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Butler School District 53

# Board Report

**A news report of the July 18, July 27 and Aug. 12 2019 Board of Education meetings**

## Board committee updates

At the Aug. 12 Board of Education meeting, committee chairs reported on the recent work of their committees. Most have been on hiatus because of the summer and change in administration. Finance Committee Chair Keith Carlson outlined the Aug. 7 committee meeting. He said the committee reviewed changes in the fiscal year 2020 budget, discussed major projects for the summer of 2020 and noted efficiencies, including savings of \$29,000 on copier services this year. In a report from the policy committee, Superintendent Dr. Paul O'Malley said that earlier in the spring the Board of Education had approved the adoption of a new Policy Manual, which parallels policies from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). That adoption reflects a slightly older iteration of the policies from the IASB; therefore the administration will review and recommend any changes from the last iteration adopted.

## Student handbook, appointments, contracts

In other news, the Board:

- Approved the new Student Handbook, which is an important resource for both staff and parents. The handbook is created each year and is a summary of the school's rules and expectations. The 2019-20 version is now posted on the District 53 website,
- Heard a report from the PTO on upcoming activities, including an ice cream social tied to the junior high laptop pick-up, sponsoring the Tears and Cheers for kindergartners and parents and the kindergarten supply drop off. PTO reps are available to talk about the organization and its activities at these events,
- Approved the final payment to Adler Construction related to the Brook Forest reroofing project in 2017. The payment reflects a reduction of \$44,658 incurred by the District for consulting and legal fees. Architects, attorneys for the District and the administration determined that Adler has completed all remediation work,
- Increased the extra duty stipend to coach Boys' and Girls' Soccer to \$2,560 due to a change in the SDEAA conference schedule,
- Approved a contract with J. S. White & Associates to assist the District with its accounting and bookkeeping needs.

## Hiring for 2019-20 school year

In personnel changes, the Board approved the appointments of:

- Mary Flood as a library aide at Butler Junior High,
- Catherine Cox as a PE aide and part-time PE teacher at Butler Junior High,
- Juan Rodriguez as a permanent sub,
- Michael Johnsen as a permanent sub,
- Jerilyn Murguia as the District Librarian, sharing time between Brook Forest and Butler Junior High,
- Teresa Cheryl Haney as long-term substitute in social studies at Butler Junior High,
- Accepted the resignation of Rob Moore as a teacher's aide,
- Approved a family leave for Kristen Goerth, speech pathologist.

## Board to continue posting meeting audio

During Board member comments, President Chris Edmonds noted that there had been some misinformation in the community about recording of meetings. He said that the District has not stopped recording and posting meetings and that the Board has not discussed the issue. Rather, he said, “we continually work diligently to make sure more information is available.”

## Superintendent, principals’ reports

In the Superintendent’s report, Dr. Paul O’Malley detailed the new teacher orientation, which was held Aug 12. The new staff is invited to a brief meet and greet at the Sept. 9 board meeting. He announced that teachers will return Aug. 15 and 16 for Institute Days and students will return Aug. 19. He also noted that he met with the PTO and food service providers as part of an opportunity to make adjustments to the menu.

In the principals’ report:

- Dr. Chad Prosen outlined just some of the professional development and curriculum work carried out this summer, including developing a tiered system of behaviors for the PBIS program, working on common assessments and developing curriculum-at-a-glance guides. He said that as always, the Oak Brook Police will have a presence at the schools on opening day.

- Principal Andrea Prola said this year’s focus is on promoting Team Butler, collaboration and focusing on the whole child. She thanked parent volunteers for help with student laptop pick-up and hosting the ice cream social.

## Special meeting July 18

In a special meeting of the Board July 18, the Board:

- Officially welcomed new superintendent Dr. Paul O’Malley,
- Approved a contract with BoardDocs for \$6,000 to provide board agenda automation software,
- Approved the purchase of 20 teacher laptop computers at a cost of \$20,240,
- Appointed the following personnel:
  - Dr. Diane Janka as the Butler Junior High psychologist,
  - Kristen Miller as the Butler Junior High reading specialist,
  - Catherine Myers as the English Language Arts teacher at Butler,
  - Sandra Morris as the executive assistant to the superintendent and board secretary.

## New BJH principal and assistant principal appointed

At a special meeting July 27, the Butler School District 53 Board of Education named Andrea Prola as the new principal of Butler Junior High/Director of Student Services and Melissa Zaniewski as the new assistant principal. Both are current educators and leaders in District 53.

Prola served as director of student services, overseeing special education, the English learners program, intervention and assessments and the early childhood program, among others. Zaniewski is a veteran language arts teacher at Butler Junior High.

Throughout the search and interview process, both Prola and Zaniewski stood out as respected, knowledgeable leaders with a genuine interest in a successful future for the entire school community. As part of the search process, parents and staff were surveyed on their desires for a new principal and committees of teachers and parents were part of finalist interviews.

## Board Calendar

- Sept. 9** Board of Education Meeting and Budget Hearing - 6:30 pm.
- Oct. 21** Board of Education Meeting- 6:30 pm.

## School Calendar

- Aug. 15-16** Institute Days
- Aug. 19** First day of school for students
- Sept. 2** Labor Day: No school

Keep in touch!



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Butler School District 53



Board meeting audio  
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