

Andover Board of Education Notes
Dec. 12, 2022

Good News: The Board recognized Cottonwood Elementary School for being named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2022. Cottonwood received the Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing Schools Award, which is given to schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and have dramatically improved student performance in the areas of reading and mathematics. The school was honored during a ceremony in November in Washington, D.C.

Spotlight on Learning: The Board heard a report from the district's four instructional coaches and Traci Holder, director of curriculum and intervention. The group's key functions are goal setting, observation and feedback for teachers; professional learning; data-driven leadership and customized support for teachers. This includes the district's new educator mentoring program, instructional coaching, designing professional learning workshops, and using data to achieve learning goals.

District Bakery: Shelley Jonas, assistant director for the Butler County Special Education Interlocal, provided an update on the District Bakery, which is housed at Andover High School and serves Functional Applied Academics students in the district. It provides students an opportunity to learn life and employability skills for their future.

Business development update: Scott Wilson, director of business development, [provided an update](#) on naming rights for district facilities. He said The Foundation for Andover Schools is on pace to donate more than \$100,000 to Andover Public Schools this year.

Enrollment guides: Jill Lachenmayr, assistant superintendent for academic affairs, presented the 2023-24 high school and middle school enrollment guides. Proposed changes to the middle school enrollment guide include rewording the course descriptions for band, and changing "strings" courses to "orchestra." For high school, Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced strings will become Concert Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra; Basic Math will become Math 1, Math 2, Math 3 and Math 4; Forensics will become Competitive Speech and Acting; AP PreCalculus will be added as a new class; Physical Science will change from grade levels 10-11 to 9-11 so freshmen can take it as an alternative to Biology; the prerequisite for Spanish 1-5 and French 1-4 will be changed from "C average" to "C or better."; Spanish 1-5 will have its homework listed as less than 1 hour/week; and VB Programming will have its prerequisite reworded for clarity. At Andover eCademy, middle school will have the following classes added: Exploring Business, Introduction to Sports Medicine, Art Exploration, Introduction to Foreign Language, Exploring Health Science, Introduction to Photography, Cover to Cover, and Introduction to Cooking. Computer Basics/Keyboarding will switch from a year-long class to semester-long class. For eCademy at the high school level, the following classes will be added: Introduction to Art, Independent Studio Art, Medical Terminology Part 1, Medical Terminology Part 2 and Health Science Nursing. The proposed changes will be brought back to the Board for consideration in January.

Audit report: Clayton Hubbel of BFR, CPA, LLC, presented the FY 2021-22 [annual financial audit](#). There were no significant findings to report for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Capital outlay plan: Sherame Kneisel, chief financial officer, presented a [2022-23 capital outlay plan](#). The district has approximately \$950,000 to spend for the fiscal year in capital outlay funds, about half of which will go to refreshing student Chromebooks.

2023-24 calendar: Jeremy Boldra, assistant superintendent for human resources, presented a [proposed 2023-24 academic calendar](#). The largest change is moving from a three-day Thanksgiving break to a five-day Thanksgiving break. The majority of licensed staff and parents who responded to a survey preferred a five-day break.

Superintendent's report: Superintendent Brett White told the Board there would be upcoming opportunities to discuss important educational issues with legislators as the legislative session begins in January.