

BOARD NOTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2011

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, February 28, 2011 with all board members present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items

The board adopted the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Dena True and Lori Rose presented information related to the ISTEM (Indiana Science Technology and Mathematics) program. New Prairie is a pilot school. Students utilize notebook techniques.
- Nicole Bowen, P.E. Teacher at New Prairie Middle School, was recognized by the Board for her award by WNDU and Martin's Supermarket Teacher of the Month. Nicole will receive \$1,000 to purchase materials for the classroom.
- Sue Koziel, 5th grade teacher at Prairie View Elementary School, was recognized for participation in the WSBT "I Love to Read" competition. Sue's fifth grade class and Prairie View Elementary School received an award from WSBT.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- Minutes – January 24, 2011 and January 31, 2011
- Financial Reports
- Claims
- Payroll
- Personnel Report as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Mark Glassley – Industrial Arts Teacher – NPHS – Leave of absence beginning February 28, 2011 and returning April 11, 2011.

2. Gary Trost – Counselor/Bio-Medical Teacher – NPHS – Resignation/retirement effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.
 3. Doug Snyder – Assistant to the Principal – Resignation/retirement effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.
- Employment
 1. Amy Bauer – Temporary Kindergarten Teacher – Rolling Prairie Elementary School – Beginning approximately February 28, 2011 and continuing through April 22, 2011.

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Katie Bates – Bus Driver – Leave of Absence beginning February 11, 2011 and continued through March 25, 2011.
 2. Susan Miles – Health Assistant – Olive Elementary School - Resignation effective February 17, 2011.
 3. Dawn Janiszewski – Food Service – Prairie View Elementary – Resignation effective January 20, 2011.
 4. Jill Boniface – Food Service – Rolling Prairie Elementary School – Resignation effective February 14, 2011.
- Employment/Transfers
 1. Tabatha Downs – Food Service – Transfer from Prairie View Lunch Aide to 5-hour Cashier – Prairie View
 2. Nancy McCormick – Food Service – 5-hour Dishwasher – Olive Elementary – effective immediately
 3. Debbie Vascil – Lunchroom Assistant – Middle School – Effective immediately
 4. Susan Garreffa – Cook/Dishwasher – Prairie View Elementary – Effective immediately
 5. Jennifer Freestone – Receptionist – Prairie View Elementary School – Effective immediately

- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Cathy Henning – Young Astronauts – 1/3 – Olive Elementary
 2. Doug Williamson – Co-Assistant – Softball Coach – NPHS

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- Mr. Dermody would like to recognize Doug Snyder and Gary Trost who will be retiring at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. Doug, Assistant to the Principal, has 37 years experience – 29 with New Prairie. Gary Trost, Bi-Medical Teacher and Counselor, has 23 years experience – 8 years with New Prairie. Mr. Dermody would like to recognize these individuals for the work they have done at New Prairie. They will be missed.
- ISTEP formal testing period begins on Tuesday, March 1st.
- Outside District Student Transfer Requests begin on March 1st. We have the form on-line which appears on our website Homepage.
- We have been reviewing our liability insurance. At this time, we will remain with Indiana Insurance as they have reduced our premium slightly from the original submission. Keith Dennis indicated our premium was increased by approximately \$30,000.
- Mr. Dermody recognized the New Prairie Middle School Math Team which finished second and now qualifies for state competition. The team is coached by Matt Flagg.
- The High School Decathlon Team was also recognized for receiving bronze and silver awards. The team is coached by Mike Babcock and Greg Miller.
- We will be participating in the IDOE’s Severe Weather Month activities. The State Tornado Drill will be held on March 16th.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the Reconciliation Resolution to reduce the General Fund balance by \$3,478.30 to reconcile the fund report.
- The Board approved the Payroll Clearing Fund Resolution in the amount of \$2,731.40. This is a credit expenditure in the Clearing Fund.

- The Board accepted donations from the Feed the Children organization whereby teachers can visit a warehouse in Elkhart and obtain free school supplies and books for children. Feed the Children is a non-profit relief organization that delivers necessities to individuals. Teachers are able to visit this facility and obtain free materials for their students.
- The Board accepted donations for Prairie View Elementary School as follows:
 - New Prairie Gleaners - \$8,290 to the PTO
 - Mill Creek Gleaners - \$500 for the Science Lab
 - Hudson Lake Mennonite Church - \$328.41 for children's necessities
- The Board approved the overnight field trip request for the FBLA to go to Indianapolis on March 8-13, 2011 for state competition. The Board also approved the overnight request for the New Prairie High School Poms to attend competition at the Wisconsin Dells on March 25-27, 2011.
- The Board approved the Driver's Education Program for 2011. Student fees will remain the same at \$375 and the teacher's salary will remain at \$26 per hour.
- The Board approved the 2011-2012 Calendar Draft proposal as per the attached. The Board was pleased that we have set aside time for Parent/Teacher Conferences. This was a collaborative effort between the administration and committee members Jenny Hite, Kelle Cartwright, Mark Meyer, Susan Johnson, Wendy Sundwall, Wendi Hemphill, Mark McBride, and Jim Miko.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie Baltus attended the Leadership LaPorte County tour of New Prairie Schools with Jim Jessup who expressed many positive comments about the corporation.
- Bernie asked about the dim lighting in the high school gym. Mr. Dermody said that the issue has been addressed.
- Bernie was pleased that Nicole Bowen will address physical activity that is important to all students. Nicole will purchase step equipment to incorporate as part of her lessons throughout the year.