

BOARD NOTES
January 29, 2008

The regular Board Meeting was held on Monday, January 28, 2008 in the Superintendent's Office with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltes and Shelly Goethals present. Duane Wrightson was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed the guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

- Bernie Baltes made a motion to remove Agenda Item Report "B" - Superintendent's Transition from the agenda.
- The Board adopted the agenda as presented with the deletion of agenda item Report "B".

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Tracey Kunstek and Alva Whited of the Indiana State Police presented a program on Internet Crimes Against Children. They discussed the internet social networking programs like MySpace, etc. There are over 400 social networking sites. There is a site called cybertipline.com where you can go to report incidents that occur. One out of every five individuals is approached in some type of sexual manner on the internet. There is also over 29,000 known sex offenders who have been removed from Myspace. They are continuing towards removing the sexual offenders.

Tracy said parents should establish rules for their children to use the internet. Netsmartz.org is a helpful website to gain information for parents.

REASONS WE'RE PROUD

- Mr. Wrightson reviewed the Reasons We're Proud that the schools submitted. The Board and Superintendent presented certificates to JHS students: Aleah Bates who finished 1st in the Patriots Pen Essay Contest; Korey Bender who finished 2nd and also performed as part of the Indiana State Middle School Choir in Indianapolis on January 18th; and Samantha Wagner who finished third in the Essay Contest. Also, Michael Werner was the winner of the National Geographic Geography Bee and Nathan Hynek was runner-up.

CONSENT AGENDA

- The Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows:
 - Minutes - December 17, 2007 and January 9, 2008
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel Report as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Employment
 1. Sharon Wrightson - Temporary 3rd Grade Teacher - Rolling Prairie Elementary School - Beginning February 4, 2008 and continuing for approximately 6-8 weeks.
- Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Jennifer Smith - 6th Grade Girls Basketball - Olive - 2nd Coach
 2. John Slater - 5th Grade Girls Basketball - Rolling Prairie - 2nd Coach

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Caryn Spence - Primetime Assistant - Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective December 20, 2007
- Employment
 1. Kari Mender - Primetime Assistant - Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective January 8, 2008
- Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Larry Szezchowski - Assistant Wrestling Coach - NPJHS
 2. Kevin Macias - Wrestling Coach - Olive Elementary School
 3. Ben Anderson - 7th Grade Girls Basketball - 2nd Coach
 4. Randy Curless - 8th Grade Girls Basketball - 2nd Coach

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wrightson reported on the following:

- Report on Governor's Daniel's Proposed Tax Cut
- New 403(b) regulations by the IRS
- Information on Annualized Salaries required by the IRS
- Report from Amy Mullen on the number of illnesses and diseases the school corporation deals with
- Advertisement of bids for pressure sewer
- Call from parent requesting the installation of a stop light at Highway 2 and Cougar Rd. The school has no authority in this process. It is governed by the Department of Transportation.
- Correspondence received from a patron asking to have the New Prairie Schools honor Martin Luther King Day by cancelling school.
- Discussion on HB 1001 which deals with the budget and deals with tax caps which will cripple the CPF, transportation operating and debt service funds.
- Advertisement of bids for loose equipment for the new middle school.

ACTION ITEMS

- The board approved the bid from Midwest Transit for the purchase of four 72-passenger buses and one 54-passenger handicap bus at the cost of \$413,428. The board also accepted the trade-in of five buses for \$46,100 for a total cost of purchasing the buses at \$367,328.
- The board approved the appointment of Newby, Lewis, Kaminski and Jones as legal services on a retainer basis at a cost of \$15,000 per year. Mr. Wrightson had indicated that in the past he was not in favor of keeping a law firm on retainer. He felt it was best for the corporation to go out for quotations for this appointment. He also indicated that over the past four years, we have only paid \$15,225 in 2004, \$1,480 in 2005, \$5559 in 2006 and \$11,438 in 2007.

Mr. Wrightson said he likes Bill Kaminski and the firm very much. He said if he were not held accountable to the budget, he would say okay. But when you look at a budget with many dollars to cut, here is \$10,000 you could cut. How can I go out to the Soccer parents and not offer that program, but send a fee for an attorney. The flip side if there is a lot of business, it could be over \$15,000. But, if you look at the past history, that is what you look at when you budget. You are spending \$15,000 that you don't have to spend. He said he is saying this because he is accountable for the budget. Would he

recommend Bill Kaminski, you bet. But, on the side of the budget - when you are looking at class sizes, etc.; we know what is going to happen to the budget. You will have to make a lot of choices. You may want to hire on a retainer now and look at it in the future.

