

BOARD NOTES
MARCH 28, 2011

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, March 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

- The Board recognized members of the Olive Math Bowl Team who placed first in Class 4 competition and then went on to place third in the state competition. Certificates were awarded to all members of the team as well as Coach Camille Burns.
- The Board also recognized members of the NPHS Band who participated in the recent ISSMA Band & Solo Ensemble Contest and received Gold and Silver awards. There were also members of the band who participated in the All Star Band. Members of the band and Mark Belsaas received certificates.
- The New Prairie United School Corporation was selected to receive the Gary Sandifur Tobacco Free School Award. Mr. Dermody presented the plaque to Rich Shail, Board President.
- Clara Clark introduced the New Prairie High School Math Department who demonstrated the Nspire calculators and how their use is integrated into classroom instruction. The board participated in the hands-on demonstration. Rich Shail said he is glad to see the teachers utilizing this new equipment and feels we are going in the right direction with the use of technology in the classrooms.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as presented:
 - Minutes – February 28, 2011
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel Report as follows:

- Resignations/Retirements
 1. Kathy Rehlander – Retirement at the end of the 2010-2011 school year
- Employment
 1. Brian Schroll – Temporary Industrial Technology Teacher – NPHS – Beginning February 28, 2011 and continuing through approximately April 1st.
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Nicole Bowen – Assistant Boys Track – NPMS
 2. Ashley Edinger – Head Volleyball Coach – NPHS

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Ron Tepper – Building Tech - NPHS – Leave of Absence beginning March 30, 2011 and continuing through approximately June 21, 2011.
- Employment/Transfers
 1. Suzanne Woods – Health Assistant – Olive Elementary School – effective immediately.
 2. Lynsey Daley – Cashier – Olive Elementary School – effective immediately
 3. Haylee Presley – Lunchroom Assistant – Prairie View – effective immediately
 4. Karen Combs – Cook/Dishwasher – Rolling Prairie – Transfer from Olive Cashier – effective immediately
- Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Scott Kreska – Co-Assistant Softball
 2. Doug Matthys – Girls JV Basketball – NPHS
 3. Bobby Whitenack – Asst. Wrestling - NPMS

Mr. Dermody recognized Kathy Rehlander who will be retiring at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. Kathy has been a teacher for 26 years – 24 at New Prairie working at Galena Elementary School and Prairie View Elementary School.

Mr. Dermody also announced that the Board approved the hiring of Ashley Edinger as the Head Volleyball Coach at NPHS. Ashley was a Big 10 volleyball player at Illinois and was an All American Academic student.

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Mr. Dermody recognized Riley Bronner who was one of 56 students in the State of Indiana selected for the Big M Summer Institute in Math and Science at Ball State University. Riley was nominated by her fourth grade teacher, Tara Bush, at Prairie View Elementary. The Board presented a certificate to Riley.
 - Mr. Dermody announced that the Rolling Prairie Elementary Math Bowl Team finished second in their division.
 - Enrollment is being examined on a regular basis and is updated each Friday. Based on current enrollment, there may be a necessity for potential staff reductions. Enrollment numbers will continue to be monitored.
 - We are approaching the second round of ISTEP+ which is the Multiple Choice assessment beginning April 25 – May 4th. The Applied Skills portion has been completed and returned. The 5th and 8th grade students will be completing this portion on-line. Mr. Dermody wanted to recognize Mark Norton and the Technology Department for their efforts on this project. New Prairie received a green light from the IDOE for the on-line readiness review.
 - Textbook Adoption for Science and Math is moving along. Math was not a full adoption last year. Prospective textbooks and aligned resources are available at all schools for review. Please contact Clara Clark (Mathematics) and Jim Holifield (Science) with any questions.
 - Mr. Dermody recognized the variety of learning he experienced while visiting the Science Fair, History Fair and the latest production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the Ratification of the Teacher Contract for 2009-2013. Mr. Dermody announced the successful completion of this process in one session. This session was collaborative and open. There was a high level of trust and student needs were put in the forefront. The Association members were recognized for their willingness to support professional development. Rich Shail said on behalf of the School Board, he wanted to congratulate the negotiation teams for the way the process was completed. He is very happy with the results. We are all here for the children. This was obvious as we went through the contract process.
- The Board also approved a stipend for Non-Certified Personnel based on hours worked for those employees hired by the Board on or before August 28, 2010.
- The Board approved a stipend for Administrative personnel and Directors.
- The Board approved the agreement with Deyo/Stone to conduct the biannual physical asset inventory at the cost of \$4,900. This inventory is required by the State Board of Accounts.
- The Board accepted the donation from the Hudson Lake Mennonite Church in the amount of \$328.41 for the needs of the children at Olive Elementary School.
- The Board also accepted a grant from the Wells Fargo Community Grant in the amount of \$975 to be used to facilitate the Crisis Prevention Response Plan (CPR) training. Scott Braun worked with Cindy Prestin and representatives of Wells Fargo who were instrumental in obtaining this grant. We estimate approximately 54 staff members will be trained through this grant.
- The Board approved the fundraising and construction of the Jackie Grabarek Tennis Pavilion Project. NPHS student, Alexandra Keller, is coordinating this project as part of her Cougar Capstone Project. Wells Fargo has established an account to accept donations. Bernie Baltes offered to donate the wood for the project.
- The Board approved the 2011 Summer School as follows:
 - Instrumental Ensemble – NPHS
 - Exploring Music– NPMS - \$35 per student
 - PLATO – NPHS/NPMS Credit Recovery Program - \$30 per studentThe music programs will qualify for reimbursement from the State.

- The Board approved the addition of two teachers – one elementary and one secondary – to serve as Technology & Instruction Mentors for the 2011-2012 school year. These teachers will be funded through Education Jobs Fund monies and will work on a daily basis with specific staff to increase the use of technology in their lesson delivery. These interactions will include planning, guided instruction, and feedback/review between the T & I Mentors and the building administrators/teachers. Bernie said he highly supports this effort. At this time, he is struggling with the adoption of books. Mr. Dermody believes we need a detailed planning process to determine the extent of instructional technology use the corporation believes is appropriate. Rich said there are pros and cons with taking excellent teachers out of the classroom, but these mentors will pass on technology skills to many more teachers.
- The Board approved the Conflict of Interest Disclosure for Keith Dennis.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Dale said he is glad to see so many recognitions this evening.
- Al Williamson wanted to recognize Alexandra and her parents for what she is doing with the Jackie Grabarek Pavilion Project.
- Al said he had the opportunity to be with teachers from other corporations who are going through extended periods of time without a contract. He appreciates the NPCTA for what they have done.
- Bernie and LuAnn both agree with Al's comments on the contract. Bernie said it has been his goal since he came on the board to get away from combative negotiations and have collaborative negotiations. He hopes we can continue.

The next School Board meeting will be held on April 25th at 6:00 p.m.