

NEW PRAIRIE UNITED SCHOOL CORPORATION
Office of the Superintendent
New Carlisle, IN 46552

MINUTES

June 23, 2008

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, June 23, 2008 in the Central Office with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltes and Shelly Goethals present. Dr. Phil Bender was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed the guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Goethals to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved 5-0.

There was a motion by Schwingendorf, seconded by Williamson to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Minutes - May 19, 2008
- Financial Reports
- Claims
- Payroll
- Personnel Report as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Jennifer Hock - P.E. Teacher - NPJHS - Resignation effective May 30, 2008
- Employment
 1. Cassie Belzowski - Kindergarten Teacher - Rolling Prairie Elementary School - Effective beginning of 2008-2009 school year

2. Sara Serry - Second Grade - Rolling Prairie Elementary School - Effective beginning of 2008-2009 school year
3. Leifschon Walker - Olive Elementary School - Effective beginning of 2008-2009 school year
4. Cassie Gumm - Half-time High Ability Teacher - Corporation and half-time Remediation Teacher - Olive - Effective beginning of 2008-2009 school year
5. Tammy Moore - 6-7-8 Jumpstart Summer School
6. Bart Curtis - Driver's Training
7. Julie Cinal - Temporary Vocal Music Teacher - Olive/Rolling Prairie - August 11, 2008 through September 5, 2008

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Becky Dodd - Remediation Assistant - Rolling Prairie Elementary School - Resignation effective May 29, 2008
- Employment
 1. Shirley Kirkham - Lunchroom Assistant - New Prairie Middle School - Effective beginning of 2008-2009 school year
 2. Summer School Routes
 - Mary Youngblood
 - Lori Miller
 - Judy Duensing
 - Debbie Vascil
 - Diane Prestin - Special Education

Summer Band Trips

 - Jim Williamson
 - Erika Smith

Cleaning Buses

 - Angie Keehn
 - Charlotte Hunt
 - Floyd Tibbs
 - Johanna Pickett

EMPLOYMENT - EXTRA-CURRICULAR/CO-CURRICULAR - for 2008-2009

1. Josh Bolakowski - Assistant Football - NPHS
2. Bobby Whitenack - Assistant Football - NPHS
3. Bill Gumm - Freshman Football
4. Matt Flagg - Freshman Football
5. Harry Beebe - Head Football - NPJHS
6. Cory Neuenschwander - Assistant Football - NPJHS
7. Mark Peterson - Assistant Football - NPJHS
8. Ben Anderson - 7th Grade Girls Basketball
9. Ben Anderson - 7th Grade Boys Basketball
10. Camille Burns - 5th Grade Boys Basketball - Olive
11. Janice Jasinski - 5th Grade Girls Basketball - Olive
12. Jessica Feathers - 5th Grade Girls Basketball - Prairie View
13. John Slater - 5th Grade Girls Basketball - Rolling Prairie
14. Harry Beebe - Head Boys Track - NPJHS
15. Bobby Whitenack - Assistant Boys Track - NPJHS
16. Kristina Pentelow - Head Girls Track - NPJHS
17. Doug Gaff - Assistant Girls Track - NPJHS
18. Natalie Sandoval - Head Boys Track - NPHS
19. Cathleen Lower - Head Girls Swimming - NPHS
20. Eric Lower - Assistant Boys Swimming (Diving) - NPHS
21. Ashley Wojtysiak - Co-Boys/Girls Swimming - NPJHS
23. Sara Adkins - Co-Boys/Girls Swimming - NPJHS
24. Bobby Whitenack - Assistant Wrestling - NPHS
25. Marty Mosson - Head Wrestling - NPJHS
26. Bill Gumm - Wrestling - Olive
27. Bobby Whitenack - Wrestling - Prairie View
28. Mary Kay Hindes - 5th Grade Volleyball - Prairie View
29. Joyce DeLaurentis - 5th Grade Volleyball - Olive
30. John Slater - 5th Grade Volleyball - Rolling Prairie
31. Joel Hostetler - Head Boys Tennis - NPHS
32. Teresa Hostetler - Assistant Boys Tennis - NPHS
33. John Arndt - Assistant Cross Country - NPHS
34. Doug Gaff - Head Cross Country - NPJHS
35. Michael Bilinski - Head Softball - NPHS
36. Kristen Jacobs - Auxiliary Guard (Poms) - NPHS
37. Sarah Martin - Cheerleading - NPHS
38. Andrea Stack - Flag Corp (Color Guard) - NPHS
39. Lynne Holewczynski - Co-Student Council Sponsor - Olive
40. Nancy Niespodziany - Co-Student Council Sponsor - Olive
41. Brenda Moffitt - History Fair - Olive

