

BOARD NOTES
April 25, 2011

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, April 25, 2011 with Al Williamson, Bernie Baltes and Dale Groves present. Rich Shail and LuAnn Schwingendorf were absent. Jim Dermody was also present.

Al Williamson reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- The Board recognized 7th grade student, Eli Tyler, who had his art work accepted into the National Scholastic Art Show which will be held in New York City. The Board also recognized Theresa Serry, Middle School Art Teacher.
- LeAnn Pease, 4th Grade Teacher at Prairie View Elementary School, demonstrated the use of SKYPE that she is utilizing for one of her homebound students. LeAnn indicated that this has been very beneficial for the student who can interact with her classmates and day-to-day instruction.
- Tara Bush, 4th Grade Teacher at Prairie View Elementary School, demonstrated the use of the new Study Island computer program recently purchased for the school corporation. Tara indicated the program assists students with on-line testing skills as well as establishing student mastery levels. Students are also very engaged in the instruction. Dale Groves asked what the teacher does to encourage students to concentrate on the questions of the test rather than just choosing an answer. Tara said there is a game mode that students can access once they answer the questions correctly. Since they enjoy the games, they seem to concentrate more on answering the questions correctly.

Al Williamson indicated that technology is on our corporation's forefront. This program, along with the Math calculators reviewed at the last board meeting, shows we are going in the right direction. Mr. Dermody indicated that a broad-based committee comprised of teachers, administrators, and

technology personnel reviewed the programs prior to the selection that best fits the needs of the students and our corporation. The Board supported that decision. Dale Groves said he likes Study Island because it gives instant data to the teachers daily. You can tell if students understand the concept immediately.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

CERTIFIED

- Employment
 1. Diane Miko – Temporary Math/Science Teacher – NPMS beginning approximately April 21, 2011 and continuing through the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Mr. Dermody recognized former New Prairie student, Samantha (Wieczorek) Wassel, English Writing major at St. Mary's College, who has been named 2011 Valedictorian.
 - Mr. Dermody also recognized former New Prairie student Mary Jane Slaby who has been named fall Editor in Chief of the Indiana University Indiana Daily Student newspaper.
 - Mr. Dermody recognized the Grand Valley State University NCAA Division II Women's Indoor Track and Field National Champion squad which is coached by former New Prairie graduate, Jerry Baltes.
 - ISTEP+ process begins Monday, April 25th through May 4th. Mr. Dermody attended an ISTEP Rally at one of the elementary schools today. We are promoting confident, positive student attitudes.

- Mr. Dermody recognized the efforts of Mark Norton and the Technology Team for all the work they have done with the ISTEP+ on-line testing. We have received the green light from the IDOE on this process.
- Earthquake drills were completed last week according to IDOE recommendations.
- The staffing process continues as we monitor enrollment. We expect to be making recommendations by the next Board meeting.
- Coordinated School Health Advisory Council Report

Keith Dennis reported that the Indiana code requires School Boards to establish this council and have one meeting per year where public input is required. Parents, teachers, Health Care and Food Service providers and Board members served on the committee. There will be new guidelines for food service in the near future. The committee made two recommendations: (1) more consistent healthy food choices outside the school lunch program; and (2) integrating physical activity into the curriculum. Bernie Baltes feels we need to find more ways to engage the students in more physical activities.

Al Williamson opened the floor for the public to speak.

- A patron asked when did we go from teaching the ABC's to tending to these types of requirements. He thought parents were responsible for taking care of this. Mr. Dermody advised that there is a necessity for these types of services for students who are in need. There is a wide range of responsibilities that the schools are charged with by the state and federal government.
- A teacher indicated that she sees students go through the food line and even though there are good choices for them, they still make poor choices. She said you may be providing good food, but students are still selecting the unbalanced meal. She asked if this is a factor that can be dealt with. Mrs. Watson said you cannot force the student to take a meal. Mr. Dermody said Tammy Watkins is at the forefront offering good healthy choices.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the textbook adoption for the K-12 Math series with Pearson Publishing as recommended by the Math Adoption Committee. Mr. Dermody recommended to the Board that we should not adopt Science or Health at this time to give us the opportunity to explore alternative technological instructional formats and tools. Jim Holifield, Chairman of the Science and Health Committee assured Mr. Dermody that the current Science & Health textbooks and supplies will provide the necessary resources for quality Science and Health instruction during the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Dermody recognized the efforts of both the Math, Science and Health Adoption Committee members. Mathematics textbooks were not adopted last year, and the current materials will continue to be used as resource materials. The new Math textbooks and accompanying materials are based on the Common Core Standards. Clara Clark indicated there are on-line versions that will keep us current through this series.

- The Board approved the school lunch prices for the 2011-2012 school year based on the new Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act which becomes effective July 1, 2011. These guidelines stipulate that lunch prices must meet the same level of support as the National School Lunch Program. Therefore, all lunch prices will be increased by 10 cents as follows:
 - Elementary Breakfast \$1.10
 - Elementary Lunch \$1.70
 - MS/HS Breakfast \$1.10
 - MS/HS Lunch \$1.95
 - Milk \$.50
 - Adult Breakfast \$1.40
 - Adult Lunch \$2.80

Tammy Watkins stated that due to increased fuel costs, food prices will also increase. Also, under the new healthy food guidelines, schools will be required to increase the amount of fruit and vegetables served. This will also increase costs. Bernie asked if there is any attempt to utilize local farmers to make purchases. Tammy said she is looking into that, but due to HACCP guidelines, many local farmers would not meet that requirement.

- The Board accepted the donation from the Feed the Children program for books and supplies valued at \$1,697.73.
- The Board approved the overnight field trip request for the FBLA to attend the National Leadership Competition in Orlando, Florida from June 28-July1, 2011. Students raise money to attend this competition and there is no cost to the corporation.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Al Williamson wanted to recognize the corporation for the technology we are involved with. He knows that Rich Shail is very supportive of this movement and we will support you in any way we can.