Bernie expressed concern with the NEOLA policies and the money we are spending for those policies. He sees a lot of redundancy in the policies that could be explained by simply indicating it is according to state law. Mr. Wrightson said it costs us about \$2,000 a year for updates from NEOLA. Mr. Wrightson said you can take that into consideration in the budget. We have the policies in place for not only the administration and staff, but for the community. They would not know how to access the public law for every issue.

Rich said he sees where Mr. Wrightson is coming from in the budget. The board is also responsible for the budget and will take this into consideration. They appreciate Mr. Wrightson's concern and honesty.

The board did approve the retainage of the firm.

- The board approved the second reading and adoption of the following policies:
 - #0133, 0144.5, 0165.5, 0167.1, 1130, 3214, 3430, 4214, 4430, 5320, 5330.02, 5540, 5610, 6320, 6460, 8330, 8400 and 8450A.

Bernie talked about the Board Ethics. It talks about the board supporting students 100%. It does not say anything about representing the community, which he feels is very important. Duane feels it does address that. He said 99% of it is the board's responsibility to students. Bernie feels it is 50/50. He said they represent the community. Your job as superintendent is to get the best for the students and the board's is to balance it. Duane said it is scary to think what will happen in a few years when the state controls the general fund. Bernie said it is going to happen. Our position is to try to have as least of a negative impact as possible. He feels we should work with the legislators.

- The board accepted a donation from Alma A. Banzhaf in the amount of \$155,803.45 made payable to the New Prairie High School under her will. This bequest is to be used by the school to establish a scholarship in memory of Alma A. and Gustav J. Banzhaf.

Mr. Wrightson said Keith Dennis is investigating how we can invest this money so we can work off the interest. They are looking at the Unity Foundation to see if we can invest it and meet the instructions. The high school has a committee to establish a plan to disburse the scholarship money. Mr. Wrightson would recommend we wait until the 2008-2009 school year before releasing monies in order to get more interest earned this year.

- The board appointed Wendy Glon to the New Carlisle Library Board for a four-year term.
- The School Board appointed Dr. Phil Bender as the new superintendent to replace Mr. Wrightson beginning July 1, 2008. Rich Shail indicated that the board has sat down over the past several weeks and decided that they wanted Dr. Bender to replace Mr. Wrightson following his retirement. Rich said Dr. Bender has shown he has the skills and leadership quality and the desire to move New Prairie further than where we are today and to take a lot of things Mr. Wrightson has put in place and take on the progress of this corporation.

Dr. Bender comes from Warrick School Corporation as principal and assistant principal. He holds a superintendent's license and a doctorate degree. He is an adjunct professor at Notre Dame and IUSB.

The board is looking forward to having Dr. Bender as our new superintendent beginning July 1, 2008.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Al Williamson wanted to thank Mr. Wrightson for all he has done for New Prairie. He said we would not be where we are today if it were not for him. Dr. Bender has some very big shoes to fill. He is excited to have Dr. Bender. He said it is an exciting time for New Prairie thanks to Mr. Wrightson. We will grow bigger and better yet.
- Bernie talked about the importance of contacting the legislators. He said it carries more weight than the lobbyists. If something comes up, don't hesitate to contact Bernie and he will contact the legislators.
- LuAnn would also like to welcome Dr. Bender and his family. She would also like to thank Mr. Wrightson for everything he has done so far. Several years ago, everything was a mess. He has taken great strides to put us where we are today.

- Rich Shail indicated that the board has been invited to a legislative breakfast sponsored by the ISTA.
- Rich Shail said he received a phone call from Allegra Hand regarding the Big Brothers and Sisters program she has brought to Rolling Prairie and Prairie View. She would like to come to our February meeting and talk about how this will impact our school corporation. Rich said he feels this organization does wonderful things. He told her we will do everything possible to support this program. He would encourage anyone who can help out at Rolling and Prairie View to do so.
- Rich said he was also advised that the LaPorte Wal-mart will be sponsoring the Great Ice Cream Run on June 21st. Clara has donated the high school facilities for them to sponsor this event. All proceeds will go to the Children's Miracle Network.

The next meeting will be held February 28th at 6:30 p.m.