

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

MINUTES

August 25, 2008

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, August 25, 2008 in the Central Office with Al Williamson, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltes and Shelly Goethals present. Rich Shail was absent. Dr. Bender was also present.

Al Williamson reviewed the guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Goethals to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was approved 4-0.

There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Schwingendorf to amend the agenda by withholding Extra-Curricular Assignments #6-10. The motion was approved 4-0. There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Goethals to approve the amendment of the agenda on a vote of 4-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

There was a motion by Goethals, seconded by Schwingendorf to approve the Consent Items as follows:

- Minutes - July 28, 2008
- Financial Reports
- Claims
- Payroll
- Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Transfers
 1. Jenna Gensic - Language Arts Teacher - New Prairie High School - Family Medical Leave for 2008-2009 school year. She will work 40% of her teaching assignment.

2. Ruth Trujillo - Biology/Chemistry Teacher - NPHS - Transfer to Transitional Counselor at New Prairie Middle School/New Prairie High School effective August 11, 2008.
 3. Dena True - Interdisciplinary Teacher - Middle School - Leave of absence beginning September 29, 2008 through January 2, 2009.
- Employment
 1. Deanne Gonzalez - Spanish Teacher - NPHS - Effective August 11, 2008
 2. John Gensic - Biology/Chemistry Teacher - NPHS - Effective August 11, 2008
 - Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Jemiah Feece - Student Council - Prairie View
 2. Nicole Bowen - Co-6th Grade Volleyball Coach
 3. Greg Miller - Quiz Bowl - NPHS
 4. Josh Bolakowski - Mock Trial - NPHS
 5. Ann Otlewski - Spanish Club - NPHS
 11. Ashley Donough - Co-Science Fair Sponsor - Rolling Prairie
 12. Kelly Jarka - Co-History Fair Sponsor - Rolling Prairie
 13. Sarah Huff - Co-History Fair Sponsor - Rolling Prairie
 14. Susan Johnson - Co-PL221 Chair - Middle School
 15. Jane Parker - Math Bowl - Rolling Prairie

NON-CERTIFIED

- Resignations/Retirements/Leaves
 1. Gloria Wiesemann - ESL Assistant - Rolling Prairie Elementary School - Leave of Absence beginning August 13, 2008 through October 17, 2008.
 2. Rebecca McKinney - Cook/Dishwasher - Rolling Prairie Elementary - Resignation effective August 22, 2008.
 3. Joan Dudeck - Cook - Olive Elementary School - Retirement effective August 11, 2008.

4. Stacie Weiss - ESL Assistant - Rolling Prairie Elementary - Reduction in hours from 40 hours to 30 hours per week effective August 13, 2008.
 5. Susan Crowl - Cafeteria Manager - Prairie View - Resignation effective August 29, 2008.
- Employment
 1. Anne Eggleston Spahn - Remediation Assistant - Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective August 13, 2008.
 2. Dawn Janiszewski - Cafeteria Assistant - Prairie View Elementary
 3. Tricia Giesler - Instructional Assistant - Rolling Prairie
 4. Shirley Kirkham - Food Service - Transfer to six-hour position at Rolling Prairie
 - Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Shari Rose - Co-Junior Class Sponsor
 2. Lisa Anderson - Co-Junior Class Sponsor
 3. Erin Jasinski - Co-8th Grade Volleyball
 4. Allison Livinghouse - Co-8th Grade Volleyball
 5. Kevin Brandy - JV Boys Basketball

The motion was approved 4-0.

There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Schwingendorf to open the Budget Hearing. The motion was approved 4-0.

BUDGET HEARING

- Dr. Bender advised that the budget was advertised on August 8 and August 15th in the Herald Argus, South Bend Tribune, and the libraries and Post Offices in New Carlisle and Rolling Prairie.

Dr. Bender advised that this will be the last year that we will construct the budget as we have here. We will be asking the Board to pass on a budget based on a budget that has not been certified. We are using AV figures from 2007.

Dr. Bender reviewed the distribution information from LaPorte and South Bend counties. It will be at least fall before we receive any monies from LaPorte.

Sharon Heirbrandt reviewed the GOB Bond status as follows:

- The 1998 GOB final payment will be December 2008. That bond amount was \$193,325
- The 2006 GOB final payment for the middle school will be January 5, 2009. That amount was \$524,270.
- We received \$1,920,000 in October 2006

Dr. Bender reviewed Form 3. There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Schwingendorf to change the language on Page 2 of Form 3 to read \$300,000 for the land purchase within the corporation boundaries. The motion was approved 4-0.