42. Lori Kienitz - Elementary Vocal Director
43. Barb Papai - PL221 Chair - Olive
44. Gail Hartman - Spell Bowl - Olive
45. Rachel Ralston - Building Tech Coordinator - Olive
46. Gail Hartman - Young Astronauts - 1/3 - Olive
47. Patty Sardeson - Young Astronauts - 1/3 - Olive
48. Camille Burns - Math Bowl - Olive
47. LeAnn Pease - Spell Bowl - Prairie View
48. Heidi Babin - Co-PL221 Chair - Prairie View
49. Sue Koziel - Co-History Fair - Prairie View
50. Heidi Babin - Co-History Fair - Prairie View
51. Chelsea McDonnough - Student Council Sponsor - Prairie View
52. Lisa Kovach - Elementary Vocal Director
53. Melissa Kobitz - Co-Science Fair - Prairie View
54. Kathy Rehlander - Co-Science Fair - Prairie View
55. Roglenda Smith - Building Tech Coordinator - Prairie View
56. Renee Mischak - Building Tech Coordinator - Rolling Prairie
57. John Slater - Environmental Club - Rolling Prairie
58. Dedrae Smiley - Co-Student Council - Rolling Prairie
59. Krissy Surma - Co-Student Council - Rolling Prairie
60. Mark Belsaas - Instrumental Music Director - NPJHS
61. Mark Belsaas - Elementary Instrumental Director - 1/3
62. Gail Banister - Elementary Instrumental Director - 2/3
63. Donna Mitchell - Vocal Music Director - NPJHS
64. Rebecca Gaff - Hoosier Academic Super Bowl - 1/3 - NPJHS
65. Susan French - French Club - NPJHS
66. Larry Szczechowski - Assistant Football - NPHS
67. Jill White - Co-PL221 Chair - Prairie View
68. Kristina Pentelow - Co-PL221 Chair - NPJHS
69. Jenny Hite - Spirit Club - NPJHS
70. Kelle Cartwright - Spirit Club - NPJHS
71. Monica Flagg - Science Fair - NPJHS
72. Judy Bubanovich - Future Problem Solvers - NPJHS
73. Math Team - Matt Flagg - NPJHS
74. Krista Smith - Academic Super Bowl - 1/3 - NPJHS
74. Phyllis Shepherd - Building Tech Coordinator - NPJHS
75. Kristina Pentelow - Academic Super Bowl - 1/3 - NPJHS
76. Kristina Pentelow - Math Club - NPJHS
77. Rhonda Smoroske - Co-Yearbook Sponsor - NPJHS
78. Melissa Adnson - Co-Yearbook Sponsor - NPJHS
79. Kristen Siddall - Cheerleading - NPJHS

80. Tammy Moore - Student Council - NPJHS
81. Kelle Cartwright - 8th Grade Long Team Leader
82. Dena True - 8th Grade Short Team Leader
83. Susan Johnson - 7th Grade Short Team Leader
84. Judy Bubanovich - 7th Grade Long Team Leader
85. Tammy Moore - 6th Grade Short Team Leader
86. Mary Ann Webb - 6th Grade Long Team Leader

Bernie asked Keith to explain the bill from NIPSCO. The motion was approved 5-0.

REPORTS

- Middle School Update - Keith Dennis
 - Planning to move the week of July 7-17th.
 - Terrazzo floor will be done by July 15th.
 - Furniture is about 90% delivered - two other vendors are coming in next week - Appliances will also be delivered Tuesday
 - Prenethium boards will be delivered on Tuesday
 - Domestic Well - We are waiting on. Still some work with Peerless. AEP is what is holding us up.
 - Sewer - Went with Alternate 1 - connection into lift station. As soon as AEP brings service, the company will do the start up. We will be fully discharged until the sewer line issue is resolved.
 - Water storm wash-out - We have come up with a solution by putting in a restrictive panel and build a retention area.

