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Butler School District 53

Board Report

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A news report of the June 10, 2019 Board of Education meeting

Principal search update

The Board heard an update on the Butler Junior High principal search from incoming superintendent Dr. Paul O'Malley. He said 28 qualified candidates applied, which were culled down to seven highly qualified persons. Three finalists stood out and will be given final interviews by three committees on June 14: A parent committee, teacher committee and a two-member Board committee. All parents and staff who applied and met the deadline are participating on the committees. In addition to input from the committee, survey responses will be used as feedback in choosing the next principal of Butler Junior High. The Board expects to approve the candidate at a special meeting June 27.

Model classroom redesign

The Board heard a report from Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin on the model classroom project. After a year of research, school visits and meetings, this summer the District will transform one classroom at Butler Junior High to a model classroom with new furniture, design and set up. Research shows that classroom environment, including design, structure and decor, have a tremendous impact on student engagement and success. The classroom chosen is used by multiple teachers and other teachers will have a chance to test the design concept. Construction will cost less than \$10,000 and is set to begin this summer. Costs for technology and furniture will be forthcoming.

E-learning public hearing held

The Board held a public hearing on using e-learning days in 2019-20 in lieu of snow days. The move is prompted by a change in state law, which requires school districts to hold a hearing if they want to consider designating any e-learning days for the coming year. In January 2019, the District held two alternative learning days, which are different than the state's designation of e-learning days. Incoming superintendent Dr. Paul O'Malley said that the move will provide time to ensure that any e-learning days are thoughtfully and thoroughly planned. The hearing did not require the detailing of curriculum for e-learning.

Personnel news

In personnel news:

■ The Board approved increasing the permanent substitute pay significantly in order to attract and retain qualified candidates. The new rate of pay will be \$32,000 a year, an \$8,470 increase. "We are optimistic that the new rate will attract qualified candidates to the position," said Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin.

■ The Board also approved increasing daily substitute pay from \$110 a day to \$125 a day; for District 53 retirees the pay rate will rise from \$125 to \$150 a day.

■ The Board approved increasing teacher aide pay by \$1 an hour, from \$14 for one year of service to \$19 for 10 years of service. The move will cost \$11,458.

■ The Board approved increasing the coverage of a nurse at both schools from a .6 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) position to a .75 FTE position in order to meet the needs of students. The change will cost \$10,000 and will be filled by the current nurse, Terry Hillen.

Personnel news (continued)

■ The Board approved extra duty assignments for teachers for the coming year, noting that there are still a number of openings at Butler Junior High. Extra pay positions include club sponsors and athletic coaches. If the positions are not filled internally, the District will initiate an outside search.

■ The Board approved the following Summer Academy Teachers: Kaylee Nakielny, Toni Sproch, Kristen Goerth, Carrie Lauermann, Katie Pollina, Haylee O'Donnell and Andrew Griffith. They will be paid \$50 per hour, four hours per day for four days. Also approved were music teachers Stephanie Gust and Loretta Sterner and art teacher Nina Angelillo for the same rate of pay five hours per day for five days. In addition, teacher assistant Kim Wilburn was appointed at \$15 per hour, three hours a day for four days.

■ The Board approved the employment of Nina Angelillo, as an art teacher at Butler Junior High (BJH); Callie Revord as STEM teacher at BJH; Annie Fong as music technology teacher at BJH; Melissa Russell as part-time math teacher at BJH.

■ The Board accepted the resignation of Amy Read as principal of Butler Junior High, effective June 30; and Laurie Murray as Brook Forest instructional aide.

■ The Board approved two administrative contracts. They approved extending Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin's contract to 120 days and a contract renewal for Curriculum & Instruction Specialist Jeana Considine.

Budget, PTO, committees

In other news,

■ The Board approved putting the fiscal year 2020 budget on public display and setting a public hearing for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 9 at the administrative center. The budget will be on display beginning Aug. 9.

■ The Board approved the state and federal required District 53 Consolidated District Plan. It is a new umbrella document that details grant monies from state and federal sources. The change in law also requires the District to accept IDEA federal grant money, then pay out the funds to its special education cooperative. As a result, the District's budget will show this flow-through payment.

■ The Board heard a report from the PTO, including plans for events next year, including a Family Fall Ball and a father-child event. Volunteers are currently being sought and are asked to go to www.butler53pto.com to sign up.

■ The Board did not hold committee meetings in the last month as they transition to new administrative leadership this fall. Board member Dr. Sanjay Rao, chair of the Outreach Committee, said that time will be taken this summer to reach out to homeowners' associations to share highlights of the District.

■ The Board appointed Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin as the school treasurer.

District, principals' reports

In the District and principals' reports:

■ Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin said the 2019-20 school calendar is now complete and finalized. The District aligns with all but two dates in the Hinsdale District 86 calendar.

■ The District congratulated Brook Forest Principal Dr. Chad Prosen for his honor with the Distinguished Service Award from the Illinois Chapter/National School Public Relations Association. The award said his greatest skill is communications, that he builds and fosters trust throughout the staff and creates a feeling of safety and belonging in the school.

■ Brook Forest Principal Dr. Chad Prosen thanked volunteers for their help on the many events at the end of the year. He also recapped the events of the Student Council and said he and teachers are looking forward to summer curriculum work.

■ Director of Student Services Andrea Prolla gave an update from Butler Junior High. She thanked the PTO for its efforts with graduation and other events, reviewed year-end events such as the athletic award assembly and academic assemblies. She also said that placement decisions are completed, class rosters are finalized and the new master schedule that includes a new 9th period is ready to be shared. Class sizes will be 22 students or less in core classes and 12 or less in art, music and STEM.

Board Calendar

- June 27** Committee of the Whole - 6:30 pm.
July 8 Board of Education - 6:30 p.m. (tentative)

School Calendar

- July 29** Summer Academy begins
Aug. 5 Beginning Band Camp begins
Aug. 15-16 Teacher Institute: No School
Aug. 19 First day of school for students



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