

BOARD NOTES

April 28, 2008

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, April 28, 2008 in the Superintendent's Office.

Rich Shail reviewed the guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The board adopted the agenda as written.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Linda Behm of Olive Elementary School introduced Ralph Boag who is involved in their Trucker Buddy Program. Mr. Boag is a local truck driver and started the Pen Pal system with Olive. As Mr. Boag travels around the country, he sends post cards to the students to show and tell them about America. He comes to visit the class 2-3 times a year. Mr. Boag said there are about 500 truckers throughout the country who communicate to students. Currently there are about 200-300 truckers waiting to adopt a school. All truckers involved in the schools must have a background check completed. Bernie feels this is very beneficial. He said there are always people out there who criticize truck drivers. This is a good opportunity to see what they actually do.

REASONS WE'RE PROUD

- Mr. Wrightson reviewed the Reasons We're Proud as submitted by the schools.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The board approved the Consent Items as follows:
 - Minutes - March 24, 2008
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Judy Machota - 2nd Grade Teacher - Rolling Prairie - Leave of absence effective April 7, 2008 and continuing until the end of the 2007-2008 school year.
- Employment
 1. Sharon Wrightson - Temporary 2nd Grade Teacher - Rolling Prairie - Beginning April 7, 2008 and continuing until the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Cheryl Turner - Library Assistant - Prairie View Elementary - Resignation effective May 29, 2008
 2. Heather Alva - Secretary - JHS - Leave of absence beginning March 26, 2008 and continuing thru May 23, 2008.
 3. Lisa Ellenberger - Food Service - NPHS - Resignation effective April 17, 2008.
- Employment
 1. Erica Ketterer - Temporary Receptionist - JHS - Beginning March 26, 2008 and continuing thru May 23, 2008.

REPORTS

- State Representative Tom Dermody attended the meeting to speak with the Board. He highlighted some of the recent legislative issues that were passed:
 - Property Tax Relief
 - Racino Money
 - Circuit Breaker
 - Relief for Seniors

The Board asked about the Home Schoolers. Mr. Wrightson said there is no accountability for those students versus what the schools are required to adhere to. Rep. Dermody feels there will be a large cost to the state in the future for many home schoolers.

Mr. Wrightson said he is concerned with the estimated figures from the state for funding for New Prairie. They show us increasing by 100 students. We will lose over \$500,000 because we do not anticipate increasing by that many students.

Mr. Wrightson asked about the RTI. Rep. Dermody said nothing passed in this session. The principals have indicated that this will triple the work on the teachers with no additional monies to the corporation. It will take at least three years training to get those teachers up to speed.

Rep. Dermody indicated that the funding for mentoring teachers was removed which is a disappointment. They will not receive the \$600 they previously received.

Mr. Wrightson is concerned with all the required testing. We will be testing three times this year. Rep. Dermody feels we are putting too much emphasis on one test.

Re. Dermody said if there are any mandates that you do not feel makes sense, please contact him.

The high school is concerned with the fact that age 18 you are considered an adult. Students turn 18 and they can sign themselves out of school, drop-out, etc. Clara feels they should have to have a diploma before they have those rights. This affects our attendance and graduation rate.

Bernie said the Governor made a comment that schools have too many administrators. We are one of the schools at the bottom with the fewest administrators. Why did he say something like that?

- 2008 General Fund Budget

Mr. Wrightson reviewed the 2008 General Fund Budget. We have \$15,413,000 in expenditures; \$15,518,799 in Revenue. We will have a balance of \$105,000. We should have a 2% balance in the budget and we don't have that. This is a very tight budget. Any unforeseen situation could erase that balance. For 2009, unless we have an increase in enrollment, we will be looking at \$300,000 in revenue which will not be enough if you are looking at a 4 ½% expenditure.

- Kindergarten Round-up

We currently have 134 students enrolled for kindergarten. We had parents fill out a survey if they would be interested in full-day kindergarten. Of the parents who completed the form, 96% were in favor of full-day kindergarten.

We have received information that our Title I funds have increased three-fold. We will go from \$83,000 to \$230,000 for 2008-2009 because of the increase in the poverty level at Rolling and Prairie View. Rolling will become a full-time Title I school and Prairie View will qualify for Title I in the primary level. Because of this, we will be required by the state to hire an additional teacher. This will give us an opportunity to supplant a kindergarten program. There are available monies for us to put the program into affect at Rolling and Prairie View. It would allow monies from the state to be made up for Olive. We cannot get any exact figures for the kindergarten grant until after May 2nd from the state. We hope to have an estimate and make a recommendation at the May meeting. We would hope we do not have to utilize General Fund monies for the kindergarten program.