Dr. Bender indicated that we will be asking for bus replacements for three special use buses that are nine (9) years old. We may get rejected because they are not in the 12-year cycle.

There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Schwingendorf to close the budget hearing. There were no comments from the community. The motion was approved 4-0.

There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Schwingendorf to open the regular meeting. The motion was approved 4-0.

REPORTS

▪ Middle School Update

Keith Dennis indicated that the opening of the new Middle School went remarkable well. The flow of students is very good in the building.

- We accepted the building on August 7th
- Switched over the insurance coverage. There should be no rebate.
- Accepted utilities
- 98.83% of the funds for contractors except for escrow has been paid
- We are working on the punch lists

Issues we are working on:

- Door Hardware
- Thresholds
- Bleachers appear to have worked
- Back boards
- Issue with dishwasher
- Last of furniture needs - They needed 43 file cabinets. There is a very small amount of items needed additionally. This should not be a large dollar amount.

The change orders for the prime contractors amounted to \$174,000 or .77% of the contract. This is very good.

- Storm water issue - waiting to hear from Fanning/Howey
- Meeting on sanitary system - we have approval to move the fiber
- Well - AEP hooked up last Saturday.

Bernie said he has heard a number of positive reports from people who went through the building.

- Unity Foundation - Alma Banzhof Donation

Sharon Heirbrandt indicated that we had a CD in the amount of \$155,803.55. Interest earned was \$2,477.53. The first CD purchased with the principal was purchased January 9, 2008 and matured February 8, 2008 with interest of \$574.68 for a total interest of \$3,052.21 which was added to the check for a total amount of \$158,855.66. This money will be sent to the Unity Foundation as a scholarship fund.

- Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Bender spoke about the cash flow. As of October, the balance was \$1.4 million. Bernie said the balance is less than we initially anticipated. Sharon said they added construction payments because our funds are depleted. The estimated balance that we will now be paying. We will be paying the balance of the GOB bonds.
- Dr. Bender said the first day of school went well throughout the district. There were no issues.

- Enrollment for 2008-2009 indicated that K-5 numbers are flat in the elementary levels. Assistants have been placed in all kindergarten classes. Dr. Bender reviewed individual class sizes in the middle school and high school.
- Cash Tuition - We currently have 17 students. We do not have a policy, which we will be developing. We need a policy because in 2009, the state law will change to a basically open enrollment based on the other school corporations releasing the students. South Central, John Glen and New Prairie are very concerned about the exodus of students from Michigan City, South Bend, etc. The exiting corporation will lose the monies from the state. This goes into affect in January, 2009, but we want to have in place a plan that will not accept students for the second semester. LuAnn asked how we will determine what elementary schools they will attend. Bill Kaminski said you can set parameters for numbers. It is difficult for the middle school and high school.
- Tom Dermody and Jim Arnold will be attending our November Board meeting on November 24th to field questions from the board. They will also attend a Study Council meeting in Plymouth with other representatives.
- September 15th is the Middle School Dedication beginning at 5:15 p.m. The School Board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. There will be a change in location and time from what was advertised for the budget. We will advertise the change. Bill Kaminski said that is legal to do that.
- Dr. Bender said with the addition of the new middle school, we want to re-key the building to maintain security. We spent about \$15,000 re-keying. We will be issuing a badge for outside coaches. We are working on the establishment of entrance in the weight room. We will be asking the association that if tags are lost, how should we handle the situation. There is an \$8 cost to the corporation. We are discussing that now as to how we can control that flow of money for those items lost.
- Bernie said our legislators have been very accessible to the public more than any one person he has ever worked with. They have been extremely helpful.

ACTION ITEMS

- There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Schwingendorf to approve the MASE Trust Agreement as presented. Bernie asked if the designee can have an alternate. Phil said we have had designees for the last meeting. The motion was approved 4-0.
- There was a motion by Schwingendorf, seconded by Goethals to approve the Vision and Mission Statements as presented. Dr. Bender advised that at our Board Retreat, it was felt that the group wanted a way to connect the schools and the community. Bernie Baltes, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Clara Clark and Angie Hambling worked on these statements. The motion was approved 4-0.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie wanted to commend Dr. Bender for getting out in the community. He attended a farm meeting where legislators presented a lot of good information. The gentleman was the chairman of the House Ag Committee working for Joe Donnelly.
- Al Williamson wanted to thank Dr. Bender for riding the school bus on the first day of school. Shelly said he also visited many of the middle school classrooms on the first day.

On a motion by Baltes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Signed:

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Member

Member