- Superintendent's Report
 - Enclosed is cost of the technology items we discussed previously
 - Involved with the telephone system for the new middle school. Mark Norton distributed a copy. Bernie asked about the problem with getting calls and it shows some other location from where the call originated. Mark feels the new system will alleviate this.
 - Reviewed the final HSTW report which stated that the "overriding challenge for NPHS is to close the achievement gaps between current student performance and college-and workplace-readiness standards."
 - Received Core 40 test results. Somewhere in the past someone was told that Core 40 does not mean anything. Dr. Bender said any time an assessment is taken, it is important. There have been changes that have come down. The state is changing Algebra at the middle school.

If they passed Core 40, they meet graduation requirements. Only 37% passed. Only 4% passed for those students who took it at the high school. Dr. Bender said this is a large concern. This is going to relate to the graduation rate. This year's freshmen will be the first to take the GQE. This is being addressed at the high school. When we talk in terms of Algebra, we cite that. It is not just a high school problem. Our school improvement plans do not pay a lot of attention to math because of our weaknesses in the past with language arts, etc. We must not forget about math. Dr. Bender has talked with the high school and middle school principals that this is not acceptable and we have to make some changes. There are some things that will change. He does not care what the state average is. We want our students to do better than the state average. There is no reason we cannot be there.

The 8th graders in 2012 will be the first class under the new GQE. Students who take Biology are part of the assessment. Sixty-percent of our students master Biology. We need to be at 75% which is considered mastery level. We are not saying that testing is the end to be all ends, but it is an assessment. This will tie into the graduation requirements. Dr. Bender said he is not pointing fingers - he is just presenting the facts.

Bernie asked how far down the line do we need to be addressing this for the 8th grade level. Dr. Bender said we need to change the way we look at it. At the elementary level, we had so much focus on language arts and reading, but math has not been the focal point.

- Dr. Bender advised that the LaPorte Regional Health Center reported that one in four births are born to single families. This past year we had 12 pregnancies that we know of. We do not know how many males were involved. We need to address this. We talked to the HS/MS and elementary principals. Are we falling short of what should be done? We talked about a transitional counselor. As these issues have come about, this individual could address these students about what is driving this behavior. What is the issue? We need to address this. As we move into the budget process, we will look at what we can look at.
- Provisional tax bills are to go out some time. The school corporation completed the bond bank process. About \$2.7 million is to be deposited in the bank.

- Summer school enrollment is booming. We have full classes in the high school, and the middle school classes are growing. We will have to add another teacher.
- Assessments for this year - we have been doing NWEA. We have decided not to do that for next year. We have been accepted in two assessments at no charge. We will be doing a K-2 diagnostics which is required for kindergarten. This will meet all the needs. We will have training the last week of July. We will also do an acuity assessment for grades 3-8. Diagnostic testing will be done three short times during the year at 90 minutes. There is no cost. We will save money by not doing NWEA. Teachers feel we test too much.
- Keith Dennis and Joann Evans have been working on a non-certified handbook for those individual groups. We will be sharing that draft with the board.
- Bernie said the HSTW has excellent information in there. He asked how this coincides with NCA. Do they compliment each other? Phil feels it does compliment each other. We have heard that on the NCA reports. When you read thru the report, you can drift that way. Rich said it was a great experience. You learn your strengths and weaknesses. It opens you up to the awareness of where our shortfalls are. They are not bad, but we do have them. Bernie felt it was an excellent report.

ACTION ITEMS

- There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Schwingendorf to approve the cafeteria bids for 2008-2009 as recommended. The cafeteria bids also include the approval of the only milk bid from Scholl Dairy and the only bread bid from Nickles Bakery. The motion was approved 5-0.
- There was a motion by Schwingendorf, seconded by Williamson to approve the corporate resolution from LaPorte Savings for a signature change for the NP Memorial Scholarship Fund checking account. The motion was approved 5-0.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Shelly Goethals said she enjoyed the school tour and wanted to thank everyone for their hard work.

- Bernie would like to recognize the grounds people for the job they did for graduation. He received many positive comments.
- Bernie said the summer board academy has many good topics if anyone is attending. Phil feels he needs to attend the Rolling Prairie Businessman's meeting which is on the same day.

On a motion by Baltes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Signed:

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Member

Member