

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

MINUTES

July 27, 2009

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, July 27, 2009 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltes and Dale Groves present. Dr. Bender was also present.

Rich Shail review guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Groves to add the addendum to the personnel list under the Consent Items. The motion was approved 5-0. Baltes also made a motion to flex Tom Dermody into the agenda when he arrives. The motion was seconded by Williamson and approved 5-0.

There was a motion by Schwingendorf, seconded by Baltes to adopt the agenda as revised. The motion was approved 5-0.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

Mrs. Jerzak and FBLA members Erica Post, MK Dorroh, Sam Jones, Chyenne Rood, Kahlyn Barcevic and Danielle Webb made the instruction presentation. They named the winners of the competitions they were in and a few of the activities they did this past school year.

CONSENT ITEMS

- There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Schwingendorf to approve the Consent Items as follows:
 - Minutes – June 22, 2009
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel Report with addendum included as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Judy LaRue - Title I Teacher - Rolling Prairie Elementary - Retirement effective June 24, 2009
 2. D.J. Knotts - Assistant Principal - New Prairie Middle School - Resignation effective July 1, 2009

- Employment/Transfers
 1. Scott Braun - Assistant Principal - NPHS - Transfer to Assistant Principal/Athletic Director - New Prairie Middle School - Effective July 20, 2009
 2. Jemiah Feece - 4th Grade Teacher - Prairie View Elementary - Recall from RIF - Effective with the start of the 2009-2010 school year
 3. Sara Serry - 2nd Grade Teacher - Rolling Prairie Elementary School - Recall from RIF - Effective with the start of the 2009-2010 school year
 4. Leifschon Walker - 2nd Grade Teacher - Olive Elementary School - Recall from RIF - Effective with the start of the 2009-2010 school year
 5. Kim Holifield - Biology Teacher for 2nd Session of Summer School
 6. Frank Hobart - English Teacher for 2nd Session of Summer School
 7. Julie Cinal - Temporary Math Teacher - New Prairie Middle School - September 2, 2009 and continuing for approximately six weeks
 8. Diane Miko - Temporary PE/Health Teacher - New Prairie Middle School - August 10, 2009 - October 23, 2009

- Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Ashley Wojtysiak - Head Girls Swimming - NPHS - 2009-2010 school year
 2. Shannon McBride - 8th Grade Volleyball - 2009-2010 school year

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Laura Graber - Food Service - Prairie View Elementary - Resignation effective immediately
 2. Christy Ebersole - Food Service - Prairie View Elementary - Retirement effective immediately
 3. Barb Hart - Administrative Services - Central Office - Leave of Absence beginning August 10, 2009 and continuing for approximately 6-8 weeks.
 4. Gloria Smith - Food Service - Leave of absence beginning July 31, 2009 thru August 31, 2009
 5. Holly Maxwell - Cashier - Prairie View - Resignation effective immediately
- Employment/Transfers
 1. Kenneth Hughes - Corporation Maintenance - Effective August 3, 2009
 2. Jill Boniface - Cook - Rolling Prairie Elementary - 5 hrs. - Effective August 12, 2009
 3. Sharon Luera - Cook - Olive Elementary - 5 hrs. - Effective August 12, 2009
 4. Melissa Thomas - Cashier - Prairie View Elementary - Effective August 12, 2009
 5. Michelle Stayback - Cashier - Olive Elementary - Effective August 12, 2009
 6. Lynn Hill - Food Service - Transfer from H.S. Cafeteria Manager to Prairie View Cafeteria Manager
 7. Joyce Collins - Food Service - Transfer from R.P. Cafeteria Manager to H.S. Manager

8. Dawn Lewis - Food Service - Transfer from Middle School Cook to Cafeteria Manager - Rolling Prairie
 9. Cammie Pittman - Transfer from 5 hr. cook to 6.5 hr. cook at Prairie View
 10. Cheryl Gostnell - Transfer from Lunch Assistant at Prairie View to 5-hr. cook at Prairie View
 11. Connie Noel - Transfer from Cashier at Olive to 6.5 hr. cook at Middle School
 12. CharMaree Herbst - Transfer from 5 hour cook at Rolling Prairie to Lunch Assistant at Middle School
 13. Kristina Adams - Lunchroom Assistant - Prairie View Elementary - Effective 8-12-09
- Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Eric Lower - Boys Assistant Swimming/Diving - NPHS - 2009-2010 school year
 2. Robert Elkins - Head Boys Swimming - NPHS - 2009-2010 school year
 3. Joel Hostetler - Head Boys Tennis - NPHS - 2009-2010 school year
 4. Katelyn Grabarek - Co-Assistant Boys Tennis - NPHS - 2009-2010 school year
 5. Teresa Hostetler - Co-Assistant Boys Tennis - NPHS - 2009-2010 school year

The motion was approved 5-0.

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - YMCA will again this year use Rolling Prairie Elementary School for a before and after school day care, but this year they will also have one at Prairie View. This is at no cost to the corporation.