Bernie asked how you address those parents who are too proud to apply for the free/reduced. Phil said it does hurt us when they don't apply. This is all confidential information. It is a wonderful tool for those parents who do file. They get textbook fees covered. We get 100% reimbursement back from the state. We need to do a better job of letting our parents know this. Mr. Wrightson does not know how much more we can do to get it out there. The principals do whatever they can to get the parents to fill it out.

- Middle School and High School Schedules

The board reviewed the tentative schedules for the middle school and high school for the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Wrightson said he is concerned with what is available in prep time for the elementary schools versus what the high school and middle schools. We have some elementary teachers that do not get a 40-minute prep for five days straight. We have high school teachers getting 90 minutes. We know we have a good teacher/pupil ratio in the elementary schools, but the prep time is a concern.

- CPF Budget

Reviewed the proposed CPF budget for 2009. Mr. Wrightson said we are in a time in Indiana that whatever you can take from the CPF to save the General Fund, you will need to do. Bernie said the state is forcing us to do this. The Governor says we are taking the burden off the taxpayers, but we are forced to put items in the CPF which is pushed onto the taxpayers.

- Middle School Technology

Mark Norton reviewed the recommendations for the middle school technology which would cost about \$1.2 million. Mr. Wrightson said Mark has done an outstanding job preparing this information and has put a lot of time in this project. Mr. Wrightson said we have a new middle school and he feels we need to do what is recommended. Also, we need to look at the telephone system upgrade now because we will have to do it a few years down the road.

- Middle School Funding

Keith Dennis reviewed the middle school funding to date. At this time we have \$2,791,224 un-committed funds from the original project funds for the new middle school that could be used for the HS/JHS renovation, technology, etc. We knew when we started that our technology was not in the original project.

Keith said we are looking at moving furniture in the building by June 15th. We are waiting on the locker delivery which they have missed three times. We plan to begin moving from July 7th to August 1st as follows:

- Office
- Elementary Schools
- Junior High School
- Library

- PL 221

Dr. Bender indicated we are in the second year of accreditation. We had three schools that fell below the AYP for accreditation watch. This year we now have a provisional accreditation. The school meets the accreditation but will receive provisional if they meet those standards. There is no explanation on the provisional accreditation. This does have concerns with NCLB. We are falling in those areas because of the abilities of those students who cannot pass the tests.

- Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wrightson reviewed a report from Roger Thornton on excess levies.

Mr. Wrightson advised that he is retired as of noon on Thursday, April 24th. Dr. Bender will make all the decisions from this point on. If he wants to consult with Mr. Wrightson, he will be available. He will be in the area and in

and out of the office. This is his last board meeting. Dr. Bender will take over and do a wonderful job. Mr. Wrightson told the board that they have a wonderful administrative team and a great board. He told the board they have it where it belongs - in the heart for students. He said it has been a privilege and honor to work here. He told the board they have treated him well. He cannot say enough.

Rich said Mr. Wrightson has done a great job for us. He thanked him for his work.

ACTION ITEMS

- The board voted to non-renew a non-permanent teacher contract for the 2008-2009 school year on a vote of 5-0.
- The board approved textbook fees for the 2008-2009 school year as follows:

Kindergarten	-	\$60
Grades 1-2	-	\$91
Grades 3-5	-	\$93
Grades 6-7	-	\$130
Grades 8-12	-	Based on course selection

Dr. Bender indicated that we have done multiple adoptions this year because we did not adopt last year. He cannot say enough about the adoption committees he worked with through this process. He said this language arts and reading teams. LuAnn said she was surprised that schools do not purchase books throughout the state to get better costs. Dr. Bender said we all have to work from the state adoption list. We were looking at an 8% shipping cost, which Dr. Bender was able to get reduced to 6%.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Al Williamson wanted to thank Mr. Wrightson for everything he has done for him and the corporation. There are big shoes to fill. You came into this corporation in a turmoil and changed it around.
- LuAnn said it was a pleasure and honor working with Mr. Wrightson.
- Bernie also thanked Mr. Wrightson for all he has done.
- Rich Shail asked if the north fence that is being replaced could have the lock removed and a gate put in so our students do not have to climb a barbed wire fence to retrieve foul balls.

- Rich told Mr. Wrightson it has been wonderful and great. We all wish you the best.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.