad Prosen announced upcoming dates: STEM night March 21, Robert Crown visit April 3, Colonial Fair April 5, Science Expo April 17 and Health and Fitness Week April 29.

Butler Junior High Principal Amy Read gave a shout out to students who served as principal and secretary of the day and thanked the PTO for the opportunity. She also congratulated Arjan Shah in the GeoBee, the 24 students who participated in the Science Fair, the Math Counts 8th grade team that took 2nd place and the Science Olympiad Team that earned 3rd place and is heading to state competition in April.

Board Calendar

- March 11** Board of Education Meeting- 6:30 pm.
March 13 Community Outreach Committee - 4 p.m.
March 19 Education Committee - 7 a.m.
April 1 Infrastructure Committee - 7 a.m.
April 3 Finance Committee - 4 p.m.
April 8 Board of Education Meeting- 6:30 pm.



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

School Calendar

- March 22** End of third quarter, BJH
March 25-29 Spring Break: No School



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