- Dr. Bender discussed the medical insurance. If we would have had to take the state offered insurance, our employees would have been paying more than a \$1000 than they are currently paying for coverage. Our MASE Group has done an excellent job of keeping our costs down. They actually had a gain of 3% this past year.
- Dr. Bender talked about the change in maintenance types of drugs through our prescription plan. If an employee is on a maintenance type of drug, they will have to buy it through mail order in order for the insurance company to pay it. There will be a representative at our Back-to-School Breakfast.
- Dr. Bender talked about the total amount still owed to our textbook account. Letters were mailed last week from the collection agency to patrons that still owe large amounts. All complaint calls coming in from these patrons will be directed to Keith Dennis.
- Kregg Van Meter was introduced. He is our new Activities Center Director. He will work at the LaPorte Village/Latina Village with our Title I students.
- Dr. Bender reviewed our finances. He discussed the point that we are supposed to get 1.4% increase from the state. However, with the step in salaries, we need a 1.69% to stay flat lined like the governor wants. We will only be getting .2% the following year. If something doesn't change between now and then, we will have some major cut backs. We are hoping for some retirements at the end of this year and those positions most likely will not be filled. That way we won't have to lay staff off.
- With LaPorte County taxes still not fixed, we have to borrow money to pay our bills. We have already borrowed several times and we can only borrow one more time. LaPorte County has already informed us that we will not be getting any money from them the rest of this year. We will be getting some from St. Joe County to help us through most of this calendar year.

Tom Dermody arrived at approximately 7:00 p.m. and took over the discussion of the budget. Tom said we (the state of Indiana) are looking better than most states. 30 states had to raise taxes and 24 states had to cut their education budget. In 2011 we will have less money than in 2008. There will also be stricter requirements for people to receive teaching licenses. The auditor has sent down the 2005-06 tax bills for LaPorte County. Baltes asked if we could get equal funding from the state and Dermody said there isn't much he can do about that.

There will be a K-12 Summer Funding Study put together soon and he hopes to be on it. Dermody also said he knows that with education flat lining is not really flat lining. Baltes also asked why the state didn't put some mandates in the budget regarding salaries and the step system when they took over. Dermody said the state wanted the locals to make the decision that best fit them. Jim Holifield also stated that the new requirements for administrator licensing doesn't make since. He said it is like putting the manager of a Taco Bell in as superintendent.

Dr. Bender said we are a poster child for what the governor is looking for. We only have one administrator in the central office. We also have one business person who is a CPA in the office. Discussing the budget again, it was also mentioned that the worse a school does academically, the more money the government gives them. When a school like ours does well, we get less money to continue doing a good job. It seems like they are penalizing the good schools.

- Tom Dermody had to leave at this point and Dr. Bender continued with his report. He mentioned to the board that they each had an Advisor Advisee Manual from the high school.
- Dr. Bender reminded the board about the ISBA Fall conference. New Prairie has been chosen as a presenter. This is quite an honor. Also next April the National School Board Association will meet in Chicago.
- We will have a change in our budget hearing/approval dates. The budget hearing will be at the September 21st board meeting with the approval following at the October meeting.
- With the state not finalizing the budget until late this year, they have pushed back the budget workshop until Wednesday, August 12. Keith and Sharon will be going.

ACTION ITEMS

- On a motion by Baltes, seconded by Groves, donations were accepted for Rolling Prairie Elementary School from their PTO in the amount of \$15,093.90. The motion was approved 5-0.
- There was a motion by Williamson, seconded by Groves to approve the resolution for designation of qualified publications. The motion was approved 5-0.
- There was a motion by Baltes, seconded by Schwingendorf to approve the authorization to write off undeliverable monies from the lunch account. The motion was approved 5-0.

- Mark McBride made a comment that elementary level always seems to get the brunt end of budget cut. He asked the board to rethink this if more money comes in than expected. And with that said, a motion was made by Groves and seconded by Baltes to eliminate elementary extracurricular activities. This is a savings of over \$28,000 and would save one teaching job. We will also be eliminating the tech positions in the schools. Since we have hired full time IT personnel those positions are no longer needed. We also eliminated 5th grade band a couple of years ago, but never eliminated the director position. That position is also not needed. The motion passed 5-0.

Williamson mentioned that he checked around the area school corporations and nobody else offers these sports at this level other than intramural. If we have changes in the budget, he would like to see the sports brought back.

Elementary principals will work with Brian Williamson and come up with an intramural program. Brian would like to also be able to work with the head coaches of these sports. Al Williamson asked about the use of facilities for these sports. Dr. Bender said the buildings could be used as needed. For an example, if it would be easier to have all three schools practice together, they could use the middle school as a central spot, Shail commented that this could be better for the kids because more kids may participate being an intramural sport.

Shail also said this may be the time to look at students paying to play sports. Many schools are doing this now. Groves said this is a good thing since it is not an academic position, so really no one is losing their job. \$30,000 is a lot of money to spend on this. This item passed 5-0.

DISCUSSION

- Request from Patron to Purchase Parcel from Corporation

Baltes said he doesn't understand why we would want to sell land that we own. Groves agreed and said that if you sell, you never get it back. Shail asked how much we would get for the land. Keith Dennis didn't know, because he wanted to find out how the board felt before pursuing this any farther. Everyone agreed that they didn't want to sell any of the land. Keith will notify the patron of the board discussion.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Al asked if we have considered going paperless for the board packets. Bill will give cost analyses of going paperless. He knows of other corporations that do this.
- Bernie congratulated all of the 4-H kids in LaPorte and St. Joseph counties for a job well done.
- Rich wished everyone a good start to school.

There was a motion by Baltes to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Member

Member