

BOARD NOTES
August 27,2007

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, August 27, 2007 in the Superintendent's Office with Rich Shail, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltes, Shelly Goethals and Al Williamson present. Duane Wrightson was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed the guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

- Mr. Wrightson advised that we needed to add two items to the agenda:
 - Personnel - Employment - Transfer of Cassie Belzowski from temporary half-time teacher to full-time teacher at Rolling Prairie Elementary.
 - Authorize the administration to accept the lowest bid for the domestic well and fire well which will be opened on August 30th.

The Board approved the amendment to the agenda as presented.

- The board adopted the agenda as amended.

REASONS WE'RE PROUD

- Mr. Wrightson reviewed the Reasons We're Proud as presented by the schools.
- Special recognition and certificates were presented to Tricia Slevin, Makayla Legault and Kara Schondorf who placed 9th in the Nation at the FBLA National Competition in Business Ethics.
- Mr. Wrightson wanted to acknowledge the efforts of Clara Clark, Chrystal Wilkeson and Marcy Kauffman who spent last Saturday working at the school on a \$50,000 grant proposal.

CONSENT AGENDA

- The Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows:
 - Minutes
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll

- Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Resignations/Leaves
 1. Laura Moore - Spanish Teacher - NPHS - Effective August 2, 2007
 2. Teri Hall - 2nd Grade - Prairie View - Leave of Absence beginning August 10, 2007. Return to be determined by doctor release.
- Employment
 1. Casey Gumm - Temporary 8th Grade Interdisciplinary Teacher beginning August 10, 2007 through October 5, 2007
 2. Leifschon Walker - Temporary Intensive Composition/Math/Spanish teacher - NPJHS beginning August 10, 2007 and continuing through October 12, 2007.
 3. Amberly Wendt - Spanish Teacher - NPHS effective August 10, 2007
 4. Cassie Belzowski - Transfer from temporary half-time Remediation Teacher at Olive Elementary to full-time third grade teacher at Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective immediately.
- Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Amberly Wendt - Spanish Club Sponsor - NPHS
 2. Chelsea McDonnough - Student Council - Prairie View
 3. Gregory Miller - Hoosier Academic Decathlon - NPHS
 4. Gregory Miller - French Club - NPHS
 5. Shannon McBride - Spell Bowl - Rolling Prairie Elementary
 6. Ashley Donough - Math Bowl - Rolling Prairie Elementary
 7. Kelly Jarka - History Fair - Rolling Prairie Elementary
 8. Josh Bolakowski - Co-Freshman Football - NPHS
 9. Jessica Feathers - 6th Grade Girls Basketball - Prairie View
 10. Julie (West) Schroeder - Second 5th Grade Volleyball - Olive

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Tonia Armato - Cashier - Prairie View Elementary - Effective August 2, 2007

- Leaves/Resignations cont...
 2. Amy Kazmierzak - Bus Driver - Resignation effective August 2, 2007
- Employment/Transfers
 1. Sheila Bougher - Kindergarten Route - 2007-2008 school year
 2. Diane Molnar - Bus Driver - Route #35 - Effective August 10, 2007
 3. Scott Powers - Technology Technician - Corporation - Effective immediately
 4. Michelle Dudeck - Food Service - Transfer to Cashier - Prairie View Elementary School effective August 14, 2007
 5. Tammy Terry - Recess/Cafeteria Assistant - Prairie View Elementary - Effective August 14, 2007
 6. Crystal Gross - Recess/Cafeteria Assistant - Prairie View Elementary - Effective August 14, 2007
 7. Mary Jeske - ATSE (Alternative to Suspension Supervisor) - NPHS/JHS Effective August 14, 2007
 8. Brenda Seibert - Recess/Cafeteria Assistant - Prairie View Elementary - Effective August 14, 2007
 9. Caryn Spence - Teacher Assistant - Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective immediately
- Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Shaun Snyder - Freshman Volleyball
 2. Kristen Siddall - JHS Cheerleading Sponsor
 3. Kara Mamazza - 5th Grade Girls Basketball - Rolling Prairie
 4. Mike Krivak - Assistant Football - NPHS
 5. Bill Gumm - Co-Freshman Football
 6. Robert Whitenack - Co-Assistant Football - NPHS
 7. Larry Szczewowski - Co-Assistant Football - NPHS
 8. Wes Hobart - Head Wrestling Coach - NPHS
 9. Jarett Gilpin - 5th Grade Boys Basketball - Prairie View
 10. Eric Lower - Assistant Swim Coach - NPHS

BUDGET HEARING

- The Board held the 2008 Budget Hearing. Mr. Wrightson reviewed some highlights of the budget as follows:
 - New State Chart of Accounts
 - New Facilities Appeal
 - Excess Levy Transfer
 - Charter Schools
 - School Pension Debt and Neutrality Resolution
 - Form 5 which includes the New Facility Appeal Rate Increase

- Mr. Wrightson advised that the LaPorte Herald Argus failed to publish the budget as requested on August 10th and August 17th. They neglected to publish on August 10 and instead published on August 14th and August 17th. They are required to submit a letter stating the error was their fault.

- Mr. Wrightson reviewed the revenue for 2008. The Assessed Valuation is based on 2006 since we have not received the final AV from the counties. The per/pupil revenue is \$4,996.22. The consideration for the increased levy for the new middle school is \$443,427. We do not know if we will receive that much because we estimated \$400,000 when we went to the DLGF for the hearing. We will not know if they will hold us to that figure.

Mr. Wrightson said we advertised for \$16,836,846 to get the maximum tax rate which is approximately \$1 million higher. This appears in the special education line item. The estimated tax rate is also based on the 2006 AV.

Mr. Wrightson reviewed the projected staff additions for the General Fund for 2008-2009 which include 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ teachers for the new middle school and five kindergarten teachers if we offer full-day kindergarten. There are also non-certified positions to be considered for maintenance, food service and transportation. For the 2007-2008 budget, we added an In-School Suspension assistant, increased the French teacher at the high school to full time and added a third grade teacher at Rolling Prairie.

Mr. Wrightson reviewed the expenditures projected for 2008. He said if we have 65 ADM students less than projected, we would lose \$325,000 from the budget figures. Eliminating the added staff positions and considering the \$100,000 cushion in the budget, we would be projecting a \$75,000 deficit in the 2008 budget.

Bernie said the tax rate will be significantly lower than advertised. In 2006, the rate was $\frac{2}{3}$ less than what was advertised.

Mr. Wrightson is concerned whether we will grow next year. If we do not, we would have to look at reductions because we would see a deficit if enrollment is not up. We predict that we will be within 10% of the projected budget figures.

There were no comments from the public or board members.

REPORTS

- Mr. Wrightson reviewed the current enrollment as follows:
 - Olive - 471
 - Prairie View - 448 (added one 5th grade teacher)
 - Rolling Prairie - 540 (added one 3rd grade teacher)
 - JHS - 437
 - High School - 860

The current ADM is 2666 and the state projected it was going to be 2732. We hired first year teachers to save on the budget. Enrollment decline will have an effect on class sizes in the future.

- Property Tax Information

Mr. Wrightson advised that both St. Joe and LaPorte Counties are looking at December before we receive our tax monies. Bernie said people are concerned because they are only going to be paying one tax bill rather than two installments, but they have gotten to use the interest on their monies.

- Middle School Report - Keith Dennis reported the following:
 - Made a selection of the engineering firm of Strang & Associates to design the forced main to New Carlisle for \$60,000. They were looking at Abonmarche, who works for the Town of New Carlisle, but they were concerned with a Conflict of Interest. Their bid was \$95,000.
 - There was a concern that there was not sufficient parking spaces for the buses in the southeast lot. They did a re-design and will be adding about 16 ft. so we can double load with the buses. There will be an increased cost. The parking lot will not be available during the day for teachers and staff. We will have to do all our staff parking in the northwest parking lot.
 - We were advised that there were two superintendent changes with the contractors. Gantland pulled their superintendent for another project and Ziolkowski pulled their superintendent. We have a right to approve the new people. We are really losing two good superintendents.

- We are using Sharp Services for the future loose equipment.
- We have a notice to bid for the domestic well and fire well which is due August 30th.
- Mr. Wrightson said Mr. Bill Kaminski, school attorney, will be working with the land owners to go with the sewer line. We are behind the ‘eight ball’ as far as the state is concerned with that project.
- Mr. Wrightson said we met with Peerless to discuss concerns with their work. At this time they are not meeting the specs on the well, which they designed. They advised Fanning/Howey on the project and they are not adhering to the specs. It is has been a difficult situation with the company.

Rich said with the current busing at the HS/JHS, both schools load and unload at the same time. With the new middle school, will they load and unload at one school and then the other? Keith said there will be a timing schedule change. We will have to make adjustments. Lloyd already has a plan in place. He is the one who caught the problem with the loading of the buses.

ACTION

- The board approved the resolution for the lunch account checking account with First Source Bank.
- The board approved the Tech Support eligibility requirements for the MASE Trust. Our current requirements call for 37.5 hours for benefits. The Tech Support personnel were hired when the benefit requirements were 35 hours. We need to have the language state that all Tech Support personnel will be eligible for benefits regardless of the 37.5 hours qualification. Bernie asked if they will receive benefits regardless of their hours - like the bus drivers. Mr. Wrightson said yes.
- The board approved the Tax Anticipation Warrant with 1st Source Bank at the interest rate of 3.95%. LuAnn asked if we can extend beyond December if we do not receive our monies from the counties. Sharon Heirbrandt said we can do that if we discuss it with the bank before.
- The board approved the bids for the domestic well and fire well to the lowest bidder when received on August 30th.

DISCUSSION

- The board reviewed the liaison and committee assignments for the buildings since Colleen Lincke has resigned. Shelly Goethals would prefer to have Olive Elementary School since her children attend there. Rich will take the High School. Also, Al Williamson will serve on the Transportation Committee.

Shelly said she attended the recent PTO meeting at Olive and hopes to attend more meetings.

BOARD COMMENTS

- LuAnn wanted to recognize the efforts of Greg Dudeck and Tammy Watkins for their work during the power outage. They worked through the night to transfer all the food which saved the corporation about \$10,000 worth of food. Rich wanted to also thank them for their efforts.

Mr. Wrightson said Mark Norton has also been putting in many hours because of the power outage. Bernie said he is also working on running lines for the easement at Rolling Prairie. They are boring about 700 ft. under ground.

- Bernie said when FBLA was making their presentation, it is these types of efforts that really prepare young people to move through society. These activities need to be highlighted and encouraged.
- Bernie said Rolling Prairie Elementary has the Rainforest Theme for the 2007-2008 school year. He wonders if that has carried over into the community since we have received about 11" of rain this month.
- Rich Shail said he really enjoys receiving the Lowell Rose reports and the work that individual does for the Indiana schools. He is an advocate for education and not afraid to stand up to legislation and tells people the right things. He is all for public schools. Bernie asked if we could put his report on the web. Mr. Wrightson said because of the copyright violation, we could not do this.

Rich said Tom Dermody is also fighting for public schools. Mr. Wrightson said there is such an improvement with communication.

The next meeting will be held on September 17th which will be the regular meeting and budget adoption.